

practices of seasoned State personnel meant to inform higher level Army and Department of Defense (DoD) personnel about the skills of State Department personnel and aims to better facilitate interagency cooperation.

- **Simons Center**

Africom tool helps advance women, peace, and security

A new tool recently developed by U.S. Africa Command (Africom) is being used to measure progress in advancing women, peace, and security (WPS). The assessment tool was developed by Cori Fleser, Africom's gender advisor, to better integrate WPS efforts into Africom's security cooperation activities.

Africom has made strides to better incorporate WPS activities when working with African security forces, however, integrating WPS into existing military planning, execution, and assessment processes is still a challenge. Fleser's assessment tool uses open source data sets from international organizations such as the United Nations and World Health Organization to craft tailored approaches to working on WPS implementation through security cooperation activities.

While the tool has its limitations – the data used can not provide a full picture of WPS efforts – Fleser says that it is useful to security cooperation planning in that it will point Africom in the right direction. Says Fleser, “It does not provide a binary good/bad assessment of African partner nations. Rather, it enables the command to better understand how gender influences the security sector using quantitative data to support that analysis and opens the opportunities for working together with our partner nations to advance a mandate critical to achieving our mutual security objectives.”

- **Department of Defense**

National Security Strategy released

President Trump announced the new National Security Strategy (NSS) on December 18, saying “With every decision and every action, we are now putting America first.” The NSS is supported by four pillars – protect the homeland, promote American prosperity, preserve peace through strength, and advance American influence.

The new NSS emphasizes strength, particularly military and economic strength, as well as increased border security and immigration reform, deterrence of cyber actors, and a commitment to “pursue terrorist threats to their source.” The NSS also promises to address trade imbalances, protect American intellectual property, and “pursue cooperation with reciprocity” with other nations.

- **White House**

Ambassador McCarthy visits Fort Leavenworth

In December, Ambassador (Ret.) Deborah A. McCarthy visited Fort Leavenworth as the DACOR Visiting Professor of Diplomacy for CGSC class of 2018. Ambassador McCarthy had a distinguished career of more than 30 years as a U.S. diplomat, serving as the U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania from 2013 to 2016, and directing the expansion of U.S. military and strategic communications in the Baltic region.

While at Fort Leavenworth, Ambassador McCarthy met with students and faculty of the School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS), participating in a seminar discussion focusing on civil-military relations and leading a panel of interagency representatives in a discussion on the agencies comprising a Country Team at an overseas U.S. Embassy. McCarthy also met with students and

faculty from CGSC and the University of Saint Mary, and delivered the keynote remarks at Park University's annual Pearl Harbor Commemoration ceremony.

The DACOR Visiting Professor of Diplomacy Program is conducted in partnership with the Diplomatic and Consular Officers, Retired, Inc. (DACOR) organization located in Washington D.C., and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College Foundation. The DACOR Visiting Professor of Diplomacy program for academic year 2018 has been made possible with support from the University of St. Mary and Park University.

- **Simons Center**

DHS cyber bill approved by House

In early December 2017, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3359, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Act of 2017. The bill amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002, and creates a cybersecurity agency at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The bill streamlines the National Protection and Programs Directorate, re-designating it the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). According to Representative Michael McCaul (R-TX), who introduced the bill in July, CISA "will achieve DHS's goal of creating a stand-alone operational organization, focusing on and elevating its vital cybersecurity and infrastructure security missions to strengthen the security of digital America and our nation's critical infrastructure."

CISA will be headed by a Director of National Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security, staffed by personnel from various related agencies, and will consist of a cybersecurity division, an infrastructure security division, and an emergency communications division.

- **U.S. House of Representatives Homeland Security Committee**

USAID Administrator testifies before House Subcommittee

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Ambassador (Ret.) Mark Green spoke on the subject of USAID's role in international development and U.S. national security at a hearing before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs on November 1.

In his opening statement, Green spoke about the necessity of Department of Defense and USAID cooperation in U.S. foreign policy, citing the agencies' recent combined efforts responding to disasters in Latin American and the Caribbean. When later speaking about his experience at USAID, Green said that he was "struck by the level of humanitarian need" and noted the growing level of need. Green answered questions about proposed changes to the budget, including programs that have been eliminated, and USAID's plans to address pressing humanitarian problems. Members of the subcommittee inquired after the empowerment of women and girls, wildlife trafficking as a form of terrorist financing, famine aid, and bolstering diversity in programming, among other soft power diplomacy efforts.

Chairman Hal Rogers (R-KY) asked about USAID's "chronic management problems," including coordinating with other agencies and communicating about their programs and funding. Green stressed USAID's commitment to congressional consultation, constant dialog, and the sharing of ideas. Chairman Rogers also expressed concern about the planned reorganization of USAID, for which Rogers said the committee has not received updates. Green promised the committee would be consulted in the future.

- **U.S. Agency for International Development**