

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

practices of seasoned State personnel meant to inform higher level Army and Department of Defense (DoD) personnel about the skills of State Department personnel and aims to better facilitate interagency cooperation.

- Simons Center

Africom tool helps advance women, peace, and security

A new tool recently developed by U.S. Africa Command (Africom) is being used to measure progress in advancing women, peace, and security (WPS). The assessment tool was developed by Cori Fleser, Africom's gender advisor, to better integrate WPS efforts into Africom's security cooperation activities.

Africom has made strides to better incorporate WPS activities when working with African security forces, however, integrating WPS into existing military planning, execution, and assessment processes is still a challenge. Fleser's assessment tool uses open source data sets from international organizations such as the United Nations and World Health Organization to craft tailored approaches to working on WPS implementation through security cooperation activities.

While the tool has its limitations – the data used can not provide a full picture of WPS efforts – Fleser says that it is useful to security cooperation planning in that it will point Africom in the right direction. Says Fleser, “It does not provide a binary good/bad assessment of African partner nations. Rather, it enables the command to better understand how gender influences the security sector using quantitative data to support that analysis and opens the opportunities for working together with our partner nations to advance a mandate critical to achieving our mutual security objectives.”

- Department of Defense

National Security Strategy released

President Trump announced the new National Security Strategy (NSS) on December 18, saying “With every decision and every action, we are now putting America first.” The NSS is supported by four pillars – protect the homeland, promote American prosperity, preserve peace through strength, and advance American influence.

The new NSS emphasizes strength, particularly military and economic strength, as well as increased border security and immigration reform, deterrence of cyber actors, and a commitment to “pursue terrorist threats to their source.” The NSS also promises to address trade imbalances, protect American intellectual property, and “pursue cooperation with reciprocity” with other nations.

- White House

Ambassador McCarthy visits Fort Leavenworth

In December, Ambassador (Ret.) Deborah A. McCarthy visited Fort Leavenworth as the DACOR Visiting Professor of Diplomacy for CGSC class of 2018. Ambassador McCarthy had a distinguished career of more than 30 years as a U.S. diplomat, serving as the U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania from 2013 to 2016, and directing the expansion of U.S. military and strategic communications in the Baltic region.

While at Fort Leavenworth, Ambassador McCarthy met with students and faculty of the School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS), participating in a seminar discussion focusing on civil-military relations and leading a panel of interagency representatives in a discussion on the agencies comprising a Country Team at an overseas U.S. Embassy. McCarthy also met with students and