

CSL lends expertise to Geopolitics of Strategic Minerals

Public Affairs staff report

Center for Strategic Leadership lends expertise to Geopolitics of Strategic Minerals

The OPEC oil embargo of 1973 and 74, subsequent oil embargoes and Middle East wars have called the attention of the American people to the fact that the United States imports over 50% of its petroleum.

Less known is that the United States is more than 80 percent import-dependent for its most important strategic minerals. About 61 percent of the 18 minerals for which the United States is fully import-dependent are produced in China. The recent embargo by China of rare earth element shipments to Japan and the West has drawn the attention of Congress, which has introduced multiple bills to reduce US minerals import vulnerability and China's minerals leverage.

The link between national security and access to critical resources inspired the Rare Earths, Critical Metals, Energy and National Security Conference in Washington, D.C., Nov. 2, which included speaker Dr. Kent Butts, USAWC professor in the Center for Strategic Leadership.

The conference focused on the rare earth elements and other strategic minerals upon which the defense sector and economy depend, the geopolitical risks faced by the United States, and legislative options for supporting critical metals strategies.

Butts spoke on the topic of "The Geopolitics of Strategic Minerals."

The luncheon speaker was Sen. Lisa Murkowski, of Alaska; other congressional speakers included Representative Doug Lamborn, US 5th District, and Representative Mike Coffman, US 6th District.

The conference was an opportunity to bring key policymakers, executive branch analysts (DOD, USGS, DOE), the investment banking community, and think tank experts together to develop options for shaping U.S. mineral resource policy. The conference was sponsored by the National Center for Policy Analysis and the American Resources Policy Network.