

Worth Noting

New program director joins Simons Center

CGSC Foundation CEO Doug Tystad has announced the hire of a new program director for the Simons Center. Colonel (U.S. Army Retired) Roderick M. Cox assumed the duties of the position on March 28.

“Rod has a distinguished record of service in both military operational positions as well as interagency positions,” Tystad said. “I believe that Rod is exceptionally well qualified for the position and he is motivated to make the Simons Center a financially stable, high performing Center in support of the education of military leaders of character and competence for service to the nation.”

Cox’s last position before retiring from the Army was director of the U.S. Army Combat Studies Institute at Fort Leavenworth. As the director he was involved in leader development, fostering research and publication, and was a pioneer in Army publishing.

See <http://thesimonscenter.org/cgsc-foundation-announces-new-simons-center-program-director/> to learn more about the Simons Center’s new program director.

– Simons Center

DoD, HHS, others respond to Zika threat

In March Navy Admiral Kurt W. Tidd, commander of U.S. Southern Command (Southcom), affirmed Southcom’s role in the “whole-of-hemisphere” approach to combating the Zika virus. Tidd spoke at a Council of the Americas forum on March 22, where he discussed the part Southcom and other U.S. agencies play in the fight against the virus.

“Our Department of Defense, including U.S. Southcom, along with Health and Human Services, U.S. Agency for International Development, the State Department, and others are part of a whole-of-government — indeed a whole-of-hemisphere — effort to confront and contain this threat,” said Tidd.

At the forum, Tidd spoke about the security challenges created by the virus, saying “There is no way to predict when or where health threats will emerge.” Tidd also touched on efforts to prepare for, respond to, and prevent the spread of the virus. According to Tidd, these efforts include “Working with our partners to improve access to health systems” to those in effected areas.

The mosquito born Zika virus was recognized as a “major health care crisis” earlier this year after spreading from Africa into Central and South America. There have also been cases of Zika in the U.S. The virus is suspected of causing microcephaly in infants and may also trigger other health issues.

- Department of Defense

Interagency space center makes strides

On March 16, a key leader of the Joint Interagency Combined Space Operations Center (JICSpOC) spoke of the center’s progress and importance at the AUSA Global Force Symposium in Huntsville, Alabama. JICSpOC promotes information sharing on space operations between the

military and intelligence community, and its launch was announced last year by the Department of Defense.

Lieutenant General David Mann, commanding general of the Army Space and Missile Defense Command, discussed JICSpOC's current operations, which focus on building combat power. According to Mann, JICSpOC has already finished two scenario runs and additional scenario runs are being planned.

Mann talked about JICSpOC's role in coalition space operations that incorporate intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capacities. He also touched on JICSpOC's future, saying "I think we'll also see the JICSpOC down the road also providing an operational capability to augment what's already provided by the Joint Space Operations Center" at Vandenberg Air Force Base.

- C4ISR & Networks

State, DoD, USAID teams tackle diplomacy challenge

Six interagency teams from the Department of Defense, Department of State, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) were recently chosen to present at the D3 Innovation Summit on March 2. The Summit was a joint initiative of State, DoD, and USAID, and brought together experts from across the U.S. government and the private sector to discuss emerging technologies and collaborative, whole-of-government innovation essential to solving global challenges.

The six teams were selected from the D3 Pitch Challenge, which asked interagency teams to design innovative technology solutions to strengthen national security, enhance diplomacy, and improve the lives of people around the world. There were 500 submissions to the Challenge.

The six finalists presented their proposals before a senior government panel. The proposals included uses for 3-D printing technology in post-disaster management, active shooter protection in U.S. embassies and other facilities, and uses for space-based solar power technologies for renewable energy.

- Department of State

State releases international narcotics control strategy

The State Department submitted the 2016 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR) to Congress on March 2. The two-volume report offers a comprehensive assessment of the efforts of foreign governments to reduce illicit narcotics production, trafficking and use, in keeping with their international obligations under UN treaties, while also presenting information on governments' efforts to counter money laundering and terrorist financing.

Volume I of the INCSR, the Drugs and Chemical Control section, covers the efforts of more than 80 countries and jurisdictions to attack all aspects of the international drug trade in 2015. Volume II, Money-Laundering and Financial Crimes, describes the efforts of major money laundering countries to implement stronger anti-money laundering and counterterrorist financing regimes.

This is the 30th anniversary of the INCSR.

- Department of State