



National Defense Strategy

Our speaker for November 18 is David Ochmanek, a former deputy assistant secretary of defense and now a senior defense analyst with the Washington-based think tank, the RAND Corporation.

It will mark the third attempt for Ochmanek to address the Foreign Policy Association. A year ago, a major traffic tie-up prevented him from getting out of Washington, and last March his appearance was canceled due to the coronavirus.

There should be no problem in November, as he will be speaking to us by webinar.

Since 1985, Ochmanek has held high-ranking positions with the U.S. Department of Defense and with RAND, a global policy research organization.

From 2009 to 2014, he was deputy assistant secretary of defense for force development, and from 1993 to 1995, he was deputy assistant secretary of defense for strategy.

At RAND, he was senior defense analyst and director of the strategy and doctrine program for Project AIR FORCE from 1985 to 1993 and again from 1995 to 2009.

Ochmanek was a member of the U.S. foreign service from 1980 to 1985 and was an Air Force officer from 1973 to 1978.

He is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and has a master's degree in public affairs from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He is currently an adjunct professor at Georgetown University.

The RAND Corporation, established in 1948, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that seeks to improve policy and decision making through research and analysis.

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Ochmanek Testifies Before Congress

Our November speaker, David Ochmanek, appeared before the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee on November 30, 2017, and offered his recommendations for a future U.S. national defense strategy.

For a brief (2-1/2-minute) summary of his testimony, go to the following link:

<https://www.rand.org/pubs/testimonies/CT484.html>

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Kori Schake Donates Speaker's Fee

Our October speaker, Kori Schake, has graciously donated her speaker's fee to the Foreign Policy Association's scholarship program.

Each year, the FPA honors a high school student from Central Pennsylvania with a scholarship to the Governor's School for Global and International Studies at the University of Pittsburgh.

The scholarship award will be presented at one of our meetings next spring.

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From the Cabinet to the White House: A Bit of Trivia in a Presidential Year

In the early years of our republic, it was common for former secretaries of state to be elected president of the United States - Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Martin Van Buren, and James Buchanan.

In addition, two former secretaries of war later became president - James Monroe and William Howard Taft. Jefferson Davis, who was secretary of war from 1853 to 1857, became president of the Confederate States of America from 1861 to 1865.

Since the Civil War, most U.S. presidents have been either former governors or senators, although in some instances they have come from the military ranks or the business world.

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U.S. Foreign Policy Challenges and Opportunities

Scribed by Laura Cardona
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Kori Schake of the American Enterprise Institute says the U.S. president elected on November 3, whether it be Joe Biden or Donald Trump, will face at least five major foreign policy challenges and opportunities.

Dr. Schake, the API's director of foreign and defense policy studies, spoke to the FPA by webinar on October 22. She identified the challenges as pandemic recovery, debt planning, rebalancing our over-militarized approach to the world, handling China, and harnessing our allies.

When it comes to managing the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Schake said the U.S. missed an opportunity to organize a global response, severely damaging our reputation as a world leader in a time of crisis. She said we lost face with both our allies and our adversaries.

The challenge of long-term debt reduction is essential for the U.S. to have the resources to maintain a strong national defense, she said. Even before the pandemic, we were on a spending trajectory that was unsustainable, and the trillions spent afterward, though necessary, exacerbated the problem.

The third challenge she cited was U.S. over-reliance on its military strength as opposed to diplomacy. She noted that the Trump administration, while increasing military spending, twice has called for cutting the State Department budget by 30 percent. Fortunately, she said, Congress declined.

Dr. Schake sees China as a looming challenge, exemplified by its renewed aggression in the South China Sea, its growing repression over the people of Hong Kong, and its imprisonment of dissidents. The problem will grow worse if China's economy slows, she said.

Finally, she said the U.S. needs to stop alienating its closest allies and realize that maintaining the trust and cooperation of other countries around the world is important both economically and vital to our national defense. In short, the U.S. cannot go it alone.

Although a Republican who served as an advisor to John McCain's 1908 presidential campaign, Dr. Schake said she felt Biden was better suited to confront the foreign policy challenges that she has outlined. However, she has in the past been critical of foreign policy positions advanced by both Biden and President Trump.

FPA 2020-2021 Program Schedule and Topics

All events via webinars at least through March. We hope to hold the International Fellows reception at the Army Heritage and Education Center in April and return to the West Shore Country Club in May, but only if it is safe to do so.

- Nov. 18** National Defense Strategy
- Dec. 17** China and Its Rebellious Provinces
- Jan. 21** The Rise of Authoritarianism
- Feb. 26** Regional Power Competition in the Middle East
- March 18** The Decline of America's Global Influence
- April 8** International Fellows Reception
Army Heritage and Education Center,
Carlisle
ADVANCED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
- May 20** Iran: How Did We Get Here
And What Do We Do Now?
- May ??** Embassy Trip, date to be determined

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