

SSC fellows visit Capitol Hill

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ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – Fellows from the Senior Service College Fellowship Program, or SSCFP, from APG; Warren, Michigan; and Huntsville, Alabama visited Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., Sept. 12-13 as part of the 10-week PMT 401 program manager's course.

During the two-day workshop, fellows heard from multiple top level speakers representing a variety of viewpoints and perspectives on different aspects of policy, security, the role of government, and U.S. national interests.

Walter Oleszek, senior specialist in American Government, Congressional Research Service at the Library of Congress, served as the program moderator and provided an overview of the evolution of power in Congress which touched upon divided power, partisanship, and the impact on policy making.

On Sept. 12, fellows heard from a variety of speakers, ranging from former congressmen and their staffers, to journalists.

Martin Russo, CEO of Russo Capitol Strategies and a former representative from Chicago, shared his views on the role of lobbyists shaped by his unique perspective as a current lobbyist and as a former member of Congress. Russo was followed by Sid Davis, former vice-president and Washington bureau chief at NBC News and former program director at Voice of America. Davis provided his perspectives on the role of the media and their impact on U.S. national interests.

Dr. Yuri Maltsev, a defector from the Soviet Union and former Senior Economist, Academy of Sciences of the USSR, discussed President Vladimir Putin's Rus-

sia and its growing world-wide influence. The last speaker for the day, Jon Etherton, defense and intelligence consultant and former professional staff member, U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Acquisition and Technology, discussed acquisition policy, reform, and human capital initiatives.

On day two, noted author, Gordon Chang, covered a vast amount of material as he provided his thoughts and assessments on China and North Korea and their impact on the national interests of the United States. Chang was followed by Lucian Niemeyer, Niemeyer Group president and a former professional staff member for the Senate Armed Services Committee, or SASC. Niemeyer addressed the role of the SASC, provided his insights on the functions and responsibilities of the SASC, and touched upon his role as a staffer in support of the committee.

On Tuesday afternoon, the fellows were given free time to visit their congressmen and women, explore the Capitol buildings and sit in on Congressional hearings and observe votes. Many of the fellows obtained Capitol gallery passes from their senators' and representatives and were able to observe legislation in action.

The two days spent on Capitol Hill provided each fellow with a deeper understanding of the workings of Congress and its relationship to the Department of Defense, a sense of the "bigger picture," and the role that each of them has played in providing support to the warfighter.

The SSCFP is a nationally-recognized, Army-sponsored program designed to develop strong, effective senior leaders for the Department of Defense Acquisition community. SSCFP announcement,



Courtesy photo

Fellows from the Senior Service College Fellowship at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland; Huntsville, Alabama; and Warren, Michigan; post for a photo during a visit to Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., Sept. 12-13, 2016.

call for applications for selection/attendance to attend the class of 2017-18, which starts on July 24, 2017 is expected to run from December 16, 2016 through March 22, 2017. Program announcement information will be posted on US Army Acquisition Support Center website at

<http://asc.army.mil/web/>. Acquisition professionals from the fourth estate may also apply for consideration/selection.

For more information, visit the DAU website at www.dau.mil/sscf/Pages/apg.aspx or contact James Oman at james.oman@dau.mil or 410-272-9470.