Faculty Spotlight

Sean Kay

Sean Kay is Professor of Politics and Government and Chair of International Studies at Ohio Wesleyan University. He specializes in international politics, international security, international organizations, and U.S. foreign and defense policy. Kay is also a non-resident fellow at the Eisenhower Institute in Washington, D.C., specializing in international security.

At the Mershon Center, Kay provides research analysis, speaker programming, and long-term planning. In 2007-08, he organized high profile visits to The Ohio State University and Ohio Wesleyan by such speakers as:

- Strobe Talbott, President of the Brookings Institution
- Gen. John P. Abizaid, former Commander of U.S. Central Command
- Anthony Cordesman, Arleigh A. Burke Chair in Strategy at the Center for Strategic and International Studies

Kay is the author of:

- Global Security in the Twenty-First Century: The Quest for Power and The Search for Peace (Rowman and Littlefield, 2006)
- NATO After 50, ed. with S. Victor Papacosma and Mark Rubin (Scholarly Resources, 2001)

Kay has published more than 40 journal articles, book chapters, and book reviews in journals such as Contemporary Security Policy, Current History, Cambridge Review of International Affairs and Security Dialogue. His most recent publications include:

- "Is NATO an Alliance for the 21st Century?" in NATO’s Current and Future Challenges, ed. By S. Victor Papacosma (Kent State University, Occasional Papers VI, 2008)
- “NATO and Counterinsurgency: Tactical Asset or Strategic Liability?” (Contemporary Security Policy, 2007)

Kay speaks widely about international affairs at academic and professional associations. This year, he was the featured speaker in a panel “Returning
Realism to NATO: What Afghanistan Tells Us about the Atlantic Community” at the Conference on War and Reconstruction in Afghanistan at the University of Toronto's Munk Centre for International Studies.

Kay also spoke on “NATO's Transformation: Forged and Tested in Afghanistan” during a panel with Lt. Gen. Andrew Leslie, former Commander of Task for Kabul, at the 53rd Meeting of the Atlantic Treaty Association in Ottawa, Canada.

Kay is regularly interviewed by the media, including Reuters, CNN, BBC, Voice of America, Agence-France Presse, and The Washington Post. Locally, he is a frequent guest on WOSU-AM’s Open Line with Fred Andrle.

During summer 2007, Kay conducted research on education and national security as a visiting scholar at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. He is also in early stages of a new book on liberal and realist understandings of NATO's contemporary transformation, co-authored with Ryan Hendrickson of Eastern Illinois University.