Colorado Springs Chapter CO Article for Officer Review Magazine

Title: COS MOWW Welcomes Gen Kevin Chilton, USAF (Ret)

The Colorado Springs (COS), Colorado Chapter of MOWW were honored to have Gen Kevin Chilton, USAF (ret) present to the Chapter in April. The focus of Gen Chilton's talk was China and their global ambitions. There is a historical resentment by Chinese leadership toward foreign powers, from the Opium Wars in the 1800's to today. Gen Chilton iterated that the world is not paying attention to Government of China statements to invade Taiwan by 2027 and replace the US as the premier world power by 2050. Realizing they can't match the US in a conventional war, China has been targeting the US chain of command, deployment capabilities, and logistics using a policy of Anti Access/Area Denial. This is being accomplished through deployment of numerous spy satellites, counter-space capability development, cyber hacking, industrial espionage, and growth of their naval and amphibious capabilities. Gen Chilton opined that we have lost our technological buffer with China due to a focus on anti-terrorism, and that we have also lost our manufacturing edge. Despite the threat China poses, one of their biggest threats is from within. Power and control of their population is vital for Chinese leadership, and the support of their population is a center of gravity. China lacks oil and gas and need to defend their supply lines and supply chains, which their Belt and Road initiative seeks to achieve. Gen Chilton closed by stating that that US needs to fix our industrial base, educate our population on why Taiwan is important, counter the increase in China's space and cyber capabilities, grow our naval and air forces as air superiority is key with China, grow our strategic nuclear capability with credible theater nuclear weapons, and use all our instruments of national power to blunt China. It was a fascinating presentation, and we are grateful of the leadership Gen Chilton has provided, and still provides, to our Nation!