

Select Upcoming Events

GLOBAL SECURITY FORUM 2014

Featuring a keynote speech by Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert O. Work, as well as a number of plenary and breakout sessions on the top challenges facing U.S. and global security throughout the day.

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Ave., NW

Select Recent Events

MARITIME SECURITY DIALOGUE LAUNCH

This series, intended to highlight challenges facing the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, launched with a conversation featuring Admiral Jonathan Greenert, chief of naval operations.

ADVANCES AND CHALLENGES IN POLITICAL TRANSITIONS

Featured more than 40 experts and senior officials focusing on the challenges and opportunities of working in conflicts, crises, and political transitions.

BETTER BUYING POWER 3.0

Featured a conversation with Under Secretary of Defense Frank Kendall on the next steps in DoD's efforts to improve defense acquisition.

THE FUTURE OF THE SECURITY COOPERATION ENTERPRISE: REFORMING THE SYSTEM TO MEET SECURITY CHALLENGES

Part of CSIS's Federated Defense Project, this event featured a discussion with officials on U.S. government efforts to better prepare and position security cooperation for future challenges.

FORWARD AND READY

Featured a discussion with General John Paxton, assistant commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, who offered his perspectives on the new CSIS report, Amphibious Shipping Shortfalls: Risks and Opportunities to Bridge the Gap.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

KATHLEEN HICKS

@kath_hicks



This edition of FYSA comes at about the one-year anniversary of my tenure leading the International Security Program (ISP). It has been an incredibly tumultuous year for U.S. foreign and national security policy, so it should not surprise anyone that it has been an especially busy year for ISP. Our staff has been researching, writing, and providing perspective in the open media and behind closed doors on a wide range of timely issues facing the nation. Our work has spanned from Syrian chemical weapons disposal to deterring Russian adventurism into NATO territory to understanding the effects of sequestration.

At the same time, we have dedicated ourselves to keeping our heads out of the inbox so we can remain strategic in our focus. Our Project on Nuclear Issues (PONI), with over 1,400 members, continues to educate and network new generations of analysts to understand the role of nuclear weapons in U.S. policy. By December, we will have completed three studies under the umbrella of our **Federated Defense Project**, aimed at defining the strategic space for allied and partnered defense efforts in the years to come. We have also launched our strategic foresight line of effort, building upon CSIS's signature 7Revolutions project, which brings together long-term research streams from across the Center. These are just a few of the varied projects ISP is working on, often in partnership with our unparalleled regional programs.

Today, ISP is home to approximately 40 scholars and staff, working across more than seven major research areas. Most recently, we have welcomed the Harold Brown Chair in Defense Policy Studies, including Dr. Maren Leed and Gen. James Cartwright (USMC, Ret.) Next week, we will welcome Andrew Hunter from the Department of Defense as director of our Defense-Industrial Initiatives Group (DIIG). Our program content will continue to grow in 2015 to ensure we are providing the finest scholarship on issues important to U.S. national security today and tomorrow.

I would be remiss if I failed to note the attention that came to CSIS and other think tanks with the publication of several news articles in September. Although the quality of reporting left much to be desired, we have welcomed more generally the calls for greater transparency for think tanks. CSIS has a strong ethos of bipartisanship, scholar independence, and analytic rigor, backed by comprehensive **ethics guidelines and practices**. ISP scholars are fully committed to ensuring we are transparent about the identity of donors to our work and are committed to identifying them in our publications, events, and invitations. CSIS as an institution lists all donors on its website on a yearly basis, including those who provide general support. We plan to indicate those donors who provide general support to ISP on our website in the weeks ahead. As a nonprofit educational institution, we take great pride in our work, motivated always by our dedication to public service rather than profit. I welcome your thoughts on how we're doing in ISP and how we can make the coming year of programming even better than the last. ■

THE BROWN CHAIR'S RESEARCH AGENDA

MAREN LEED

@CSISSecDialogues



As the Harold Brown Chair in Defense Policy Studies integrates into CSIS's International Security Program (ISP), we're excited about our robust research agenda, as well as the opportunity to strengthen ties with our colleagues and gain greater synergies across our activities in the months ahead.

In September, we launched the first year of our Joint Service Innovation Discussion, a program involving 13 company-grade officers from across the military services who will come together to address key questions from senior leaders. Our hope is that this will contribute unique perspectives for the senior leaders and help to develop future leaders as well. We are also continuing our work on the Ground Forces and Security Dialogues, with a few events planned for the remainder of the year. We are also hosting a conference and workshop focused on best practices for communicating about science and technology to nontechnical audiences (November 7).

As we look ahead to 2015, we plan to take a deeper look at the military services' approaches to talent management, a particular challenge at a time of force reductions and uncertainty about future force structure. As a corollary, we're deeply interested in facilitating a broad conversation about leveraging social science advances in future warfare, in the personnel context and other areas.

We are also considering how best to address the myriad issues associated with military training. These include the best approaches for reestablishing competency in training management practices across a generation that has been focused on operations, and what the changing force posture might imply for how training is conducted.

Finally, we hope in 2015 to continue our previous work on how best to develop electromagnetic spectrum capabilities (to include cyber and electronic warfare) at operational and tactical levels. This includes examining how best to attract, develop, and retain cyber personnel, a critical enabler to this crucial capability.

We hope you're able to attend or participate in our events going forward as we join the ISP team. Please don't hesitate to drop me a line if you share similar interests or have thoughts on additional areas we might explore. ■

Multimedia



WATCH a keynote speech by Philip Gordon, White House coordinator for the Middle East, North Africa, and the Gulf region, part of a conference on Federated Defense in the Middle East.



LISTEN to a roundtable discussion featuring Kathleen Hicks, Stephanie Sanok Kostro, and Heather Conley on ISIS and the U.S. military strikes on Iraq and Syria, as part of CSIS's new Smart Women, Smart Power podcast series.

CELEBRATING 22 YEARS OF “SEVEN REVOLUTIONS”

SCOTT AUGHENBAUGH

@7revs



CSIS is now beginning its 22nd year of providing **Seven Revolutions**, a roll-up of our research on long-term trends that will fundamentally change the way we work, think, and live in the future. Can you remember the global environment of 1992? The world contained 5.5 billion people, the European Union was brand new, Windows 3.1 was released, the Mosaic web browser was being developed, and there was civil war in Afghanistan. Since that time, the Earth has traveled almost 13 billion miles, and the changes for those of us living on it seem too numerous to count.

It might surprise you, then, that the Seven Revolutions research provided significant insights to those in the 1990s peering into the world of today. The first revolution considered urbanization and “megacities,” which the United Nations now estimates will be home to approximately 6 billion people by 2040. As our research showed then, the shrinking cost of communications paved the way for new modes of learning and for the possibility of much greater access and equality. The future of technology covered changes in material science, bioengineering, and a future of “wearable machines”—all of which play a central role in today’s tech-focused world. In economics, Seven Revolutions pointed to the rise of Asia, with China and India leading the way, well before the BRICs became popular in the early 2000s.

As we think about the coming 22 years, we should expect change across all of our revolutions: population, resources, technology, information, economics, security, and governance. Will the world population expand beyond sustainable capacity? How will the human body adapt to advancing technology? Will the Internet of things, big data, and wearable devices survive a more privacy-concerned public? How will conflict change and adapt to the potential for denial of space-based communications and assets? What is the role of identity in looking at our patterns of community and state organization?

CSIS developed the Seven Revolutions to generate questions and spark dialogue about the future. It continues to serve as a tremendously insightful framework for such questions 22 years later. We are always scanning the horizon to create the most up-to-date, original, and compelling Seven Revolutions presentation we can. Our aim remains the same: to help civil society, corporations, governments, and academic institutions better prepare for human society’s rapidly shifting landscape and develop a more nuanced strategic planning perspective to guide their activities. ■

Media Highlights

“It really helps Europeans and others to see that it’s not just going to be perceived as just a Western action.”

—[Kathleen Hicks to the Associated Press on the importance of Middle Eastern countries participating in the coalition against ISIS.](#)

“As the Ebola crisis expands, the U.S. government needs to be planning for various contingencies, including worst-case scenarios for the spread of the disease.”

—[Juan Zarate to CBS News on the Ebola crisis.](#)

“One thing they realise is that sending an Abrams tank down the centre of a street in a disaster area is not easy, so they have to have some smaller lightweight vehicles for some of those places.”

—[Scott Aughenbaugh to BBC on the U.S. Army’s consideration of megacities as possible battlefields of the future.](#)

REASSESSING U.S. SECURITY COOPERATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

GABRIEL COLL

@CSIS



As the United States continues its campaign against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), it is joined by a coalition of nearly 40 countries, including key states in the Middle East. This coalition demonstrates the value of past U.S. security cooperation to its regional partners. According to the Pentagon, Bahrain, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates have all “participated in or supported” the airstrikes on ISIS targets. Each of these countries had an extensive military relationship with the United States long before the threat of ISIS emerged. Notably, the United States approved the sales of arms, such as F-15s and F-16s, that allowed Arab states to make significant contributions where there was an alignment of national interests.

However, though the coalition against ISIS demonstrates the value of past U.S. security cooperation, this conflict also reinforces the need to (1) recognize the complexities of the regional security environment and (2) rethink the nature of security cooperation.

The United States will continue to be limited in its ability to shape the security environment; during the past 35 years, this has been a constant theme of U.S. military interventions in the Middle East. Moreover, regional states will inevitably act in their own interests, whether seemingly parochial or against U.S. interests. For example, the extent of U.S. arms sales has had little discernable impact on the willingness of recipient states to comply with recent U.S. policies. Egypt and Turkey, two major recipients of U.S. weaponry, have been among the most resistant partners to get on board with the U.S.-led campaign in Syria and Iraq.

Furthermore, if the United States achieves its objective to **“degrade, and ultimately destroy, [ISIS] through a comprehensive and sustained counterterrorism strategy,”** the underlying factors that allowed for the emergence of ISIS will continue to exist. The fundamental challenges that confront the Middle East include sectarian violence, political instability, high unemployment, and a growing number of refugees.

To confront the security issues that these challenges pose, countries must be willing to expand the level of international collaboration. One way that the United States can support this goal is to leverage and adapt its existing security relationships. By identifying shared interests and building integrated capabilities, allies and partners will be able to deal more effectively with transnational threats. The International Security Program, in partnership with CSIS’s Middle East Program, is currently working on such an effort. As part of our larger **Federated Defense Project**, we will design a set of actionable recommendations that rethink the nature of security cooperation in the Middle East. ■

For more content from the International Security Program, please visit WWW.CSIS.ORG/ISP. Please contact Mr. T.J. Cipoletti, Associate Director, ISP, at TCIPOLETTI@CSIS.ORG with any comments, suggestions, or questions about FYSA content or ongoing ISP activities.

Recent Publications

READ *U.S. Department of Defense Contract Spending and the Industrial Base, 2000–2013*, for an analysis of contracting for products, services, and research & development by DoD and its key components.

READ *Opportunities in the Development of Pakistan’s Private Sector*, by Sadika Hameed, a study of where U.S.-Pakistan policy dialogues might focus to connect investors with entrepreneurs.

READ *Global Health Engagement: Sharpening a Key Tool for the Department of Defense*, for an examination of recent efforts within DoD to clarify the appropriate role of global health engagement and to increase its effectiveness.

READ “ISIS, Foreign Terrorist Fighters, and the Value of the Visa Waiver Program,” by Marc Frey, for a commentary on our ability to track ISIS fighters.

READ “Quality of Competition for Defense Contracts under ‘Better Buying Power,’” by Jesse Ellman for an analysis of competition trends in DoD contracting.

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