



2017 Summer Review

This is the bi-annual review as we continue to try for regular updates on activities, past and coming.

Protecting the Institutions of Diplomacy

While the Academy normally avoids political issues, the drastic cuts proposed in the State Department Budget required response. With the unanimous agreement of the board, we wrote Congressional leaders. The Council of American Ambassadors, an organization exclusively of previous political appointees, joined us in this letter. We are coordinating closely with AFSA President Barbara Stephenson and Tony Wayne, the head of the AFSA PAC, as they work budget issues with Congress. AFSA has some "bread and butter" issues particular to the Foreign Service that are not ours, but on the broad budget issue our interests overlap and we can be mutually reinforcing.



The reorganization of the Department is of great concern to the Academy. We wanted to be clear that we do not oppose sensible reductions and streamlining for the Department. To this end, we prepared a short paper on principles that should guide reorganization and some ideas for it. Through formal and informal contacts, we have gotten this paper to Secretary Tillerson, Deputy Secretary Sullivan, P-Tom Shannon, former DG Arnold Chacon, and Executive Secretary Joe Macmanus. Ron Neumann has been able to discuss some of the ideas in our paper with Policy Planning Director Brian Hook and Deputy Secretary John Sullivan. In numerous conversations we have made the point that the Academy has great depth of experience which we would like to make available to the administration. We have encouraged them to use us as a testing ground for ideas. They need not follow our advice, but it might help them avoid some problems. We have been promised further discussion after the Department completes its current "listening round" surveying opinion inside the Department.

Both the letter noted above and our recommendations can be found in [our website](#).

Ad-hoc Committees from Offsite

Two major issues have reoccupied us as we consider the Academy's activities going forward: how to work more effectively with Congress and how our outreach efforts should be reshaped in light of the election. After a board offsite meeting late last year, we formed three committees to study different aspects of these issues.

Foreign Relations Act of 1980

Two years ago Senator Corker began an effort to produce a yearly Authorization Bill as a matter of what he calls “regular order.” In effect, that means the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (the Act) is open for amendment every year, as happened last year when a limited lateral entry program was mandated; limited only because of very active efforts by AFSA, former AFSA presidents and ourselves. A committee chaired by Tom Boyatt recommended and the board agreed that we will not seek to change or redraft the Act but, rather, work to protect the professional diplomacy it established. To this end, we need to track and be alert to Congressional actions that could change the professional character of the FS and encourage Senator Corker to hold hearings and discussion of proposed changes to the Act.

Working with the Congress

How to improve needed Academy access to Congress generated the second temporary committee which was led by Mike Van Dusen to study whether the Academy should consider forming a political action committee (PAC). Thanks to those members who responded to the survey we did on the subject. The results were strongly in favor of active work with the Congress but definitely opposed to a PAC. With Frank Wisner’s assistance, the large firm of Squire Patton Boggs (SPB) offered pro-bono services to track developments in congress and alert us to impending issues where we might wish to take action. Based on the recommendations of Mike’s committee, the board decided not to organize a PAC and to accept the SPB offer. That puts the action with us to organize so that we can respond to information SPB may give us and devote more time to building relationships with Congress. For that purpose, we will revitalize our Congressional Relations Committee. Lorne Craner has agreed to take on this task and we are now canvassing for members. Volunteers are welcome, particularly those with established contacts with members and senior staff of the relevant committees.

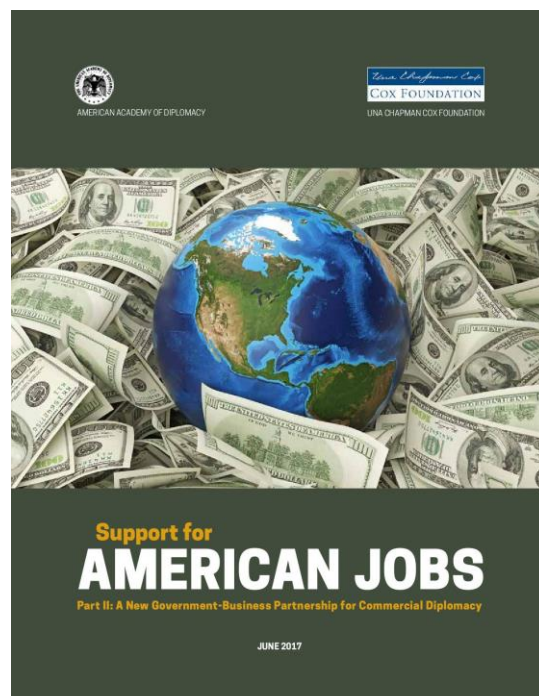
How to structure our outreach programs

The election brought to the fore the questions of whether there has been a major shift on foreign policy in American public opinion and whether we ought to alter our public affairs programming as a result. I led a temporary “outreach” committee to investigate these issues. The committee met with small groups outside DC, consulted with seven think tanks including the Chicago Council, had two dinners with selected congressional staff, and had expanded meetings with CSIS, the Koch Foundation, and Gallup. One overriding finding is that frustration with what is seen as a dysfunctional Washington is far broader than support for individual policies. There is tiredness at the costs of alliances and length of wars, but no large groundswell of opposition to America's world leadership. There is a broad lack of knowledge about the importance of international institutions and little understanding of what diplomacy does. These themes have been present for years, but there are now new dangers in some interpretations of “America first” that make engaging on these themes more urgent. That said, we are aware that the challenge is enormous and our means are small.

The program committee, now led by Deborah McCarthy who has taken up the torch from Bob Beecroft, is picking up from the temporary outreach committee. It will focus above all on explaining the importance of diplomacy and giving a sense of what it does. It is investigating doing more in podcasts, social media, and radio as well as our more traditional speaking programs. We may find a need for more funding as we develop new programs, but that is for the future. This is still an evolving project. Ongoing or recently completed projects are covered below.

Publications and Follow up

Our major study last year was [Support for American Jobs- Part I Requirements for Next-Generation Commercial Diplomacy Programs](#). Chaired by Charles Ford and ably assisted by Shaun Donnelly, the report examined how to improve State-Commerce cooperation in support of U.S. commercial diplomacy programs. We are now nearly finished with a follow-on report being prepared at the requests of State and Commerce. Chuck and Shaun,



assisted by former Foreign Commercial Services FSO Carmine D'Aloisio, and again under the direction of the Una Chapman Cox Foundation, are the lead for this report that is due for completion toward the end of June. It again draws extensively on interviews with experienced corporate executives and senior executives at the Departments of State and Commerce.

Speaking Programs

1. Under two continuing grants we conducted speaking programs at [Texas Tech University](#) (March 27) and [University of Nebraska at Omaha](#) (April 3). In both cases the subject was **Changing Constants: Challenges for the Trump Administration**. Kurt Volker, Kathleen Stephens, and Ron Neumann were the speakers with John Beyrle moderating in Texas Tech. Avis Bohlen replaced Kurt and Thomas Hubbard replaced Kathleen at Omaha.



ACADEMY SPEAKERS AT TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

2. The next Sisco Forum will address the issues of migration and immigration and will be held at the Humphrey Center at the University of Minnesota on October 30. Phyllis Oakley and a local (to be named) speaker will discuss the issue with Ron Neumann moderating. Eric Schwartz will deliver a keynote address.

3. At Monticello last October in cooperation with the Thomas Jefferson Foundation (Oct. 22): we addressed [Diplomatic Challenges for the Next Administration](#). The program was very successful. We will return to Monticello on October 28, 2017 to discuss [America's Security Alliances: What's the Price, What are they Worth?](#) Joe Mussomeli, Bob Beecroft, and Deborah McCarthy will be speaking, and Richard Boucher will give the keynote. The Monticello program has become so popular that it is usually fully subscribed within a few days of opening registration. If any of you are interested in attending, we recommend that you make early hotel reservations, as lodging in Charlottesville (VA) is often difficult to find close to the event.



SPEAKERS AT MONTICELLO IN OCTOBER 2016

4. We put special emphasis into explaining the role of the Foreign Service to Americans outside the Beltway. We funded speakers for programs that involved the showing of the excellent film, [America's Diplomats, followed by a Q&A session](#). Programs to date:

Screening	Date	Speakers
Missoula, Montana	4/12/2016	Mark Johnson
Grand Rapids, Michigan	6/15/2016	Ronald Neumann
Jacksonville, Florida	8/8/2016	Marilyn McAfee and James Jeffrey

Screening	Date	Speakers
Nashville, Tennessee	9/7/2016	Dick Bowers and Ronald Schlicher
Portland, Oregon	10/10/2016	Harriet Isom, John and Mary Carlin Yates
Houston, Texas	11/17/2016	Thomas McNamara
Anchorage, Alaska	12/2/2016	John Yates
Prescott, Arizona	2/23/17	Wendy Chamberlin and Ronald Neumann
Big Rapids, Michigan	3/14/17	Ronald Neumann
Santa Fe, New Mexico	5/4/17	Susan Ziadeh
Milwaukee, Wisconsin	5/11/17	Peter Romero
Fort Thomas, Kentucky	5/16/17	Gordon Gray
Orlando, Florida	5/20/17	Katherine Canavan
Dayton, Ohio	6/7/17	Robert Blake
Peoria, Illinois	6/15/17	Ronald Neumann
Louisville, Kentucky	6/27/17	Margaret Scobey



AMBASSADOR CANAVAN AT THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

We are looking for places for additional programs. If members have an audience and would like to put on a program, either speaking themselves or with a speaker we provide, please let us know. We can get you the film. Similar programs built around the film have been sponsored by AFSA and by the Diplomacy Center. We have maintained sufficient coordination not to duplicate each other's efforts.

Member Lunches

The Academy periodically organizes member lunches at DACOR, during which one of our members addresses a subject of his or her expertise. In February 2017, Ambassador Thomas Pickering detailed his "Recommendations to the New Administration" to an audience of over 50 members. In March, Ambassador Eric Edelman discussed the topic "Turkey - A reliable Ally?"

In May, Ambassador Joseph Mussomeli, who recently joined the Academy as a new member, commented on "[The American-Philippine Relationship: Far from Divorce, but More than a Lovers' Spat.](#)"



AMBASSADOR MUSSOMELI AT THE MAY MEMBER LUNCH AT DACOR

Our next luncheon will be held on Tuesday, October 3, 2017. Ambassadors Susan Burk and Laura Kennedy will give some remarks on "The Challenges of multilateral nonproliferation and disarmament."

Annual Meeting

The Academy held its Annual Meeting on May 30, 2017, at DLA Piper/The Cohen Group, with over 70 members and guests in attendance. Instead of having a keynote speaker this year, we decided to share perspectives on what we know about reorganization in State, our own efforts to engage in the reform and budget issues, and to solicit ideas from the members for further work.



ACADEMY'S ANNUAL MEETING IN MAY 2017

After a presentation of the Academy's activities during the past year, as well as of the efforts carried out to protect the Institutions of Diplomacy, a Q&A session with members addressed the following issues:

- * The Academy will maintain a bipartisan effort to support the need for strong professional diplomacy.
- * We will oppose the Administration on the budget cuts.
- * We will push our ideas on State reorganization.
- * Dan Sullivan and Chris Van Hollen are leading the Senate Foreign Service Caucus, whose aim is to focus on the key issues that affect the Foreign Service. Efforts to coordinate with the Caucus will be initiated through the Congressional Committee and coordinated with AFSA.
- * The Academy could consider a partnership with the Veterans of Foreign Wars to utilize the funding available in military activity.
- * It is important to recognize the impact of cutting the public diplomacy programs by the proposed 50%.

Cooperation with FSI

The American Academy of Diplomacy has partnered with the Foreign Service Institute to have experienced Academy members serve as lecturers or panelists in a variety of courses since the year 2010. In 2017, twelve Academy-sponsored speakers/panelists have volunteered to speak to students of the Basic Regional Security Officer (BRSO) courses at the DS Training Center in

Dunn Loring. This is the one opportunity new ARSOs have to get a front office perspective before they deploy to their first overseas posting. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer as speaker in future editions of the courses.

Website and social media

In order to preserve our site and prevent future hacking attempts, the Academy's website was moved to a secure location ("https".) We have added new sections (new pages on the [membership process and criteria](#), the [Academy updates](#)) and continue to update the sections on [books published by members](#), [teaching resources](#), and [member biographies](#). Some of the bios are out of date, as many of you continue to add to your laurels. I encourage you to send us updates (contact academy@academyofdiplomacy.org.)



The American Academy of Diplomacy at The American Academy of Diplomacy.
Published by Isabel De Prado Gairaud [?] · April 17 ·

Academy President Ronald Neumann received the Boy Scout Troup 34 from Berryville, VA, on Friday. After the screening of the "America's Diplomats" documentary, he detailed the different positions he held during his diplomatic career, from consular, commercial, and military officer to US Ambassador. <http://americasdiplomats.com/>

1,294 people reached Boost Post

OUR MOST VIEWED POST IN FACEBOOK REACHED 1,294 PEOPLE IN APRIL

The academy recently surpassed the mark of 1,000 followers in Twitter, and continues its efforts to increase visibility in social media by sharing our member articles as well as Academy news and updates. We started posting our updates in [LinkedIn](#), a professional social network. The videos of our events are shared on the website, on their respective event page, and on our [YouTube channel](#), edited by speaker for easier preview.

Please follow us: [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [YouTube](#)

Financial Condition and staff

With excellent support from members, hard work, and some luck, we are on track for an on-budget year. Since our holdings do not generate enough to cover all recurring expenses without getting into principal, we are grateful for the many voluntary contributions we have received. Isabel de Prado continues to do a masterful job of supporting our committee heads as well as myself. It is difficult to overstate how much we depend on her. Devon O'Neal has joined us as our new administrative assistant and we are getting excellent support from our new intern, Summer Minden.

Donors

The Academy would like to thank [our donors and supporters](#):

- The Una Chapman Cox Foundation,
- Sisco Family Fund,
- Nelson B. Delavan Foundation,
- Luther Replogle Foundation,
- Black & Veatch Corporation,
- Garda Federal Services
- Johnston-Hanson Foundation,
- Walter and Leonore Annenberg Foundation,
- Arthur Ross Foundation, and
- The Dillon Fund.

All the very best to all of you,

Ron Neumann

President