

# Collins Hall hosts Homeland Security Conference

*Public Affairs staff report*

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*Dr. Paul N. Stockton, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs, provided the keynote address for the Homeland Defense and Security Symposium, held Nov. 17-18 here.*

Nov. 29, 2010 -- On Nov. 17 and 18 the Center for Strategic Leadership was joined by its partners in the *Consortium for Homeland Defense and Security in America* in hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Homeland Defense and Security Symposium at Carlisle Barracks.

This year the consortium--consisting of CSL, George Washington University's Homeland Security Policy Institute (HSPI), the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), and the Heritage Foundation—brought together subject matter experts from across the globe to present a series of panel presentations entitled “Layered Defense, Ready Response.”

More than 200 Homeland Defense and Security “stakeholders” from the United States, Europe and other countries, representing federal, state and local government, the military, private sector, and academia, attended the event.

“Many of those attending were subject matter experts in their own right, and were both attentive and analytical in their reception of the presentations offered,” said Professor Bert Tussing, director of the Homeland Defense and Security Issues Group, who organized the event. “In occasionally challenging the direction of government in preparing for and responding to threats, the participants were challenged themselves in contributing to solutions rather than just waiting for them to appear.”

The keynote address by Dr. Paul N. Stockton, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs, set the tone for the conference early, outlining cooperative initiatives underway between federal, state and local governments in preparing for and responding to disasters; and challenging participants to explore new venues for achieving unity of effort in those endeavors.

The focus was carried forward by the first panel of the symposium, moderated by Tussing. Michael McDaniels, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Michael Byrne of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Dr. Christopher Bellavita of the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security offered insights toward achieving integration of both civil and military components of intergovernmental efforts in securing and defending the homeland.

The second panel moved to some of the particular homeland security concerns encountered in today's maritime environment, examining security measures in both our ports and waterways. Joining Rick Nelson of the Center for Strategic and International Studies were two Army War College alumni: Coast Guard Rear Admiral Tom Atkins, and Gary Rasicot, Director of the Global Maritime Operational Threat Response Coordination Center.

An international component was introduced with the third panel's focus on lessons learned in combating violent extremism. Mr. Frank Cilluffo of GWU's Homeland Security Policy Institute led discussion of both domestic and international concerns surrounding the issue, joined by Dr. Nadav Morag of CHDS, Brett Lovegrove, the former Head of Counterterrorism, City of London Police, Arif Alikhan of the National Defense University, and Timothy Curry, Senior Policy Advisor on Counterterrorism, Department of Homeland Security.

The final panel presentation, devoted to a call for building a National Preparedness Framework to accompany the existing National Response Framework, was headed by Jena Baker McNeill of the Heritage Foundation. Joining McNeill on the panel were Lt. Ron Levell of the Seattle Police Department and a member of the Homeland Security Information Network Advisory Committee, Kirstjen Nielsen, former Special Assistant Prevention, Preparedness and Response to President George W. Bush, and Barbara Cross, County Commissioner of Cumberland County.

In addition to the panels, participants at the forum were treated to a presentation by Maj. Gen. Yair Golan, General Officer in Command of the Israeli Defense Force Homefront Command (HFC). Golan, a 1997 USAWC graduate, shared the perspectives of the HFC in coordinating civil and military emergency services in times of war. Born out of necessity following the Iraqi Scud missile attacks against Israel in the first Gulf War, the HFC is dedicated to protecting the civilian population from those kinds of attacks, as well as the possibility of a non-conventional war.

In closing comments, Tussing reminded the assembly to be restrained in their expectations of the government, just as they should occasionally remind government to be restrained in its own. He suggested that the federal government's role should be more towards providing "templates than mandates," in a homeland security enterprise that includes government and non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and the individual citizen.

More information on the conference, as well as audio and video recordings of the conference, may be found at <http://www.csl.army.mil/chdsa> or at [www.youtube.com/usarmywarcollege](http://www.youtube.com/usarmywarcollege)

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