

## Senior Service College Fellowship Program Visits Capitol Hill

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Fellows from the Senior Service College Fellowship Program (SSCFP) at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland; Warren, Michigan; and Huntsville, Alabama spent September, 12 and 13 on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C. where they participated in a workshop as part of the 10-week PMT 401 Program Manager's course. Over the course of two days, the 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.



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.

Mr. Walter Oleszek, Senior Specialist in American Government, Congressional Research Service, 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. Next, Mr. Martin Russo, CEO Russo Capitol Strategies and a former representative from Chicago, Illinois 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 Mr. Sid Davis, former vice-president and Washington bureau chief, NBC News and former program director, 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 Russia and its growing world-wide influence. The last speaker for the day, Mr. 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, Mr. 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. Mr. Chang was followed by Mr. Lucian Niemeyer, President, Niemeyer Group and a former professional staff member, Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC). Mr. 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. Mr. Oleszek wrapped up the Capitol Hill workshop by providing and discussing the procedures associated with touring the House of Representatives and the Senate.

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. The SSCFP announcement, 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>.

For more information visit the DAU website at <http://www.dau.mil/SSCF/default.aspx> or contact Deborah DiCesare at [deborah.dicesare@dau.mil](mailto:deborah.dicesare@dau.mil) or 586-276-2171.