Rethinking National Security: The COVID-19 Pandemic

Prof. Martin E. Hellman, Stanford University

Our nation is under attack. More Americans have been killed than in all combat since World War II, the damage is in the trillions, and an aircraft carrier was hobbled. All of our weapons have been powerless against the onslaught of COVID-19 — even our nuclear-armed missiles.

To minimize the damage that we suffer from this attack, we must work cooperatively with other nations, even our adversaries. A hot spot anywhere can quickly spread worldwide, as has already happened.

For years, scientists have been warning that it was only a matter of time before such a pandemic attacked us. It also is only a matter of time before those nuclear-armed missiles are used with even graver consequences.

National security is becoming inseparable from global security and we ignore that truth at our peril. It’s time to rethink national security.