Professional Development Report  
Summer 2004  
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Project Title: Analyzing the European Security and Defense Policy:  
Cultural and Structural Dimensions of Security Cooperation

It is with great appreciation and enthusiasm that I offer my 2004 professional  
development report. From June 14-August 6, I conducted field research in the  
50 American and European practitioners and officials on topics such as threat  
perceptions, transatlantic relations, the stabilization of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
and the development of the European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP). In  
addition, I received documents through some of my contacts that typically would  
be unavailable to an American civilian.

My summer field research met and exceeded my expectations in most  
categories. Not only did I meet with new officials – such as the Defense Minister  
of Bosnia – but I continued to deepen my existing network and was asked to  
provide informal consulting for a number of long-term colleagues and contacts.  
Furthermore, I have received invitations for future project collaboration from  
officials working at the French Ministry of Defense and the European  
Commission Office of Conflict Prevention. Neither of these opportunities would  
be possible if I did not have the time and resources to travel to Europe on a  
consistent basis.

In Sarajevo, London and Paris I interviewed all of the main national actors in the  
security and defense field as well as additional officials from international  
organizations. I also had interviews with two think-tanks in Brussels to pursue the  
possibility of a future association with the work of their institutes. In London, I met  
with a colleague who has been newly appointed to a chaired position at the  
University of Cambridge to discuss future research ventures.

My only disappointment was that I had insufficient financial resources, which cut  
short my research time in Brussels. I did not have enough time to meet all of the  
officials who agreed to speak with me (I interviewed over 25 officials in Brussels  
during a two week period). Now that the European Union has expanded to 25  
member states, it is critical that I develop relationships with the new EU  
delegations. While I expanded my interview base of EU member states from the  
“big three” (France, Germany and the United Kingdom) to include the  
Netherlands, Spain, Italy, and Poland, I had insufficient time to meet with many of the  
new EU member states. In part, this is because there are new organizational  
structures as part of ESDP and it was necessary to meet with many of the new  
EU officials working in the security field. When I do field research in Brussels, I  
need to interview NATO officials, national delegations working at NATO, EU
officials from the Commission and the Council, as well as national representations to the EU. This means meeting with well over 50 officials in Brussels alone. While I met with 25 officials in Brussels during the summer of 2004, I will certainly need to find a way to extend my research time in Brussels so that I can continue to broaden and deepen my contact base.

What became clear to me was how unique I am as an American academic from California. Most academics who do research on the EU are mostly from east coast institutions. I have found that European officials perceive me as an important contact given my location on the west coast, where they perceive academics to be more focused upon Asia and Latin America. A second factor of importance is that I am becoming “known” in the diplomatic and military sectors of policy formation. This means that it is becoming easier to build new contacts. Third, I find that policy makers and practitioners appreciate my commitment to building bridges between the academy, practitioners and government officials. More opportunities are becoming available to me as I continue my research and writing and am becoming a familiar face in many European capitals. I am becoming an informal consultant for some officials. This is an invaluable opportunity, especially for a relatively young California-based EU scholar in a traditionally male dominated field of scholarship.

In sum, my overall research project was a success. I not only met all of the original goals that I identified in my professional development application, I have exceeded them. Secondly, I believe the project has brought benefits to Westmont College, due to my continued visibility in the European security sector, the application of new knowledge for curricular development, my willingness to use recently acquired knowledge for public lectures, and my continued commitment to scholarship that is policy relevant through ongoing collaboration and consultation with European practitioners, academics and government officials. It is my intent to further develop this web of networks so that I may better serve the Westmont community, the world of policymaking and the guild of international security studies.

Project Outcome Summary:

1. I gathered data for a book chapter that I was asked to author on “Continuities and Changes in Post 9/11 European Security” as well as data for an article on the further development of the European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP). I have completed writing the book chapter and the book is due to be published in January 2005.
2. I am currently writing two additional journal articles using the data that I collected this summer. One of the articles is near completion while the other article will be finished by early spring semester (an article that I did not anticipate writing until after I conducted my field research).
3. I am writing an op-ed article with a French Ministry of Defense official from the Transatlantic Relations unit; we intend to submit it to a US newspaper.
in December upon the handover of the NATO mission in Bosnia to the European Union (This is a project that emerged from my 2004 meetings at the French Defense Ministry and it was an unanticipated project objective. We will use the editorial as a first step in pursuing a more substantive project together next summer).

4. I am participating in two professional conferences during the spring semester. The conference papers will utilize data from my field visit to Europe.

5. I have been selected as a delegate to attend a UN affiliated working conference (November 19-21, 2004) on “Promoting Women’s Equal Participation in Peace and Security Processes: Operationalizing UN Security Council Resolution 1325”. I will be a delegate to the working group on early warning and conflict prevention. My selection as a delegate seems to be, in part, a result of my continued field research on conflict and crisis management (particularly given my expertise on Bosnia) as well as because of my collaboration with an EU Conflict Prevention Official. My participation in the working group and at the conference will allow me to bring insights from my knowledge of ESDP, Bosnia and theories of conflict prevention.

6. I have given two public presentations on topics that utilized my summer field research (at the Town hall meeting on Iraq and at an event about the crisis in Sudan where I discussed EU and US responses).

7. I began collaboration with an EU colleague from the EU Commission Office for Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management; we will pursue some joint projects together in 2005.