

The North Korea Challenge: No Good Options

Scribed by Erin Eckerd

The Foreign Policy Association of Harrisburg closed its 2015-2016 program year on May 19 by focusing on the timely subject of North Korea and its perceived threat to the security of its neighbors and the United States.

The speaker was Frank Plantan, co-director of the International Relations Program at the University Pennsylvania, whose academic interests include Northeast Asia, particularly the two Koreas, counterintelligence, and the role of higher education in promoting civic engagement and democracy.

Plantan first addressed the crowd of about 90 FPA members and guests with a view of North Korea from an American perspective. What keeps Americans concerned about North Korea are its flagrant human rights abuses, its intermediate range ballistic missile program, and its blatant development of nuclear weapons, he said.

Plantan also provided an insight on the North Korean point of view. The isolationist nation sees its continued existence constantly under threat from the world's major military super power, namely the United States. The North Korean communist regime actually benefits from economic sanctions, telling its people that the fault lies with the West, which is trying to destroy them.

Plantan commented on North Korea's recent Workers Party national congress, the first in 36 years. Based on information emerging from the gathering, North Korea no longer considers neighboring China a reliable ally. While this may surprise some, relations between the two countries have become tense. In a document read aloud at the congress, threats of a "force of a nuclear storm" were uttered against China.

Concluding his presentation, Plantan noted that North Korea serves as a destabilizer to Northeast Asia, and while leaving the Hermit Kingdom alone now appears to be working, the U.S. cannot afford to be complacent. North Korea is progressing further and further with its nuclear program, and Western time estimates of a complete nuclear missile capability are becoming shorter and shorter.

It is therefore important, he said, that the U.S. resume nuclear talks with North Korea soon.

2016-17 Program Topics / Schedule

- Sept. 22** U.S. Foreign Policy in an Election Year
- Oct. 27** American Intelligence Since 9/11
Former CIA Director Michael Hayden
West Shore Country Club, Camp Hill
ADVANCED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
- Nov. 17** 41st Annual International Fellows Reception
at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle
ADVANCED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
- Dec. 15** Geopolitics of Climate Change
- Jan. 26** Update on Arab - Israeli Conflict
- Feb. 23** Cuba Today and After the Castro Brothers
- March 23** South China Sea Geopolitics
- April 27** Russia and the West
- May 18** Future of U.S. - Iranian Relations
- May ??** Embassy Trip to be Determined

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U.S. Foreign Policy in an Election Year

The speaker at our September 22 meeting will be Shirley Anne Warshaw, a widely recognized and oft-quoted presidential scholar, who teaches political science at Gettysburg College.

Dr. Warshaw is the Harold G. Evans Chair of Eisenhower Leadership Studies at Gettysburg. She received her doctorate degree from Johns Hopkins University, her master's degree from the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce, University of Pennsylvania, and her bachelor's degree from Penn.

Before joining the faculty at Gettysburg College, she served in the Pennsylvania Governor's Office under two governors.

She has written many books and articles on presidential decision making. Her book titles: *The Eisenhower Legacy*; *Reexamining the Eisenhower Legacy*; *Power Sharing: White House-Cabinet Relations in the Modern Presidency*; *The Domestic Presidency: Decision Making in the White House*; *The Clinton Years*; *The Keys to Power: Managing the Presidency*; *The Co-Presidency of George W. Bush and Dick Cheney*; and *Guide to the White House Staff*.

Dr. Warshaw has been a consultant to the Public Broadcasting Service, involved with the presidential debates, and currently serves on the Council of Scholars for the Center for the Study of the Presidency. She served on the Pew Transition Projects for structuring the White House staff in both 2000 and 2008.

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A Message from Our President

Many thanks to our members for the tremendous support and turnout for the 1st annual President's Speakers Series last November when we hosted Ambassador Bill Burns. This year's talk by General Michael Hayden appears to be another not-to-be missed event. A special thanks to Dr. Tom Malin, FPA member, who has graciously donated a \$1,000 sponsorship to support the cost and expenses to bring General Hayden here. We still are seeking more sponsors/contributors, regardless of the amount, to offset the balance. Your contributions are tax-deductible. If you are interested in a sponsorship or making a donation, please call me at 717-968-1995 or email msellitto@comcast.net. Thanks!

Michele Sellitto

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September 22 Dinner Arrangements

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

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

Menu: Fruit Cup
Chicken Cordon Bleu
Carrot Cake

Those with special dietary needs may request a substitution when making a reservation. If you order a substitute meal, remember to pick up a coded tag at the table and put it by your place. Alternate meals will be 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: \$24
We welcome non-members to attend dinners.
The non-member cost is: \$27

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

Note: 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, the hotel may not be able to provide you with the meal listed above.

NOTE: We bill no-shows.

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

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

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