



International Drug War and Implications for Foreign Policy

Paul Rexton Kan is Professor of National Security Studies and the author of the books *Drugs and Contemporary Warfare* and *Cartels at War: Understanding Mexico's Drug-Fueled Violence and the Threat to US National Security* for which he conducted field research along the US-Mexico border.

He is also the author of numerous articles on the intersection of drug trafficking, crime and modern forms of conflict including: "Cyberwar in the Underworld: Anonymous versus Los Zetas in Mexico"; "Drugging Babylon: The Illegal Narcotics Trade And NationBuilding in Iraq"; and "Criminal Sovereignty: Understanding North Korea's Illicit International Activities".

In February 2011, he served as the Senior Visiting Counternarcotics Adviser at NATO Headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan and he has provided advice to the US Office of National Drug Control Policy. He recently briefed the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office on Mexican cartel activity in the state.

Drug Production: Afghanistan and Mexico

Afghanistan is the world's largest producer of opium; poppy cultivation increased 57 percent, from 115,000 hectares in 2011 to 180,000 hectares in 2012; despite the increase in area under cultivation, the effects of poor weather and crop disease resulted in lower yield so potential opium production remained stable at 4,300 mt in 2012 compared to 4,400 mt in 2011; the Taliban and other antigovernment groups participate in and profit from the opiate trade, which is a key source of revenue for the Taliban inside Afghanistan; widespread corruption and instability impede counterdrug efforts; most of the heroin consumed in Europe and Eurasia is derived from Afghan opium; Afghanistan is also struggling to respond to a burgeoning domestic opiate addiction problem; vulnerable to drug money laundering through informal financial networks; regional source of hashish (2013)

Mexico is a major drug-producing and transit nation; world's second largest opium poppy cultivator; opium poppy cultivation in 2009 rose 31% over 2008 to 19,500 hectares yielding a potential production of 50 metric tons of pure heroin, or 125 metric tons of "black tar" heroin, the dominant form of Mexican heroin in the western United States; marijuana cultivation increased 45% to 17,500 hectares in 2009; government conducts the largest independent illicit-crop eradication program in the world; continues as the primary transshipment country for US-bound cocaine from South America, with an estimated 95% of annual cocaine movements toward the US stopping in Mexico; major drug syndicates control the majority of drug trafficking throughout the country; producer and distributor of ecstasy; significant money-laundering center; major supplier of heroin and largest foreign supplier of marijuana and methamphetamine to the US market (2007) Source: CIA World Factbook

April 24th Meeting

Dinner Arrangements

Place: Radisson Penn Harris Hotel
Governor B (Hotel)
Camp Hill Bypass & Erford Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011

NOTE NEW START TIMES

Time: **5:30 PM:** Social Hour (Cash Bar)
6:30 PM: Sit Down Dinner
7:30 PM: Presentation w/ Q & A

Menu: Tossed Salad, Encrusted Haddock, Chocolate Cake

Those with special dietary needs may request a substitution when making a reservation. Remember, if you order a substitute meal to pick up a coded tag at the table and put it by your place. Alternate meals will be only chicken unless chicken is the main course – then fish will be the alternate or vegetarian, which will be Chef's choice (typically non-meat pasta).

The cost for FPA members: \$22.00.
We welcome non-members to attend dinners.
The non-member cost is: \$25.00

There is no charge for anyone to attend the program presentation only, beginning at 7:30 PM.

For Reservations Contact: Ron Pontius at:
ronpon@comcast.net or (717) 991-0899

You can also click on the reservations link on the FPA web site: www.fpa-harrisburg.org

Notes: Reservations by telephone must be made by 10 PM on the Monday before the Thursday meeting; or if by e-mail, by 9 AM Tuesday before the meeting.

When making or canceling a dinner reservation be sure to give your complete *name, address, and phone number*. We need that information to notify you if a meeting is canceled due to inclement weather or for other reasons. If you come for dinner as a "Walk-in" without a reservation, we cannot guarantee that the hotel will be able to provide you with a meal.

NOTE: We bill "No-shows"

No-shows will be billed except when there are sufficient walk-ins to meet the reservation number given to the Radisson.

<http://fpa-harrisburg.org/>