

Press Releases: Robert D. Murphy Awards Recognize Outstanding Contributions of the Department of State's Foreign Policy Advisors to U.S. Military Operations Worldwide

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
July 31, 2017

The Bureau of Political-Military Affairs is pleased to announce the selection of this year's Robert D. Murphy awards for excellence for the Department's diplomats serving as Foreign Policy Advisors (POLAD) to senior U.S. Department of Defense military leaders around the world.

- Scott Ticknor, POLAD to Combined Joint Task Force–Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA), was selected as the 2017 Robert D. Murphy Senior-Level POLAD of the Year Award winner for his work ensuring close cooperation between the Department and U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) throughout Eastern and Central Africa. He also worked closely with interagency partners to build Somalia's National Security Forces and provided assessments of Al Shabaab that contributed to improving Somalia's stability and security.
- Craig Conway, POLAD to U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM), was awarded for his efforts in assisting NORTHCOM to modernize its command and control structure, which improved harmonization between U.S. and Canada national security strategies and plans. He also advised his Command's leadership on a variety of national security issues between Mexico and the United States.
- Melissa Lan, POLAD to Special Operations Command Central (SOCCENT), was recognized for her work in promoting and coordinating interagency efforts to counter al-Qai'da in Yemen, counteract Iranian influence throughout the Middle East, and defeat the Islamic State. She also ensured that SOCCENT's efforts to train and equip forces in Syria were well integrated into the Department policies and planning.

The award is named in honor of U.S. diplomat Robert D. Murphy, who served as an advisor to General Dwight D. Eisenhower during World War II. Today,

approximately 90 State Department Foreign Service Officers advise U.S. military combatant and component commanders, as well as leadership in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Staff and DoD civilian agencies, strengthening U.S. national security by enhancing interagency cooperation and policy coordination.

For more information, please contact the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Office of Congressional and Public Affairs at PM-CPA@state.gov and follow us on Twitter @StateDeptPM.

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[Press Releases: Defending Democracy in Venezuela](#)

Press Statement
Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC
July 30, 2017

The United States condemns the elections imposed on July 30 for the National Constituent Assembly, which is designed to replace the legitimately elected National Assembly and undermine the Venezuelan people's right to self-determination.

The United States stands by the people of Venezuela, and their constitutional representatives, in their quest to restore their country to a full and prosperous democracy. We will continue to take strong and swift actions against the architects of authoritarianism in Venezuela, including those who participate in the National Constituent Assembly as a result of today's

flawed election.

On July 16, millions of Venezuelans overwhelmingly expressed – in a loud and clear voice – their rejection of a National Constituent Assembly designed to weaken democracy in Venezuela. Nearly 234 years to the day after the birth of Simon Bolivar, who fought for the freedom of the people of Venezuela, President Nicolas Maduro has cast aside the voices and aspirations of the Venezuelan people.

We express our condolences to all Venezuelans who have lost loved ones. We condemn the use of violence by the Maduro regime against citizens exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly.

We encourage governments in the hemisphere and around the world to take strong action to hold accountable those who undermine democracy, deny human rights, bear responsibility for violence and repression, or engage in corrupt practices.

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Press Releases: On Sanctions Legislation

Press Statement
Rex W. Tillerson

Secretary of State

Washington, DC
July 29, 2017

The near unanimous votes for the sanctions legislation in Congress represent the strong will of the American people to see Russia take steps to improve relations with the United States. We hope that there will be cooperation

between our two countries on major global issues and these sanctions will no longer be necessary.

We will work closely with our friends and Allies to ensure our messages to Russia, Iran, and North Korea are clearly understood.

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[Press Releases: Summit of the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders](#)

Notice to the Press
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
July 28, 2017

Representatives of the U.S. Government, private sector, and civil society will meet with nearly 1,000 young leaders from Sub-Saharan Africa during the State Department-sponsored Mandela Washington Fellowship Summit from July 31-August 2, in Washington, DC. The Mandela Washington Fellowship and Summit fosters and builds relationships that support and expand U.S.-Africa cooperation on shared goals the continent.

The Summit, held at the Marriott Marquis Hotel, will feature an Expo with more than 100 organizations engaged with Africa, as well as a Congressional Forum and other leadership and networking sessions. The young African leaders are convening in Washington after six weeks of academic study and leadership training at 38 higher education institutions across the United States as part of the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders. Alumni of the Fellowship are playing a role in strengthening democratic institutions,

spurring economic growth, and enhancing peace and security in Africa. The Mandela Washington Fellowship is the flagship program of the Young African Leaders Initiative, the United States' effort to invest in the next generation of African leaders.

Media representatives may attend these events upon presentation of one of the following: (1) A U.S. Government-issued identification card (Department of State, White House, Congress, Department of Defense, or Foreign Press Center), (2) a media-issued photo identification card, or (3) a letter from their employer on letterhead verifying their employment as a journalist, accompanied by an official photo identification card (driver's license, passport).

To request media credentials for open-press events, please submit the online form at <https://yalisummit.irex.org/press-info/>. For further information, please contact ECA-Press@state.gov. Participants and those watching the livestreams on irex.org are encouraged to use the hashtag #YALI2017 to join the conversation.

The Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders is a program of the U.S. Government and is supported in its implementation by IREX.

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[Press Releases: Iran's Space Launch Vehicle Inconsistent With UNSCR 2231](#) [Joint Statement by France, Germany, the United Kingdom and United States](#)

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
July 28, 2017

Begin Text:

With its latest launch of a Simorgh space launch vehicle on 27 July, Iran has again demonstrated activity inconsistent with UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2231. We condemn this action.

This resolution calls upon Iran to not undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such technology like this launch. Space launch vehicles use technologies that are closely related to those of ballistic missiles development, in particular to those of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles.

This step follows missile launches into Syria on 18 June and the test of a medium range ballistic missile on 4 July.

Iran's program to develop ballistic missiles continues to be inconsistent with UNSCR 2231 and has a destabilizing impact in the region. We call on Iran not to conduct any further ballistic missile launches and related activities. We are writing to the UN Secretary General with our concerns. The governments of France, Germany and the United Kingdom are discussing these issues bilaterally with Iran and are raising their concerns.

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