

The Briefing

A Newsletter of The Alabama World Affairs Council / Spring 2013

Coming: Col Mike Meese on Terrorism, French Ambassador François Delattre, Senior Air War College Instructors

COLONEL MICHAEL J. MEESE is a professor, USMA, and head of the Department of Social Sciences at West Point. He teaches economics and national security courses and leads the 70 military and civilian faculty members in the Department and the Combating Terrorism Center. In July 2011, he returned after one year in Afghanistan where he was the Assistant Chief of Staff of the International Security Assistance Force and US Forces-Afghanistan. In April 2012, he traveled back to Afghanistan to lead an assessment of the ISAF role, mission, and organization from now until 2014 and beyond, especially with regard to governance and development.



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Previously, he served in Iraq as a senior policy advisor to the Commanding General on three occasions: from January-March 2009 to assist General Odierno and Ambassador Crocker as the Obama Administration developed its Iraq plan; from June to September 2007 to assist in General Petraeus's assessment and testimony; and from January-March 2007, to develop "the surge" campaign plan. In 2003, he deployed as special advisor on political, economic, and military issues for the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), in Mosul, Iraq. In 2002 he served as Executive Officer to the Assistant Chief of Staff (Operations) in Bosnia-Herzegovina conducting peacekeeping and counterterrorism operations.

In 2005, he was Executive Director of the Secretary of the Army's Transition Team. He served as the Executive Director for the Department of Defense Panel on Com-

mercialization (the Dawkins Panel). He authored "The Financial Front in the Global War on Terrorism," which was published in *Defeating Terrorism: Shaping the New Security Environment*.

He is a field artillery officer with previous assignments with the 7th Infantry Division (Light), as a Battery Commander in the 3rd Armored Division in Germany, and as a Battalion Operations Officer and Deputy Division Operations Officer in the 1st Cavalry Division in Texas. He is a graduate of the National War College, an honor graduate of the Command and General Staff College, a distinguished graduate from the U.S. Military Academy, and holds a PhD, MPA and an MA from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University. He is a Foreign Policy Association Fellow and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Western Economics Association.

AMBASSADOR FRANÇOIS DELATTRE was appointed Ambassador of France to the United States in February 2011 after serving as Ambassador of France to Canada (2008-2011), Consul General in New York (2004-2008) and Press and Communications Director at the French Embassy in Washington, D.C. (1998-2002).



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A member of President Jacques Chirac's foreign policy team (1995-1998), François Delattre was responsible for European and trans-Atlantic defense and security matters and managing the Bosnian crisis.

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He also served as Deputy Director of the French Foreign Minister's Office (2002-2004) and was a member of Foreign Minister Alain Juppé's cabinet (1993-1995), following two years with the Strategic, Security and Disarmament Department of the French Foreign Ministry (1991-1993). François Delattre was posted in Bonn at the French Embassy in Germany (1989-1991), where he was in charge of matters pertaining to the economic impact of Germany's unification and the environment.

Four senior Air War College instructors, including the moderator Dr. Mark Conversino, the Dean of Academics at AWC, will report to the **MAY 14** Council on their recent trips to various countries of topical interest around the globe as part of the AWC Regional and Cultural Studies Program.



David and Beverly Lipton with Raymond Cohen enjoy the reception.

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Evaluation Comments Vary, Always Constructive

About a quarter to a third of attendees take the time to fill out the evaluation sheets after a presentation, and while more would be very much appreciated, that is probably a fair sampling size to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the program. Over the past year or so, most of the comments on both the buffet and the programs have been complimentary (thanks), but others are more critical.

There are a couple of recurring themes about the buffet: need more tables and/or more seating. The number of high boy tables we bought was limited by the Museum's storage space, and the seating is limited by available floor space. We will take another run at these issues. Several comments pointed to the enjoyment of networking and meeting friends, both new and old.

A one-off problem with salty meat at one program was highlighted and immediately addressed by the caterer.

It has not recurred. Some people like more finger foods and some like the more substantial hot meals - the caterer's plan calls for alternating priorities from program to program. Caf vs. decaf coffee? Some want one at the expense of the other.

Re the programs, there are of course different opinions on the quality of the speeches, much of it determined by what side of the aisle one sits on. There is one thing most attendees agree on: don't read the speeches. Several attendees want more programs; that possibility is limited by the capacity of the volunteer staff and the size of the budget - the dues would have to be raised. The sound system, while improved over a couple of years ago, still comes in for a fair amount of criticism, mostly from the older segment of the audience (that's most of us) when the speaker's voice doesn't project.

Keep those evaluations coming!



Huntingdon students with speaker Brian Latell and Prof. Jeremy Lewis (center) at reception.

Board Member Profile: Michael Luckett

Michael H. Luckett is a senior vice president of Investments with Stifel Nicolaus, a 120-year-old firm based out of St. Louis, Missouri. Mike has been an enthusiastic member of the World Affairs Council for many years and a board member for three years.

Mike grew up in Birmingham and graduated from the University of Alabama with a bachelor of science degree in finance. Then he enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve, serving six months active duty and seven years of reserve duty in the 926th Engineering Group under Colonel Will Hill Tankersley, now General Tankersley.

It is easily seen that Mike feels strongly that community service should be considered a duty for all citizens. In addition to the World Affairs Council Board, he currently serves on the River Region Boys and Girls Clubs Board as well as their Foundation Board and the Montgomery Industrial Development Board. He is also a member of the Tocqueville Society of the River Region United Way and has served on the United Way Board.

Mike is a former board member of the Montgomery Academy, the Jackson Hospital Foundation, Group Homes for Children, Montgomery Chamber of Commerce, and the University of Alabama Commerce Execu-

tives Society. A great public servant indeed.

Mike is an avid reader and can be seen deep in some intellectual tome while riding the stationary bike at the gym.

He is married to the former Laura Cates, who grew up in Montgomery. They have two children: Michael Luckett, Jr., a CPA in Atlanta, and Ellen Luckett Baker, mother of two and author of the book *1,2,3 Sew* and soon to be released *1,2,3 Quilt*. Ellen and her husband, Justin, also live in Atlanta with their children Laura and Eva. Mike is a dedicated family man and revels in spending time with his grandchildren.

Mike and Laura are members of the Church of the Ascension (Episcopal). They currently make their home in McGehee Estates.

Finances Satisfactory, Membership Satisfactory

The AWAC fiscal year is July 1–June 30, and the report from our Treasurer, MaryAnne Douglass, shows that our financial condition continues to be satisfactory. Due to the generosity of our members and program sponsors, the FY ending June 30, 2012 showed a slightly positive cash flow in the period, resulting in an end-of-year cash position of \$17,948.83. As a result, the minimum dues for the current FY have remained the same, and probably will remain the same next year.

Considering both gains and losses, council membership has remained stable this year at about the 450 level. Our Board of Directors has suffered the tragic loss of two members, Jon Beans and Mildred Horton, and replacements are currently under consideration by the Board.



Board member Don Armstrong and wife Gloria at reception.



Gary Belmont with Cheryl and Clark Dorsey at reception.

Our web site is maintained by Prof. Jeremy Lewis at Huntingdon College.

awac.us

Executive Director's Corner: Dr. James Nathan

Editor's Note: The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the board of directors of the Alabama World Affairs Council

An Ethnic Reset?

My first trip to Cuba ended a few days ago. I thought I'd offer a couple of untutored observations. The meeting was a bi-national, U.S.-Cuban conference on "the way forward." It was at a very high level with some of the best experts from both countries. And, then there was me: no expert at all in these matters.

My paper was on ethnic lobbies. To make a long academic paper short, I found that national policy gives little weight to ethnic groups over time.

After the American war for independence, the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798 enabled the round up and deportation of spies, and several hundred resident French and Irish Americans were arrested. The shameful law remains on the books.

After World War I, Anglophiles lobbied for the League of Nations. Others pushed for its rejection. In the end, no lobby made even a dent on the U.S. Senate, who were bent on following George Washington's famous admonition to "avoid entangling alliances."

In the run-up to World War II, neutrality was widely supported by many ethnic groups like the Norwegian Americans who, even after Nazis occupied Oslo, wanted to stay out of war by a margin of over ten to one.

In WWII, there was the shameful roundup of Japanese Americans. But, in fact, there has never been a Japan-

ese-American spy. No German American was ever arrested for spying after 1939.

In the Cold War, in my research, not a single native-born "ethnic" American spy was ever named, no less arrested. Suspicions of ethnic disloyalty were common about Moslems before 9/11. But Arab Americans comprise less than 25% of 400 terror cases in the last ten years.

In contrast, Montgomery's Southern Poverty Law Center, identifies thousands of separate American "nativist," "patriot," and "racial supremacist" terror groups with over 300,000 dues-paying members. American terror groups brag on hundreds of "successes" each year, but prosecutions are surprisingly few.

In the spring, I went to Washington to study one famous lobby, AIPAC, the conservative pro-Israel group. AIPAC's fearsome reputation and effectiveness seems to be in eclipse. In the November 2012 presidential election, not one AIPAC supported candidate won.

Non-Americans in Havana asked me why our country has committed so much to eliminate terrorism and yet still supports terrorists who target Castro. I knew little about it. But, in 1976, a Miami-based CIA contract officer name Louis Posada blew up a Cuban passenger airplane, killing all 73 on board. In the late 1990s, Posada blew up a number of hotels and restaurants in Havana, including the

one I stayed in last week. In yet another plot to kill Castro, Posada was arrested in Panama with several pounds of C4 in 2000.

Speaking of the 638 attempts to kill Castro, House Foreign Relations Committee Outgoing Chair Helena Ros-Lehtinen recently told a group of Cubans at a private lunch: "I would welcome anyone who would assassinate Fidel Castro and any [other Cuban] leader who is oppressing the people."

U.S. legislation is designed to discourage travel to and make it hard to do business in Cuba. And, it is. After securing a license, a visa, a space on an iffy charter, a room in a hotel that is forbidden to take an American credit card, there were still four hours of clearances in a segregated terminal. And, by law, you can't bring back a thing from Cuba—no rum, cigar, doll, t-shirt—nothing. The occupants of the plane coming into Miami required four hours to get through customs.

The hardline Cuban ethnic lobby has its supporters, but Cuban-Americans are increasingly for engagement, not isolation of Cuba.

A new foreign policy team is forming up in Washington. Senator Kerry sponsored a bill to allow unfettered travel to Cuba. Senator Chuck Hagel is said to harbor doubts regarding the trade embargo of Cuba. A "reset" is coming.