

Kansas, 2017) received the World War I Association's 2017 "Norman B. Tomlinson, Jr. Prize" for the best work of history in English on World War One, the Organization of American Historians' 2017 "Richard W. Leopold Prize," and the Army Historical Foundation's 2017 "Excellence in U.S. Army History Book Award."

The CGSC Department of Military History hosts the General of the Armies John J. Pershing Great War Centennial Series with support from the CGSC Foundation. The lecture series is intended to foster understanding of this world-changing conflict during its 100-year commemoration. More than any other single event, World War I was the decisive, shaping experience of the Twentieth Century. It was a brutal war that brought down four empires, led to revolution in Russia, and eventually brought the United States onto the world stage as a major power. We live with its results to this day.

Faulkner's lecture was the 16th in the General of the Armies John J. Pershing Great War Centennial Series hosted by the CGSC Department of Military History and supported by the CGSC Foundation, and the first Pershing Lecture to be held in academic year 2019. The CGSC Foundation has received support for all Pershing lectures in academic year 2019 from First Command Financial Services in Leavenworth, Kansas.

*- CGSC Foundation, Inc.*

## **Guardsman, civilians and agencies fighting wildfires**

The 2018 wildfire season has consumed more than two million acres of land, with more than 100 fires burning as of mid-August. This comes after another two million acres of land burned in 2017.

Over 30,000 personnel – including firefighters from the U.S., Australia, and New Zealand as well as soldiers and airmen of the National Guard – are battling the flames. Said one California guardsman, "We live and serve in the communities that have been devastated by these fires. We train year-round to come to the aid of our neighbors when tragedy strikes."

In response to the devastating wildfires, the U.S. Forest Service has put forth a plan that calls for increased wildfire mitigation efforts, to include road maintenance, increased logging, and the removal of dead plants.

According to a Forest Service report, "catastrophic wildfires and the corresponding loss of lives, homes and natural resources have continued to grow, partly because our treatments have been uncoordinated and not at the right scale." The report goes on to stress the importance of "shared responsibility" for managing fire risks.

*- Department of Defense*

## **National security professionals move to save PKSOI**

An open letter published in early August argues against the elimination of the U.S. Army War College's Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute (PKSOI). Secretary of the Army Mark Esper has called for the elimination of PKSOI, and Secretary of Defense James Mattis is expected to make a decision on the matter as early as this week.

PKSOI was established in 1993 to respond to the changing post-Cold War geopolitical situation, and according to Dr. Tammy S. Schultz, professor of strategic studies at the U.S. Marine Corps War College, "PKSOI is just as critical in today's geostrategic environment as it was in the 1990s..."

In the twenty-five years since its establishment, PKSOI has acted as a bridge between the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International

Development (USAID), and has facilitated cooperation among the U.S. military, civilians, non-government organizations, international organizations, and other militaries throughout the world.

Secretary Esper's proposal to eliminate PKSOI comes with the release of the Stabilization Assistance Review, which examines past challenges the U.S. government has faced in previous stabilization efforts, and aims to streamline U.S. government stabilization efforts and provide a framework for USAID, DoD, and State to better work together in the future.

The letter in defense of PKSOI was signed by over 50 current and former national security professionals, including:

- General David H. Petraeus, U.S. Army (Ret.), former commander of coalition forces in Iraq and Afghanistan and of U.S. Central Command and former director of the Central Intelligence Agency;
- Ambassador (Ret.) Ryan Crocker, former ambassador to Afghanistan (2011–2012), Iraq (2007–2009), Pakistan (2004–2007), Syria (1998–2001), Kuwait (1994–1997), and Lebanon (1990–1993);
- the Honorable Sarah Sewall, former undersecretary of the Bureau for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, U.S. Department of State;
- the Honorable John Herbst, former ambassador to Uzbekistan and Ukraine, and former coordinator for reconstruction and stabilization, U.S. Department of State; and
- Ambassador (Ret.) Ronald Neumann, former ambassador to Afghanistan (2005–2007), Bahrain (2001–2004) and Algeria (1994–1997), and president of the American Academy of Diplomacy.

**- War on the Rocks**

## **DHS creates national cyber risk center**

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen announced the creation of the National Risk Management Center on July 31, during her keynote address at the DHS Cybersecurity Summit in New York City.

According to Nielsen, the National Risk Management Center will focus on cybersecurity priorities, and will act as a sort of 911 resource for local, state, federal, and private organizations in cybersecurity crisis. The center will also create a registry of the nation's digital "crown jewels," evaluate critical infrastructure weaknesses, help protect industry supply chains against cyber threats, and offering support to potential targets of foreign interference.

The National Risk Management Center will focus on longer-range projects, such as those listed above, while DHS's National Cybersecurity Communications and Integrations Center (NCCIC) focuses on cyber information sharing between government and industry.

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