

## STATE OF THE ADMINISTRATION SPEAKER SERIES

### March 12, 2015

#### Overview:

- You are participating in the Office of the Chief of Protocol's "State of the Administration" speaker series to discuss the role of DHS in both domestic and international politics. The meeting will take place at the Blair House from 1:30pm to 2:15pm.
  - Your remarks are expected to last 15 to 20 minutes.
- The "State of the Administration" speaker series was developed to provide the Chiefs of Mission posted in Washington with an opportunity to interact directly with senior members of the Government. The ongoing series enables Chiefs of Mission who would not ordinarily have an audience with high-level officials to receive a first-hand briefing on our Nation's most important issues.
- The audience will consist primarily of Ambassadors and Chargé d'Affaires (if the Ambassador is out of the country). Some embassies may opt to send a military attaché. Expected attendance is 75-80 participants.
- You will be hosted by Chief of Protocol Ambassador Peter Selfridge and Assistant Chief of Protocol Nick Schmit. You will be staffed by Chief of Staff Christian Marrone and Deputy Assistant Secretary Mark Koumans. A full list of participants is below.

#### Discussion Points:

- Focus on DHS international engagement to prevent terrorist attacks through combatting violent extremism, facilitating secure trade and travel, and managing the U.S. immigration system.
- Stress that homeland security is inherently transnational and international.
- *Counterterrorism and countering violent extremism efforts.* Highlight the Department's engagement in the February 2015 White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism as well as the evolution of the Visa Waiver Program as a security partnership to help prevent terrorist travel.
- *Immigration Enforcement.*, Focus on the Department's efforts to address the summer 2014 "surge" of unaccompanied children from Central America and the importance of a regional approach to the issue.
  - Highlight the role foreign partnerships, in particular with the Government of Mexico, in implementing Executive Immigration Reform.
- Provide an update on DHS's international footprint in support of these engagements, in particular the role and expansion of Preclearance locations overseas.

#### Background:

- This is your first engagement with the "State of the Administration" speaker series. Previous speakers include (former) Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano;

Undersecretary of State Wendy Sherman; (former) USAID Administrator Raj Shah; Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker; VPOTUS Chief of Staff Steve Ricchetti; Attorney General Eric Holder; Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes; (former) Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood; (former) Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius; and (former) Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta.

- The Office of the Chief of Protocol is committed to cultivating an environment for successful diplomacy. They believe that through the exchange of ideas, cultures, and traditions with the Diplomatic Community - via outreach, engagement and discussion - we can build upon the Administration's efforts to foster international goodwill.
- Some of the Diplomatic Corps representatives may ask you to whom they should direct their inquiries if they have any issues or concerns relating to the Department. Traditionally, the Office of International Engagement has led the Department's international outreach and coordinated Departmental and Component activities internationally. You may direct them to International Engagement DAS Mark Koumans or Assistant Secretary & Chief Diplomatic Officer Alan Bersin. .

**Participants:**

Secretary Johnson  
Christian Marrone, S1's Office  
Mark Koumans, PLCY  
Ambassador Peter Selfridge, Department of State  
Nick Schmit, Department of State

**Attachments:**

- A. Talking Points
- B. Agenda
- C. Biographies

**Staff Responsible for Briefing Memo:** Deputy Assistant Secretary Mark Koumans, PLCY/Office of International Engagement, (b)(6)