

# [Press Releases: State Department and Chinese Officials Discuss Synthetic Opioids on Sidelines of Mexico Conference](#)

Media Note  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
December 5, 2017

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Earlier today, on the sidelines of a global conference on substance use in Mexico, State Department and Chinese officials met to discuss challenges posed by synthetic opioids. The bilateral meeting took place following a recent fruitful discussion on counternarcotics between Presidents Trump and Xi in Beijing last month.

Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary James Walsh of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) conducted the meeting with officials from China's National Narcotics Control Commission. The U.S. and Chinese officials are in Mexico, along with representatives from more than 65 other nations, to participate in the annual workshop of the International Society of Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Professionals (ISSUP).

During the U.S.-China bilateral meeting, both sides discussed stemming the flow of synthetic opioids and opportunities for exchanges on drug demand reduction; highlighted the strengthening of drug control efforts as an important priority for their respective governments; and agreed that the recent Beijing meeting between Presidents Trump and Xi provided a good opportunity to strengthen our counternarcotics cooperation.

For more information, please contact [INL-PAPD@state.gov](mailto:INL-PAPD@state.gov) or follow INL on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/StateINL](https://www.facebook.com/StateINL) and Twitter via @StateINL.

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## **Press Releases: Announcing the Zoohackathon 2017 Global Winner**

Media Note  
Office of the Spokesperson

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The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs is pleased to announce the Zoohackathon 2017 global winner, Team ODINN.

This fall, hundreds of participants competed around the world to develop conservation technology solutions at the second-annual Zoohackathon. Teams were comprised of coders, designers, project managers, and conservation specialists. Each team selected a problem statement supplied by U.S. government agencies and their partners to solve.

The Zoohackathon program promotes understanding of the problem of wildlife trafficking and enlists new partners to combat it by developing practical and innovative conservation technology solutions.

Team ODINN is a four-person team that participated in the London Zoohackathon, which was co-hosted by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and U.S. Embassy London.

Team ODINN's prototype aims to reduce wildlife poaching and illegal trade by improving the effectiveness of field-based camera traps. Currently, wildlife camera traps capture countless images of all kinds of wildlife, limiting their utility for rangers. Team ODINN's technology acts as an image filter that flags humans and endangered wildlife from the multitude of images, thus enabling rangers to rapidly identify poaching sites. The prototype reduces the number of images that the rangers must examine by 98 percent and can be retro-fitted to existing camera traps, eliminating the need for additional equipment.

For further information about Zoohackathon, please visit

[www.zoohackathon.com](http://www.zoohackathon.com). Follow Zoohackathon on social media at [@StateDeptOES](https://twitter.com/StateDeptOES) and #Zoohackathon.

For media inquiries, please contact [OES-PA-DG@state.gov](mailto:OES-PA-DG@state.gov).

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## **[Press Releases: Remarks at Meeting With NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg](#)**

Remarks  
Rex W. Tillerson

Secretary of State

Brussels, Belgium  
December 5, 2017

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**SECRETARY-GENERAL STOLTENBERG:** So welcome back to NATO. It's great to see you, and I really appreciate your strong leadership for so many important issues for the alliance and your ironclad commitment to NATO and to the transatlantic bond and for the fact that the U.S. is increasing their presence in Europe. And NATO is a place where North America meets Europe every day and we discuss, we decide, and we take actions. And that's exactly what we're going to do today and tomorrow in addressing many – we are going to address many important security issues for the alliance. So welcome. It's great to have you here.

**SECRETARY TILLERSON:** Well, thank you, and first let me thank you for your strong leadership of NATO. I think the alliance has been strengthened under your leadership. Certainly, many have stepped up to confirm their commitment to the alliance, not just in words, but with treasure as well, which you know is very important to President Trump to see this alliance fully capable, and we appreciate your strong leadership of the alliance. As indicated, our commitment is, as you said, is ironclad and our commitment to Article 5 of the agreement is unwavering. And all of our friends in the alliance should know that.

It's a delight to be here.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL STOLTENBERG:** Thanks, and thank you.

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## **Press Releases: Finland National Day**

Press Statement  
Rex W. Tillerson

Secretary of State

Washington, DC  
December 5, 2017

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On behalf of the Government of the United States of America, I wish all the best for the people of Finland as you celebrate the 100th anniversary of your independence.

The United States and Finland share a deep bond rooted in a mutual commitment to democratic institutions, regional security, and human rights. Finland is a strong international partner on pressing global issues, such as international migration, Arctic cooperation, and defeating terrorism. The United States looks forward to strengthening our relationship and cooperation with Finland in the coming years.

The people of the United States have enjoyed celebrating the centennial together with the people of Finland through the Suomi Finland 100 campaign over the last year. We are particularly fond of Finland's "sauna diplomacy" and welcomed the chance to relax in the traveling sauna that traveled more than 10,000 miles across the United States this past year. Through such cultural exchanges, including programs like Fulbright and the Ambassador's Entrepreneurship Challenge, the connections between our people continue to grow closer each year.

I congratulate you once again as you celebrate your "sisu," your grit and perseverance, and all you have achieved in the last 100 years.

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## [Press Releases: Press Stakeout on Arrival at NATO Headquarters](#)

Remarks

Rex W. Tillerson

Secretary of State

Brussels, Belgium

December 5, 2017

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**SECRETARY TILLERSON:** Good afternoon, all, and it's a pleasure to be back in Brussels, particularly to be back at NATO and to be here with Ambassador Hutchison, our NATO ambassador. And we look forward to a very comprehensive discussion today on how to further strengthen this alliance, confirm once again the United States commitment to the alliance, commitment to Article 5 of the alliance, and to also understand better the joint plans between the EU and NATO, which we view can only strengthen the security posture here in

Europe. We have a lot of important issues to talk about, look forward to getting to those. Thank you.

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