

# Worth Noting

## **Brown-bag lecture series for Academic Year 2019 kicks off with focus on State Department**

Mr. Matthew P. Roth, the Commandant's Distinguished Chair for Diplomatic Studies at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC) and Department of State liaison to the Combined Arms Center, presented the inaugural lecture for academic year 2019 of the InterAgency Brown-Bag Lecture Series on August 27.

A Career Foreign Service Officer, Mr. Roth's presentation centered on purpose and mission of the U.S. Department of State, and the evolution of American statecraft. Roth reviewed the conduct of U.S. diplomacy in the current global environment, encompassing political, economic and social considerations before opening the floor to questions from more than 60 CGSC students, faculty, and staff.

Matthew Roth's area of published research is the relationship between diplomatic and military actors and subnational governments. Prior to this assignment, Roth was the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Kigali, Rwanda. Over the course of more than two decades in the Foreign Service he has served in Washington, D.C. and at embassies across Africa and Latin America. Roth has a Master degree in Public Administration with a specialization in urban planning and city/local government from the University of Kansas, as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Latin American Area Studies from the same institution. He speaks Portuguese, Spanish, German and Italian.

The InterAgency Brown-Bag Lecture Series is co-hosted by the CGSC Foundation's Simons Center with the U.S. Army Command and General Staff School (CGSS). The lecture series is an extracurricular, interagency topic-focused series that is intended to help enrich the CGSS curriculum. The CGSC Foundation and the Simons Center have received support for all brown-bag lectures in academic year 2019 from First Command Financial Services in Leavenworth, Kansas.

**- Simons Center**

## **Cyber weapons and power grid security subject of report**

A former Department of Defense official recently authored a report on the threat of cyber weapons on the U.S. electrical grid. Paul Stockton served during the Obama administration as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs, and currently serves as senior fellow at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory.

The report examines how power companies can partner with the Department of Energy (DOE) to develop emergency orders to defend the grid against potentially catastrophic cyber and physical attacks. The report highlights the phases of grid security emergencies, analyzes the requirements that emergency orders will need to meet for each phase, and examines how orders can supplement existing plans to fill gaps in grid resilience.

According to the report, DOE and its industry and government partners "will need to conduct intensive follow-on work to finalize the development of emergency orders and build utility-specific

contingency plans to implement the orders.” These collaborative efforts will require significant industry and DOE resources.

*- Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory*

## **House authorizes DHS counter WMD office**

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed by voice vote the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction (CWMD) Act of 2018. The CWMD Act would permanently establish the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) CWMD Office, which was established in December 2017 and aims to counter attempts by terrorists and other threat actors to carry out attacks against the United States.

The CWMD Act grants new authorities to protect the U.S. against threats of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), and ensures DHS has the tools necessary to counter WMD threats. The legislation consolidates multiple offices and programs, and also establishes the Securing the Cities program.

Secretary Kirstjen M. Nielsen spoke about the CWMD Office, stating that “Although DHS has broad authorities to guard against radiological and nuclear dangers, we don’t have the authorities we need to do the same against biological and chemical threats.” According to Nielsen, the CWMD Act would help the U.S. “stay a step ahead of our enemies”.

The CWMD Act of 2018 now moves on to the Senate for a vote.

*- Department of Homeland Security*

## **Former dean speaks on global threat of climate change**

Brigadier General (Ret.) Wendell Chris King, Ph.D., P.E., Dean Emeritus of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC) addressed students and faculty from the University of Saint Mary’s (USM) on September 21, the International Day of Peace, as part of the Simons Center Distinguished Speaker Series. The presentation was hosted by Dr. Karenbeth Zacharias, the Director of the Lawrence D. Starr Center for Peace and Justice in our Global Society at the University of St. Mary’s DePaul Library.

Dr. King, an internationally recognized expert on climate change, presented “Understanding the Threats to Peace and Security in the World from a Changing Climate” to the USM community as part of their “Lunch-and-Learn” series. He spoke about the long-range effects of climate change on global security, including changes to watersheds around the world that are resulting in shortages of food and water, the increasing migration of displaced persons, increasing global instability, and the increasing vulnerability to disease. He charged the students in attendance to become more involved in with political and social policy that addresses the negative resultant aspects of climate change.

The Simons Center Distinguished Speakers Series is sponsored by the CGSC Foundation at Fort Leavenworth and is designed to bring a variety of subject matter experts from across the U.S. government to share their expertise with area universities, civic organizations, and the general public. For more information about scheduled presentations or to host speakers, contact Col. (Ret.) Rod Cox, email – [rcox@thesimonscenter.org](mailto:rcox@thesimonscenter.org), or phone 913-682-7244.

*- Simons Center*