

## **G.K. Cunningham looks at the role of the U. S.military in Global engagement**

By Robert Martin 22 March 2018



*The global power balance is rapidly evolving, leaving the United States at a turning point with respect to its level of engagement and the role of its military. How does the military function in today's international order, and how might it be balance*

**“Great Decisions” is America’s largest discussion program on world affairs.** Locally, **Great Decisions** features Army War College faculty’s expert insights in a weekly series of presentations with question-answer opportunities for the eight most critical issues facing America each year.

The presentation series is free and open to the military and civilian community, scheduled for Friday afternoons at the United States Army Heritage and Education Center, 950 Soldiers Drive, Carlisle.

***Global engagement and the Military Friday, March 23, 1 – 3 p.m.***

***Speaker: G.K. Cunningham. Dr. Cunningham is Professor of Strategic***

*Landpower at the U.S. Army War College.* - The global power balance is rapidly evolving, leaving the United States at a turning point with respect to its level of engagement and the role of its military. Some argue for an “America First” paradigm, How does the military function in today’s international order, and how might it be balanced with diplomatic and foreign assistance capabilities?

**Turkey: A Partner in Crisis Friday, Jan. 19, 1 – 3 p.m.**

**Speaker: Bob Hervey**, Retired Col. Hervey holds a master’s degree in Middle East Studies and served two tours as the Army Attaché to Turkey. -Turkey represents a daunting challenge for the Trump administration. The autocratic trend in Ankara took a turn for the worse and the majority of the population considers the U.S. to be their country’s greatest security threat. In this age of a worsening “clash of civilizations” between Islam and the West, Turkey symbolically represents as the most institutionally Westernized Muslim country in the world.

**China and America: the new Geopolitical Equation Friday, Jan. 26, 1 – 3 p.m.**

**Speaker: Dr. Richard A. Lacquement**, Lacquement is the Dean of the School of Strategic Landpower at the U.S. Army War College and is a Political Scientist with a doctorate in International Relations - China has implemented a wide-ranging strategy of economic outreach and expansion of all its national capacities, including military and diplomatic capacities. What are Beijing's geopolitical objectives? What leadership and political conditions in each society underlie growing Sino-American tensions? What policies might Washington adopt to address this circumstance?

**South Africa's Fragile Democracy Friday, Feb 2, 1 – 3 p.m.**

**Speaker: Col. William Wyatt**, Director of African Studies of the Army War College - The African National Congress (ANC) party has governed South Africa since the end of apartheid in 1994. But the party today suffers from popular frustration over official corruption and economic stagnation. Given America's history of opportunistic engagement with Africa, there are few prospects for a closer relationship between the two countries. Meanwhile, a weaker ANC could lead to political fragmentation in this relatively new democracy.

**Media and foreign policy Friday, Feb. 16, 1 – 3 p.m.**

**Speaker: Dr. Richard Love**, Professor of Peace and Stability Operations, Army Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute - State and non-state actors today must maneuver a complex and rapidly evolving media landscape.

Conventional journalism now competes with user-generated content. Cyberwarfare, hacking and misinformation pose complex security threats. How are actors using media to pursue and defend their interests in the international arena? Are there implications for U.S. policy?

**The waning of Pax Americana Friday, Feb. 23, 1 – 3 p.m.**

**Speaker: Dr. Conrad Crane.** Chief of Historical Services for the Army Heritage and Education Center. The first months of Donald Trump's presidency, the U.S. began a historic shift away from Pax Americana that has promised peaceful international relations and an open economy, President Trump has shifted the political mood toward selective U.S. engagement, where foreign commitments are limited to areas of vital U.S. interest and economic nationalism is the order of the day. Geopolitical allies and challengers alike are paying close attention.

**Russia's Foreign Policy Friday March 9, 1 – 3 p.m.**

**Speaker: Col. Robert Hamilton.** Hamilton is a professor in the Department of National Security and strategy at the U.S. Army War College - Russia is projecting an autocratic model of governance abroad and working to undermine the influence of liberal democracies and interfering in the U.S. presidential contest. How does Putin conceive of national interests, and why do Russian citizens support him? How should the United States respond to Putin's foreign policy ambitions?

**Global health: progress and challenges Friday, March 16, 1 – 3 p.m.**

**Speaker: Col. Robert Ferry,** Resident Student class of 2018 holds a Bachelor of Science in Molecular Biology from Yale - The collective action of countries, communities and organizations over the last 30 years has literally saved millions of lives around the world. The world now faces a mix of old and new health challenges, epidemics of infectious diseases, and rising rates of chronic disease. For these reasons, the next several decades will be just as important in determining wellbeing across nations.