

The Briefing

A Newsletter of The Alabama World Affairs Council / Winter / Spring 2006

Dr. Jerry Leach, Air War College Instructors Scheduled for February, April. Lt. Gen. Hayden Cancels in January

Due to issues that have recently arisen in the press and Washington involving the National Security Agency and the U.S. Intelligence Community, Lt. Gen. Michael Hayden has had to cancel his scheduled talk to AWAC. Prior to becoming the deputy to U.S. Intelligence Director John Negroponte, Gen Hayden was Director of NSA for over five years. The leadership of the World Affairs Council is working to secure another speaker in the Spring, probably in April or May.

Our first speaker for the second half of our program year is **Dr.**

FEB 7 **Jerry Leach**, who will make a presentation on Turkey on February 7, 2006.

Since 1996, Dr. Leach has been the President of the World Affairs Councils of America, based in Washington, D.C. He coordinates and assists the efforts of the 86 World Affairs Councils across the country, recommending speakers, staging the annual WACA conference, administering overseas leadership missions for council members, holding training workshops, and helping new council startups.

In the early 1990s, he was Regional Director of the Peace Corps for Eastern Europe, the Soviet Republics, the Middle East, Asia, and the Pacific. He launched 22



new country programs in the formerly communist world, fielding more than a 1,000 volunteers in English, small business, and environmental protection projects. He also worked in the U.S. foreign assistance program administering a farmer-to-farmer project in Russia and Ukraine as well as civic organization development projects in southern Russia and Central Asia. Much of his work and study has been done in Turkey, and he is an internationally recognized expert on that country.

In 1988-89, he served as Director of International Economic Affairs at the National Security Council handling science and technology, environment and conservation, oceans and space, nuclear non-proliferation, and export control.

As a U.S. diplomat in the 1980s, he served as Executive Secretary of the Senior Interagency Committee on Technology Transfer, the group charged with stemming the flow of Western technology to the Soviet bloc. He served at the State Department and the embassy in London, receiving a Superior Honor Award for his achievements.

Dr. Leach holds a Ph.D. from Cambridge University, where he taught in the 1970s.

A native of Virginia, Dr. Leach is a graduate of Emory University which has awarded him, together with his wife Marianne, the Emory Medal for Distinguished Public Service.

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Air War College Instructors

As a part of the Air War College curriculum—the Regional Studies Program—small groups of students and instructors make visits in the Spring to many different countries around the world.

APR 11

Again this year, the World Affairs Council will receive the Report to Alabama from four senior instructors on their visits, with up-to-date information and impressions. At present, the report is scheduled for April 11, although it is possible that may change, as John Pomfret, originally scheduled for May 9, has changed his plans and will not be available.



A pensive John McLaughlin and an attentive James Nathan at September 20 presentation.

After Christmas Special!

For non-members only.
See the enclosed pledge card,
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AWAC
P.O. Box 241462
Montgomery, AL 36124



Audience at presentation by John McLaughlin

McLaughlin, Howard, and Freeman Score with Big Audiences

On September 20, 2005, John McLaughlin, retired Deputy Director and Acting Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, gave a wide-ranging talk to a packed house. He spoke on the role that intelligence plays in national security and foreign policy, how to set priorities, and the progress of the war on terrorism as seen through the intelligence lens. During the Q&A period, he deftly fielded a number of questions on contemporary issues.

On November 5, Brigadier General (Ret) Russell Howard, an expert and author on terrorism, told the large audience that, compared with localized terrorists of 20 years ago,

today's practitioners are global, better financed, better trained, more dangerous, harder to penetrate, and view victory as a long term effort. France's current Muslim problem? Don't gloat. Revert to Pershing's ruthless tactics in the Philippines? Don't do it!

On December 6, Ambassador Chas Freeman, an outstanding retired diplomat, put the rise of China in historical perspective and recounted the recent increase in tensions between China, Taiwan, and the U.S. between 1995 and 2004. However, he sees the seeds of a possible long-term solution to the problem in the growing extragovernmental agrarian trade between Taiwan and mainland China.

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

awac.us check us out!

Board Member Profile: Dr. Lawrence Grinter

Dr. Lawrence E. (“Buck”) Grinter has been a resident of Montgomery since 1978, when he transferred from the National War College in Washington to the Air War College at Maxwell. He is currently Professor of Asian Studies at the War College. In 1987 he, along with representatives from the *Montgomery Advertiser* and Auburn University Montgomery, conceived the idea of an AWAC and was one of the eight original signers (along with John “Bubba” Trotman) of the Articles of Incorporation. Ever since then, he has served with distinction on the AWAC Board of Directors.

A previous Director of East Asian Studies at the National War College, Buck is co-editor/author of five books on East Asian security affairs including *Security, Strategy and Policy in the Pacific Rim* (Rienner), *East Asian Conflict Zones* (St. Martin’s), and *Looking Back on the Vietnam War* (Greenwood). He has lived and worked in South Korea, South Vietnam (with the Defense Department) and Sierra Leone (as a Peace Corps Volunteer), and he has made 26 visits to East Asia, including 9 to the Peoples’ Republic of China. Buck is also the Editor of the Air War College Maxwell Papers, a project he founded in 1996, and is an Associate of the Air Force Counterproliferation Center.

Buck was raised in Gainesville, Florida, and graduated from the University of Florida. He earned his PhD at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. His special areas of

emphasis are security issues in China, Taiwan, Northeast Asia and South Asia. In his current capacity, he teaches courses on international security affairs and Asian security issues at the War College.

Buck is married to the former Jackie Simmons of Montgomery, and they have 3 children. Jackie is an executive at Metro Fitness in Montgomery. They love boating and just about anything that incorporates water sports — at 6’5”, Buck cuts a frightening figure on water skis. He is also an avid gardener and dabbles in (paints in?) oils. He and Jackie are active members of First Baptist Church, tutoring children and helping with the nursery. They reside in Fox Hollow.

Bits and Pieces

- The buffet continues to receive high marks from the members; as a matter of fact, the buffet usually receives higher marks than the speaker. Is that because our members know more about food than the speaker’s topic? The comments have ranged from “not up to standard” to “best ever.” Coffee has been added as a result of evaluation sheet comments.
- Several members (including the ed.) have requested the availability of red wine at the buffet. The Museum of Fine Arts is reluctant to serve red wine because of the possibility of spillage and staining the pine floor in the foyer. They don’t serve red wine at any of their catered functions.

Financial Report

The Alabama World Affairs Council is one of those civic-minded organizations that has always operated on a very narrow margin, and the report for the first half of the fiscal year, July 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005, bears that out. Most of our income comes in this first half, and the figures show a slight increase over last year, with a total income of \$27,665 so far. The expenses for the first half were \$19,846. Since we started the year with \$9,121 in the bank, our current cash position is \$16,939. This may sound reasonable, but projected expenses for the second half – it is always difficult to project – look to be about the same as the first half, especially if we have three more programs. There will be some more income, as the Alabama Humanities Foundation has approved a life-saving grant for \$2000, and we anticipate (hope for?) some new members joining in the Spring as part of the “After Christmas Special.” In any case, the Board of Directors will take what management steps are necessary to see that AWAC does not go into the red.

Why this frank discussion of our financial problems? Because we believe that transparent is better than opaque.

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- Two members, Pres. Chick Cleveland and Terry Wofford, are signed up and will attend the Annual Conference of the World Affairs Councils of America, which will be held 18-21 January at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington.

Executive Director's Corner: Dr. James Nathan

Ed. Note: Dr. Nathan had a rare opportunity to visit Pyongyang and the Demilitarized Zone in North Korea for four days in October 2005.

Who's Afraid of North Korea?

The colonel looked me in the eye and said: "Aren't you afraid to be here? We are enemies." So began a tour of the Demilitarized Zone — from the North Korean side, and of Korea from the North Korean perspective.

For brief three-day periods in October, Americans were allowed for the first time since 2002 to enter North Korea — visitor diplomacy, the North Koreans called it. Like Forrest Gump, depicted as one of the American ping-pong players who was suddenly invited to China years ago by Mao Tse-tung, I seemed suddenly in the right place to witness and abet something that will matter.

Since 2002 it has been impossible for Americans to travel to North Korea. But as a political scientist, I long hoped to see this last, and perhaps strangest, iteration of communist repression. Suddenly I found myself "invited" as part of the North Koreans' new visitor diplomacy.

My sudden visa approval seemed part of an apparent show of some kind of good faith in the ongoing Kabuki of six-power talks that sputtered forward once more this month. Perhaps, too, the North Koreans were signaling they were serious about tourism — and not just from South Korea (where tourists by the thousands go to carefully controlled destinations.)

If my trip were only a part of the first drops of a much hoped-for wave

of Westerners bearing hard currency, it would be good. For the West, tourism could start tethering North Korea, however lightly, to the world. Now the place is virtually isolated and internationally brigand.

Apart from the impressive subsidy — \$2.6 billion — donated by South Korea, North Korea's other significant source of foreign income is an especially well-crafted "super" U.S. \$100 bill produced at two factories in downtown Pyongyang.

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My visit was timed to coincide with the Arirang, or mass performances, to celebrate the founding of North Korea's Communist Party. Some 100,000 performers danced, marched, tumbled, while masses of children held up snap cards that formed gargantuan pictures of great battles, and insistent images of Eternal President Kim Il-sung (the "Great Leader") and the "Dear Leader," Kim Jong-il. These "games" were like a Stalinist version of a Busby Berkeley 1930s Hollywood spectacle and part George Romero's "Night of the Living Dead."

The "Dear Leader" was supposed to have shown up at the Arirang performance as he did when then-U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright attended a similar event five years ago. Indeed, North Korean TV

broadcasts that night showed Mr. Kim seated somewhere near our VIP boxes. But like much else in North Korea, it was fiction. Mr. Kim was not there, really; on TV, there he was in the box, two over from where I sat. He was there, but virtually.

The leadership's self-proclaimed near-divinity has elements of real absurdity. The North Korean papers claim, for instance, that Mr. Kim shot 38 — for 18 holes — the first and last time he ever played golf. It is

part of the weird miracles, lies and mass adulation the regime hopes will strengthen its grip on power.

But the clock is ticking on the North Korean regime. Those who worry about a collapsing North Korea and those who welcome it both cite the same facts. The place is a tinderbox and nobody knows how to manage either chaos or a successor regime.

I shook the colonel's hand at the DMZ and said, "I don't believe I have any real need to be afraid." It was a lie. The place scared me.

For all the pervasive propaganda promoting the cult worship, the power-crazed and at least part-time alcoholic leader of North Korea has 23 million people in a cage. Change will come to North Korea, but it won't be easy.