

President of Special Forces Association “Bull” Simons chapter visits Simons Center

Mr. Terry Buckler, President of Chapter 29 of the U.S. Army Special Forces Association, visited the Simons Center on June 6. Chapter 29 is the Colonel Arthur D. “Bull” Simons Memorial Chapter of the Special Forces Association, and serves the greater Kansas City metropolitan area.

Colonel Arthur “Bull” Simons led the Son Tay Raid, a rescue operation of American prisoners of war being held in North Vietnam, on 21 November 1970. Buckler was the youngest member of the Son Tay Raiders, and was interested in the Simons Center and its association with “The Bull.” During his visit, Mr. Buckler spoke about the preparatory training and conduct of the Son Tay Raid operation.

Program Director Rod Cox gave Buckler a tour of the facility and briefed him on the mission and history of the CGSC Foundation and the Simons Center, including the story behind Mr. Perot’s decision to name the Center in Colonel Simons’ honor.

- Simons Center

Greater interagency cooperation needed to thwart transnational organized crime

RAND Corporation recently published a report on countering the expansion of transnational criminal networks (TCNs) involved in trafficking drugs, persons, weapons, and other illicit goods. These networks pose a serious threat to U.S. national security and security interests in the Western Hemisphere, especially those that with ties to terrorist groups.

RAND’s report analyzes two transnational criminal pipelines originating in South America. The report aims to identify the operational characteristics of TCNs and strategic alliances among criminal groups; examine how TCNs threaten U.S. interests; describe and analyze U.S. government policies and programs to combat these networks; and identify potential U.S. Army roles to combat TCNs.

Countering TCNs will require whole-of-government and international approaches. Among RAND’s recommendations is the need for improved interagency coordination, with RAND suggesting that the National Security Council be made responsible for coordinating the activities of the departments and agencies involved in counter TCN efforts. RAND also recommends the Army help develop interagency and multinational strategies to counter TCNs, and that Army leaders encourage their units to take advantage of training opportunities with joint interagency task forces.

- RAND Corporation

Senior Executive Service reform needed

The National Academy of Public Administration recently published a book concerning the role of the Senior Executive Service (SES) nearly forty years after the SES was created. Building a 21st Century Senior Executive Service is the result of a November 2014 Brookings Institution summit that focused on modernizing the SES.

The book is a collection of perspectives on the SES from the nation’s most respected public sector leaders, and includes 23 recommendations for reforming the SES and meant to enable the SES to best lead across the whole-of-government to address pressing 21st century challenges. Authors include the Honorable Michele Flournoy, Ambassador Patrick Kennedy, Admiral Thad Allen (USCG, retired), among others.

- National Academy of Public Administration