

World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh

Public Policy Luncheon and Discussion

U.S.-PAKISTAN RELATIONS: REFLECTIONS AFTER A YEAR IN ISLAMABAD

with

Scott Kofmehl, Ph.D.

Chief of Staff to the U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan

Thursday, June 14 | 12:00 - 1:45 pm

The Rivers Club | 301 Grant Street | Pittsburgh

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Member: \$45 | Non-Member: \$60 | Table of eight (8) \$360

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No-shows and cancellations after June 9, 2012 will be charged.

At the recent NATO summit in Chicago, disagreement between U.S. President Barack Obama and Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari about the U.S. and NATO's limitations along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border prevented the two leaders from meeting, and reflected rising tensions between the historical military allies. Roughly one year after Osama bin Laden's killing in May 2012, the American presence in Pakistan continues to be a point of contention in balancing Pakistan's sovereignty concerns with U.S. national security interests. Ongoing U.S. drone strikes along the Pakistani border have proven effective in targeting high-level al-Qaeda operatives, but have also fueled worries of over-projecting American influence in the country. The recent killing of 24 Pakistani soldiers in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas by drone strikes have added more friction between Washington and Islamabad, leading to Pakistan closing critical NATO supply routes into Afghanistan. Moreover, the controversial sentencing of Shakil Afridi — a Pakistani doctor who aided the U.S. in tracking bin Laden — to 33 years in prison for conspiring with militants raises further questions about the nature of the U.S.-Pakistani intelligence cooperation. Eleven years into the conflict in Afghanistan, is the American presence in the region desired, or unwanted by key stakeholders? What is the future of the crucial relationship between the United States and one of South Asia's most powerful and influential nations? From the vantage point of the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, join us for an off the record briefing about the state of U.S.-Pakistani relations.



Dr. Scott Kofmehl is the Chief of Staff to the U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Cameron Munter. A Pittsburgh native and North Allegheny graduate, Dr. Kofmehl graduated in 2003 with a Bachelor's of Arts in International Political Economy from Juniata College. Dr. Kofmehl earned his Master's degree from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard and his Ph.D. from the London School of Economics. Having joined the Foreign Service in 2006, Dr. Kofmehl has served in numerous diplomatic posts — including Vice Consul to the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, Mexico and as an Economic Officer to the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia. Slated to serve at the U.S. Embassy in Pakistan until July 2013, Dr. Kofmehl and his wife Aryani Manning — also a U.S. Foreign Service officer — are currently based in Islamabad.