

Worth Noting

President Trump visits JIATF-South

On Thursday, April 19, President Donald J. Trump visited Joint Interagency Task Force-South (JIATF-South). He was joined by Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen M. Nielsen and other senior U.S. officials.

JIATF-South, located in Key West, Florida, is a forward base responsible for the detection and monitoring of illicit trafficking to facilitate international and interagency interdictions. JIATF-South is also responsible for combating illicit drugs and criminal networks, and enables U.S. and partner-nation law enforcement to successfully prosecute and dismantle criminal networks.

During their visit President Trump and Secretary Nielsen reviewed the Administration's ongoing efforts to combat transnational organized crime, receiving an operational briefing and tour of the JIATF-S Joint Operations Center. President Trump also made remarks during his visit to JIATF-South, thanking everyone for their service and reaffirming the Administration's commitment to securing U.S. borders and reducing crime, illegal drugs, and human trafficking.

- *The White House*

State Surgeon of Kansas presents on modern epidemics

Dr. Lee A. Norman, the State Surgeon of Kansas, presented a lecture entitled "Modern Epidemics: Why they occur and why we should worry!" on Monday, April 23 in the Arnold Conference Room in the Lewis and Clark Center on Fort Leavenworth.

Dr. Norman spoke about public health issues the world is currently facing, such as the cholera epidemic in Yemen, as well as concerns for potential epidemics and pandemics, including diseases and viruses resistant to antibiotics and other medications. Norman focused primarily on public health concerns that are not the result of bioterrorism – diseases spread through livestock and animals, increased global travel, and the failure to properly immunize against preventable diseases, such as measles – but did review bio threats like CRISPR Cas9.

"We have to make sure we look at infectious disease patterns globally and treat and get after them at their source. Because we are in this together... We're sharing food. We're sharing vectors of disease..." said Norman.

Dr. Norman also spoke about the effect of global climate change on the spread of disease, citing long-frozen plant diseases that have been released due to melting glaciers and are now decimating crops that are not immune to the viruses. Mosquito-borne illnesses are also a growing problem due to changing climates.

Later that afternoon, Dr. Norman lead a professional development session on the challenges of modern epidemics in the main conference room at Munson Army Health Center on Fort Leavenworth. The session was co-sponsored by Munson Army Health Center and the Simons Center, and was attended by Munson staff. At the close of Dr. Norman's presentation, Lieutenant Colonel Kathleen Flocke, MD, Deputy Commander of Munson Army Health Center, presented Norman with a coin to thank him for contributing to the professional development of the staff at Munson.

Dr. Lee A. Norman serves as the State Surgeon of Kansas where he guides medical troop sustainment and training, health services support, force health protection, biosecurity, and he serves as an advisor and liaison to emergency management and Homeland Security elements. Dr. Norman received his medical degree from the University of Minnesota, did his residency in family medicine, and his aerospace medicine training in the U.S. Air Force at Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio. Dr. Norman has served as a chief medical officer for more than 20 years, most recently in the University of Kansas Health System, and before that in the Swedish Health System in Seattle. Dr. Norman also has two master's degrees – one in health planning and systems analysis from the University of California, Davis School of Medicine, and an executive MBA degree from the University of Washington Graduate School of Business.

This lecture was part of the CGSC Foundation's Simons Center for Interagency Cooperation "Distinguished Speaker Series." The lecture series is an extracurricular, educational lecture series that is intended to help enrich the CGSS curriculum much like the Interagency Brown-Bag Lecture Series, but with a broader focus. The CGSC Foundation and the Simons Center have received support for all distinguished speakers in academic year 2018 from Park University along with previous contributions from the Perot Foundation.

- *Simons Center*

Ambassador McCarthy returns as DACOR Visiting Professor

Retired Ambassador Deborah McCarthy returned for a second visit to Fort Leavenworth in April, again serving as the DACOR visiting professor of diplomacy for the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC) Class of 2018. McCarthy, who served as the U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania from 2013 to 2016, visited Fort Leavenworth 16-19 April 2018. She previously visited in December 2017.

During her visit to the area, Ambassador McCarthy guest lectured on "Women and Politics" at the University of Kansas. On April 17, Ambassador McCarthy met with 20 undergraduate students and discussed her service and career as a Foreign Service Officer. Ambassador McCarthy also spoke about U.S. policies and programs that deal specifically with women in foreign countries, as well as State Department programs and opportunities for women.

While at KU, McCarthy also took part in brown-bag presentation for KU's International Studies program, meeting with faculty and both graduate and undergraduate students. There, McCarthy discussed U.S. policy, Department of State operations, and Foreign Service Officer career opportunities as part of the Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence Scholars program.

For the remainder of her time at Fort Leavenworth, Ambassador McCarthy visited with students at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC). Over the two day period, Ambassador McCarthy met with over 80 CGSC students in five different elective courses discussing a variety of issues to include diplomacy, the Department of State, the role of an ambassador, national security policy, NATO, European, and Baltic region security concerns, economic policy, and terrorism.

Ambassador McCarthy finished her visit to the College with a brown-bag lunch with the Department of Joint, Interagency, and Multinational Operations (DJIMO), meeting with 18 DJIMO faculty members, including department chair Colonel Juan Ulloa.

The DACOR Visiting Professor of Diplomacy Program is conducted in partnership with the Diplomatic and Consular Officers, Retired, Inc. (DACOR) organization located in Washington