

Worth Noting

National Defense Strategy released

The first new National Defense Strategy in a decade was announced in January. The 2018 National Defense Strategy is described by Elbridge A. Colby, deputy assistant secretary of defense for strategy and force development, as “not a strategy of confrontation, but it is strategy that recognizes the reality of competition.”

The new National Defense Strategy focuses on deterring Russia and China from challenging the U.S. and its allies, and builds on the National Security Strategy announced in December 2017. In his remarks at the announcement of the strategy, Defense Secretary James N. Mattis stated that “Today, America’s military reclaims an era of strategic purpose and we’re alert to the realities of a changing world and attentive to the need to protect our values and the countries that stand with us.”

The Department of Defense’s (DoD) objectives as outlined in the strategy include:

- defending the homeland from attack;
- deterring adversaries from aggression against vital U.S. interests;
- defending allies from military aggression and bolstering partners against coercion, and fairly sharing responsibilities for common defense;
- dissuading, preventing, or deterring state adversaries and non-state actors from acquiring, proliferating, or using weapons of mass destruction; and
- enabling U.S. interagency counterparts to advance U.S. influence and interests.

Interagency cooperation is a key part of the new National Defense Strategy, which calls for the Department of Defense (DoD) to work with other U.S. government entities to “employ all dimensions of national power.” These agencies include but are not limited to the Departments of State, Treasury, Justice, Energy, Homeland Security, Commerce, as well as the U.S. Agency for International Development, intelligence community, and law enforcement. The ability to understand interagency decision-making is also recognized as a vital part of leader development.

- Department of Defense

Brown-Bag lectures feature State, FEB, CIA

After August’s “standing room only” inaugural lecture, Simons Center’s InterAgency Brown-Bag Lecture Series continued to draw crowds into Academic Year 2018.

Mr. Andrew B. Mitchell, a career Foreign Service Officer, led the discussion on November 14, providing attendees with an overview of the U.S. Department of State mission, its history and how it is currently organized. He also discussed how State operates as an important element of the U.S. national security team, as well as how it conducts foreign policy as the face of our nation around the world.

On December 12, Mr. Larry A. Hisle, executive director of the Greater Kansas City Federal Executive Board (FEB), outlined the roles and missions of the FEB and discussed the role of the FEB in the Kansas City area. He also spoke about how FEB contributes to emergency preparedness and facilitates workforce development and alternative dispute resolution.

Mr. Kevin Rousseau, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College Distinguished Chair for National Intelligence Studies, conducted a presentation on the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in the latest lecture on January 18. Rousseau briefed on the CIA's mission as part of national security and emphasized the importance of the CIA's Associate Director for Military Affairs, which coordinates, plans, executes, and sustains worldwide activities that support CIA and DoD interaction to achieve National Security objectives.

The InterAgency Brown-Bag Lecture Series, which is co-hosted by the CGSC Foundation's Simons Center with the U.S. Army Command and General Staff School (CGSS), is an extracurricular, interagency topic-focused series that is designed to enhance and enrich the CGSS curriculum. The CGSC Foundation and the Simons Center have received support for all brown-bag lectures in academic year 2018 from First Command Financial Services in Leavenworth, Kansas.

All lectures in the series are open to the public. Attendees are welcome to bring their own lunches into the conference room for the presentation. A schedule for future InterAgency Brown-Bag Lectures can be found on the Simons Center website.

- **Simons Center**

Interagency Counterterrorism Task Force bill moves to Senate

The House of Representatives reviewed, debated, and passed the DHS Interagency Task Force Act of 2017 on January 9. The bill, which would authorize the participation in overseas interagency counterterrorism task forces of personnel of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), was originally introduced to the committee by Representative John Rutherford (R-FL) on December 5, 2017.

The DHS Interagency Counterterrorism Task Force Act of 2017 amends Section 102 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, adding subsections that state the DHS Secretary is authorized to assign department personnel to participate in overseas interagency counterterrorism task forces to facilitate the sharing of counterterrorism information, and combat the threat of terrorism and associated risks to the United States stemming from overseas sources of conflict or terrorism.

The bill was debated for forty minutes before being passed as amended in committee. It now moves on to the Senate.

- **Office of the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives**

CALL highlights lessons learned from State personnel

The Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL) recently published a new installment in their "News From The Front" series focused on the experiences of Department of State personnel in interagency operations.

Leveraging the Interagency: Insights from the U.S. Department of State Leadership is a collection of articles related to U.S. national security. The articles focus on counterterrorism and interagency leadership, including articles on the Japanese embassy hostage crisis, what Foreign Service personnel need to know about working with the military, the role and history of the Foreign Policy Advisor Program, and national security policy after Iraq and Afghanistan.

Also included in *Leveraging the Interagency* is "A Window on State-Defense Relations: The POLAD System," which was originally published by the Simons Center after their March 2013 Political Advisor Conference.

Leveraging the Interagency provides insights, informed perspectives, and lessons and best