

Worth Noting

New program director joins Simons Center

CGSC Foundation CEO Doug Tystad has announced the hire of a new program director for the Simons Center. Colonel (U.S. Army Retired) Roderick M. Cox assumed the duties of the position on March 28.

“Rod has a distinguished record of service in both military operational positions as well as interagency positions,” Tystad said. “I believe that Rod is exceptionally well qualified for the position and he is motivated to make the Simons Center a financially stable, high performing Center in support of the education of military leaders of character and competence for service to the nation.”

Cox’s last position before retiring from the Army was director of the U.S. Army Combat Studies Institute at Fort Leavenworth. As the director he was involved in leader development, fostering research and publication, and was a pioneer in Army publishing.

See <http://thesimonscenter.org/cgsc-foundation-announces-new-simons-center-program-director/> to learn more about the Simons Center’s new program director.

– Simons Center

DoD, HHS, others respond to Zika threat

In March Navy Admiral Kurt W. Tidd, commander of U.S. Southern Command (Southcom), affirmed Southcom’s role in the “whole-of-hemisphere” approach to combating the Zika virus. Tidd spoke at a Council of the Americas forum on March 22, where he discussed the part Southcom and other U.S. agencies play in the fight against the virus.

“Our Department of Defense, including U.S. Southcom, along with Health and Human Services, U.S. Agency for International Development, the State Department, and others are part of a whole-of-government — indeed a whole-of-hemisphere — effort to confront and contain this threat,” said Tidd.

At the forum, Tidd spoke about the security challenges created by the virus, saying “There is no way to predict when or where health threats will emerge.” Tidd also touched on efforts to prepare for, respond to, and prevent the spread of the virus. According to Tidd, these efforts include “Working with our partners to improve access to health systems” to those in effected areas.

The mosquito born Zika virus was recognized as a “major health care crisis” earlier this year after spreading from Africa into Central and South America. There have also been cases of Zika in the U.S. The virus is suspected of causing microcephaly in infants and may also trigger other health issues.

- Department of Defense

Interagency space center makes strides

On March 16, a key leader of the Joint Interagency Combined Space Operations Center (JICSpOC) spoke of the center’s progress and importance at the AUSA Global Force Symposium in Huntsville, Alabama. JICSpOC promotes information sharing on space operations between the