



Remarks on the Impact of Nonproliferation Education and Training

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I received a master of arts in international policy studies with a certificate in nonproliferation from the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS) in May 2003. I was in Monterey from 1998 to 2000, and while there I was a work-study student at the Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS). I left Monterey in January 2000 to join the Department of Energy (DOE) Moscow Office under the Nonproliferation Graduate Program of the DOE/National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). Now, nine years later, I am executive director of the US Department of Energy's Moscow Office, which is located at the US Embassy in Moscow, Russia. As I discuss below, the education and training I received at MIIS facilitated the work I have subsequently done in government, including in Russia.

My exposure to the field of nonproliferation didn't begin until I arrived at MIIS and learned that CNS was hiring Russian speakers to do summaries of Russian news articles on nonproliferation for inclusion in the CNS database. In that position, I quickly learned how much I didn't know about the field. As a result, I signed up for the Survey of Nonproliferation Issues, and I was hooked from the start. That course, which gave me the broad introduction I needed, whetted my appetite, and as a result I decided to pursue a certificate in nonproliferation.

Thanks to my education and training at MIIS, I went from:

- Learning about arms control and nonproliferation agreements to participating in negotiations for such agreements;
- Writing abstracts about developments in the Russian closed nuclear cities for the CNS database to traveling to the Russian closed nuclear cities with the US ambassador and senior DOE leadership to see firsthand the results of our nonproliferation cooperation in those cities;
- Studying the different US government nonproliferation programs in Russia, to overseeing implementation of DOE nonproliferation programs in Russia; and
- Understanding US government nonproliferation policy to helping to implement nonproliferation policy on the ground.

The introductory courses I took my first year—which covered threats of nonproliferation of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons and materials—helped me to identify my specific interest, which was in nuclear nonproliferation. The content of the courses in all areas provided

the foundation I needed and were vital to developing a broad-based understanding of the threat. Although I ended up specializing in nuclear nonproliferation, the training I received in biological and chemical issues was critical later in my career when issues in those areas arose. This broad-based training was essential in transitioning from classroom to real world.

Additionally, the work I did in my work study position at CNS not only improved my Russian, but also made me cognizant of current issues in Russia in the area of nonproliferation, as well as international nonproliferation challenges.

In terms of the impact of my education on my future career path, by far the most important course in this regard was the Arms Control Simulation, which simulated real-world arms control negotiations between the United States and Russia—in the case of my class we negotiated a START III treaty. In addition to the policy and arms control issues I learned in the course, I found that the valuable insights I received into negotiations and diplomacy were critical in taking me from the classroom to the real world. As a member of the Russian delegation, I negotiated from the position of the Russian Ministry of Defense. This forced me to look at issues through Russian eyes and represent the national security interests of the Russian Federation. There is a saying that it is always good to walk in someone else's shoes, which is what my fellow students and I did as Russian delegation members. This experience has served me well on multiple occasions, as one of my main responsibilities working for DOE in Russia is to understand and explain Russian positions and interests to my US counterparts.

The training I received while working at CNS was also essential to preparing me for my future work at DOE. In working to populate the database, I not only learned more about the issues, but I also had firsthand access to specialists in the field. Learning from them, and understanding better the role that CNS and other NGOs play in nonproliferation, was an additional key component to my nonproliferation education experience. In my mind, the key benefits to work-study at CNS are that it:

- provides students with hands-on experience, facilitating entry into the workforce;
- exposes students to a variety of professional opportunities, including preparations/involvement in events such as this conference; and
- offers information on opportunities available to graduate students in the field, such as the DOE's Nonproliferation Graduate Fellowship Program

Working side by side with international students in a dynamic educational environment was another significant benefit. Not only did this provide me with exposure to global views, but it also allowed me to forge priceless relationships with other students who are now colleagues involved in positions in government and international organizations tackling global nonproliferation issues. The Center for Nonproliferation Studies and the extensive alumni network at MIIS set these institutions apart in this regard.

I have heard many times that MIIS is preparing the next generation of nonproliferation experts. I would argue that in addition to the future generation, MIIS has prepared the current

generation of experts. There are scores of MIIS alumni involved in nonproliferation throughout the US government—in fact, we are referred to as the “Monterey mafia.” I am consistently amazed by the number of alumni who have gone on to work professionally in the field, which is a testament to the education and training we received at MIIS and CNS. Just the other day I was in the lobby of a hotel in Moscow with a DOE delegation, and I walked a fellow classmate of mine from MIIS who is now with the Department of Defense. Another alumnus will soon be representing DOE in Vienna, and there are scores of alumni in the halls of the DOE.

In addition to the outstanding nonproliferation education I received at MIIS, the Russian language education I received was just as critical for my future career path. Having studied Russian since high school and spent several years in Russia prior to Monterey, I had significant capabilities in the language. But the education and training I received in this area was vital in preparing me for the position I now hold with the DOE in Moscow. Thanks to the training I received under Professor Anna Vassilieva, I am able to conduct negotiations with my Russian counterparts in Russian, which goes a long way.

For those of you familiar with DOE/NNSA, the functions of the DOE Moscow Office are inherently different from most of the functions of the offices in the Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation at NNSA, which in the area of nonproliferation is primarily program implementation. In Moscow, we are responsible for oversight of all DOE nonproliferation cooperation, but our main role is facilitator/liaison with our Russian government and US interagency counterparts. At DOE Moscow we track nonproliferation policy developments and issues related to our nonproliferation cooperation with Russia. We are the eyes and ears of DOE on the ground, and our goal is to bring to our counterparts in Washington a greater understanding of Russian positions. The main functions of DOE Moscow are to provide: program support, administrative support, policy recommendations/analysis/reporting, embassy coordination, and liaison with Russian government. There are many benefits to working at the DOE Moscow Office, including the opportunity to be on the front lines of implementation of US government nonproliferation policy.

In summary, I can say with confidence that the education and training I received at MIIS got me to where I am today.