

# Press Releases: Under Secretary Shannon's Travel to Ecuador, Colombia, and Chile

Media Note  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
February 23, 2018

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Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Thomas A. Shannon, Jr. will travel to Ecuador, Colombia, and Chile February 25-March 3. The Under Secretary will underscore long-standing U.S. support for bilateral priorities and reaffirm U.S. engagement to promote a safe, prosperous, and democratic hemisphere.

In Quito, Ecuador on February 25-27, Under Secretary Shannon will meet with Ecuadorian President Lenin Moreno to discuss the strengthening of the bilateral relationship and expanded collaboration in areas of mutual interest. In meetings with other Ecuadorian officials, he will discuss trade and investment, counter-narcotics cooperation, and regional and international issues.

Under Secretary Shannon will then travel to Bogotá, Colombia on February 28, where he will meet with Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos and Vice President Oscar Naranjo to discuss the U.S. partnership with Colombia to combat narcotics trafficking and transnational crime, support sustainable peace, and improve regional security.

On March 1, Under Secretary Shannon, with U.S. Deputy National Security Advisor Ricky Waddell, will co-lead the U.S. delegation to the United States-Colombia High Level Dialogue, where he will discuss initiatives to achieve increased stability, prosperity, and opportunities for the citizens of both countries. Under Secretary Shannon will meet in this context with Foreign Minister María Ángela Holguín.

The Under Secretary will then travel to Santiago, Chile on March 2 to meet with President Michelle Bachelet and Foreign Minister Heraldo Muñoz. During these meetings, he will discuss the United States' strong partnership with Chile on bilateral and regional efforts to advance security, prosperity, and democratic governance.

For further information, please email [WHAPress@state.gov](mailto:WHAPress@state.gov).

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## **Press Releases: Deputy Secretary Sullivan Travels to Haiti**

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Washington, DC  
February 23, 2018

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Deputy Secretary of State John J. Sullivan will travel to Port-au-Prince, Haiti to meet with Haitian President Jovenel Moise and Caribbean leaders attending the twenty-ninth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) from February 26-28.

The Deputy Secretary will focus discussions on issues of mutual interest to the United States and the Caribbean, including energy diversification, regional security, and economic development. The United States is an enduring partner to the Caribbean as underscored in the Caribbean 2020 strategy, which strengthens security, diplomacy, prosperity, energy, education, and health in the region.

While in Haiti, the Deputy Secretary will also engage with U.S. Embassy staff, as well as representatives from the business community and civil society, and make a visit to the Haitian National Police School, which receives funding from the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement.

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## **Press Releases: Counterterrorism** **Coordinator Nathan A. Sales To Speak** **at Defeat-ISIS Coalition Conference on** **Mobilizing Law Enforcement Efforts**

Notice to the Press  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
February 23, 2018

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Counterterrorism Coordinator Nathan A. Sales will deliver the opening remarks at the International Conference on Mobilizing Law Enforcement Efforts to Defeat ISIS at the Department of State's Loy Henderson auditorium at 9:00 am on February 27, 2018.

The Department of State, in cooperation with INTERPOL and the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law, is hosting the two-day conference on February 27-28, 2018. The Defeat-ISIS Coalition is at a key strategic moment as we near the military defeat of ISIS in Iraq and Syria, and the destruction of the group's physical and operational hub. It is critical that we now strengthen our focus on civilian sector tools as ISIS seeks other places to operate. This conference will bring together senior-level diplomatic, justice, and law enforcement officials responsible for counterterrorism from approximately 90 countries and organizations.

*Counterterrorism Coordinator Nathan A. Sales' remarks are open to the press. Pre-set time for cameras is 8:15 am from the 23rd Street entrance. Final access time for writers and stills is 8:30 am from the 23rd Street entrance.*

*Media representatives may attend this event upon presentation of one of the following: (1) a U.S. Government-issued photo media credential (e.g., Department of State, White House, Congress, Department of Defense or Foreign*

*Press Center), or (2) an official photo identification card issued by their news organization, or (3) a letter from their employer on official letterhead verifying their current employment as a journalist.*

*Additionally, they must present an official government photo identification card (i.e., U.S. driver's license or passport).*

For further information, please contact Rhonda Shore at [shorerh2@state.gov](mailto:shorerh2@state.gov).

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## **Press Releases: Acting Assistant Secretary Molly Phee Travel to Geneva**

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Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
February 23, 2018

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Acting Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs Molly Phee will travel to Geneva, Switzerland, from February 26 – March 2, for the opening of the 37th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC).

Acting Assistant Secretary Phee will deliver the U.S. national statement at the Council on February 28, outlining U.S. priorities at the HRC.

While in Geneva, the Acting Assistant Secretary will also meet with leaders of several international organizations, including the World Health Organization, International Telecommunication Union, and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

For further information, contact [I0-Press-DL@state.gov](mailto:I0-Press-DL@state.gov). Follow the Bureau of

International Organization Affairs at @State\_IO.

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## **Press Releases: Estonia National Day**

Press Statement  
Rex W. Tillerson

Secretary of State

Washington, DC  
February 23, 2018

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On behalf of the Government of the United States of America, I wish to congratulate Estonia and its people on the commemoration of the centennial anniversary of your declaration of independence.

Estonia is a vital ally of the United States and our relationship is stronger than ever. Our two countries are linked by shared sacrifice, vibrant economic ties and a common commitment to Western freedom. During his visit last year, Vice President Pence emphasized the United States' unwavering support for Estonia and the region. He also reiterated our commitment to NATO and to Article 5. I commend Estonia on your successful EU Presidency, your leadership in cybersecurity, and for spending two percent of Estonia's GDP on defense spending. I also want to thank Estonia for your continued support to defeat terrorism and defend democracy.

Congratulations on your 100th anniversary, which we look forward to commemorating with you throughout this special year.

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