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Subject: 259. Planning Career Pathways & Funding DNI-Academic

Links

Dear Dr. Fischhoff and Colleagues:

George Shultz was famous, as Secretary of State, for devoting personal time to personnel decisions, including the assignments and rotations of junior career officers. He said that he wanted "to move people around" so that "in thirty years, they can help you [i.e., future Secretaries of State, about now] accomplish something."

The DNI system has had a major increase in employment, especially at the entry level, across the past decade. It would be worthwhile to look - now - at their career plans, options, and rotations to build American capabilities for the long term.

It occurs to me that the design of several key DNI projects could usefully include the rotation of employees of the DNI system to academic research Centers for several years.

For example, if MIT was to take the lead for the Open Source content analysis, and/or for the

Virtual Pakistan projects, there could be an exciting synergy of people and backgrounds. And the same could be true for other leading research universities and many of these Red Team projects and other lines of inquiry.

Applied backgrounds, and cultural/area knowledge and language expertise (etc.) could help the academic projects, as could technical expertise from NSA, etc. And the DNI system could be strengthened, in the long run, by both these Open Source capabilities and the experience and ideas that these employees bring when they return.

Foreign Rotations?

It also could be an interesting idea - especially in light of the rapid growth of communications and IT technologies, - to add early- and mid-career Fellowships from foreign governments as options to work on these projects. It might be very interesting, for example, for brilliant young Chinese diplomats with computer modeling interests to work on Virtual Pakistan or content analysis or the new game-theoretic models of global political economy (e.g., Lotka-Volterra). The Chinese government has many global interests and translation needs, and it has a strong and important relationship with Pakistan and interests in regional stability involving Pakistan and its nuclear weapons.

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