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Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Donald Sheehan

"The U.S. Hostage Recovery Enterprise: An Ongoing Interagency Success Story"

Our speaker suggests:

During his presentation, Don Sheehan used several PowerPoint slides to outline Presidential Policy Directive 30 (PPD-30), issued on June 24, 2015, by the Obama Administration, which is still the leading U.S. guidance observed by all USG agencies on Personnel Recovery Efforts. He explained what the various roles are of U.S. government agencies, including the State and Defense Departments, the Departments of Treasury and Justice, the FBI, and also the Intelligence Community. If interested, here is a link to the White House press release on PPD-30:

<http://www.documentcloud.org/documents/2110314-2015>

THE FOREIGN SERVICE JOURNAL

For additional reading, The Foreign Service Journal recommends:

John Bolton, "[Standing in Support of American Hostages](https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/standing-support-american-hostages/)," The White House, July 19, 2018, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/standing-support-american-hostages/>

Ronnie S. Catipon, "[Law Enforcement As an Instrument of National Power](https://www.afsa.org/law-enforcement-instrument-national-power)," *The Foreign Service Journal*, March 2017, <https://www.afsa.org/law-enforcement-instrument-national-power>

Danielle Gilbert, "[No Concessions? A Closer Look at U.S. Hostage Recovery Policy](https://warontherocks.com/2019/02/no-concessions-a-closer-look-at-u-s-hostage-recovery-policy/)," *War on the Rocks*, February 27, 2019, <https://warontherocks.com/2019/02/no-concessions-a-closer-look-at-u-s-hostage-recovery-policy/>

Christopher Mellon, Peter Bergen, and David Sterman, "[To Pay Ransom or Not to Pay Ransom? An Examination of Western Hostage Policies](https://www.newamerica.org/international-security/policy-papers/pay-ransom-or-not/)," New America, <https://www.newamerica.org/international-security/policy-papers/pay-ransom-or-not/>

Michael Metrinko, "[The 1979 Hostage Crisis: Down and Out in Tehran](https://www.afsa.org/1979-hostage-crisis-down-and-out-tehran)," *The Foreign Service Journal*, March 2015, <https://www.afsa.org/1979-hostage-crisis-down-and-out-tehran>

Hall University, April 15, 2019 <https://www.shu.edu/diplomacy/news/diplomacy-professor-assumes-role-at-state-department.cfm>

The National Counterterrorism Center, "[Status Report on the Implementation of Executive Order 13698 Hostage Recovery Activities](https://www.dni.gov/files/documents/Newsroom/Reports%20and%20Pubs/EO13698StatusReport.pdf)," <https://www.dni.gov/files/documents/Newsroom/Reports%20and%20Pubs/EO13698StatusReport.pdf>

Joel Simon, "[The Business of Kidnapping: Inside the Secret World of Hostage Negotiation](https://www.theguardian.com/news/2019/jan/25/business-of-kidnapping-inside-the-secret-world-of-hostage-negotiation-ransom-insurance)," *The Guardian*, January 25, 2019 <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2019/jan/25/business-of-kidnapping-inside-the-secret-world-of-hostage-negotiation-ransom-insurance>

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Avoid Becoming a Hostage

If you hear or witness a possible hostage situation, quietly and quickly leave the area. Once you are out of sight and hearing of the assailants, quickly call the police. Note the location and any unique visual points verifying the location.

Give the police your name, phone number, and location. Try to stay low to the ground and away from windows or doors.

Tell the police the number of assailants and their physical descriptions. Describe any weapons and any slang or dialects the assailants used. If you can give the police the means of travel used by the assailants, quietly do so.

Tell the police the number of any hostages and their sexes, ages, clothing, and races. MAKE IT CLEAR these are hostages.

If you are part of the group captured, be polite and cooperative with your captors. Only attempt escape if there is a VERY, VERY good chance of survival; otherwise, obey your captors. Speak normally. Do not complain. Comply with all orders. Avoid being belligerent. Do NOT draw attention to yourself: no hostile looks, no sudden movements. Avoid any political or ideological discussions with your captors. Try to memorize physical traits, voice patterns, clothing, and any details that would help with identifying them.

Try to establish a relationship with your captors. If you are made to present demands, make it clear to the police the demands are coming from the captors, NOT the captives.

When the police arrive, obey all their instructions. The police will need time to sort out the good guys from the bad guys.

Adapted from a document published by the Office of Emergency Management, Yale University

BARNES & NOBLE

BOOKSELLERS

Barnes & Noble – Arboretum (Austin, Texas) suggests:

Cialdini, Robert B. *Influence: The Psychology of Persuasion*. 2006, HarperCollins, 336pp

Frankopan, Peter. *The New Silk Roads: The Present and Future of the World*. 2019, Knopf Doubleday, 320pp

Kahneman, Daniel. *Thinking, Fast and Slow*. 2013, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 512pp

Kerry, John. *Every Day is Extra*. 2018, Simon & Schuster, 640pp

Kershaw, Ian. *The Global Age: Europe 1950-2017*. 2019, Penguin, 704pp

Noesner, Gary. *Stalling for Time: My Life as an FBI Hostage Negotiator*. 2018, Random House, 240pp

Packer, George. *Our Man: Richard Holbrooke and the End of the American Century*. 2019, Knopf Doubleday, 608pp

Rezaian, Jason. *Prisoner: My 544 Days in an Iranian Prison – Solitary Confinement, a Sham Trial, High-Stakes Diplomacy, and the Extraordinary Efforts it Took to Get Me Out*. 2019, HarperCollins, 320pp

Simon, Joel. *We Want to Negotiate: The Secret World of Kidnapping, Hostages and Ransom*. 2019, Columbia Global Reports, 189pp

Voss, Chris and Tahl Raz. *Never Split the Difference: Negotiating As If Your Life Depended On It*. 2016, HarperCollins, 288pp

Walter, Jess. *Ruby Ridge: The Truth and Tragedy of the Randy Weaver Family*. 2002, HarperCollins, 416pp

Whittell, Giles. *Bridge of Spies*. 2010, Crown/Archetype, 312pp

Wright, Lawrence. *The Terror Years: From al-Qaeda to the Islamic State*. 2017, Knopf Doubleday, 464pp