Evan Medeiros
International Affairs Fellow

Evan S. Medeiros is a senior political scientist at the RAND Corporation in the Washington, DC office. He specializes in research on the international politics of East Asia, China’s foreign and national security policy, U.S.-China relations and Chinese defense industrial issues. He holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science, an M.Phil in International Relations from the University of Cambridge (where he was a Fulbright Scholar), an M.A. in China Studies from the University of London’s School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), and a B.A. in analytic philosophy from Bates College in Lewiston, ME. He travels to Asia frequently and speaks.
On Sat, Jul 13, 2013 at 9:42 AM, Evan Medeiros <medeiros.evan71@gmail.com> wrote:

All:

I wanted to let you know that as of yesterday I am now officially the NSC Senior Director for Asian Affairs and Danny Russel was sworn in as Assistant Secretary at State. Danny and I have worked very closely and very well for the past 4 years, and we are both excited about our new positions.

To replace me on the China, Taiwan and Mongolia account, I have hired two excellent State Department officers which some of you (like Tom C.) know well: Laura Rosenberger and Ryan Haas. Laura has been at the NSC for the past year working on China and Korea and will move over to work on China full-time. Syd Seiler will remain our rock on Korea. Ryan is just off three years of first rate service in Embassy Beijing.
I wanted to thank all of you for your support and constructive feedback about China policy and US policy toward Asia over the past four years. Your insights are invaluable to the development and execution of good policy. So, keep them coming.

You should feel free to reach out to me on my NSC email account (keeping in mind that any email you send me will become part some official record) or my personal gmail account: evan.medeiros@gmail.com.

*Please do NOT email me on this gmail account*; I only use this account for CSAG and simply cannot check it every day - and messages get buried under the deluge.

Again, thanks for your insights and advice in the past and the ones I know I will get going forward.

Cheers, Evan.

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A *most secret* group which I am going to show/unveil you a lot of "interesting stuff" in the near future.

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "China Security Analysis Group" group.

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RUSSEL, MADERIOS "CENTRAL" TO OBAMA CHINA/ASIA
...but only "insiders" know...big outreach needed
SUMMARY: last night's White House announcement of the NSC's Danny Russel as the next Asst. Sec. St. Asia by definition opens the door to the Administration's primary "inside player" on China policy, the NSC's Evan Mederios, and we can confirm that Mederios is the choice to step up as Senior Director for Asia.

That announcement is presumed to be coming soon, as NSC slots don't require Senate confirmation, although insiders note that the "vetting" process for any sensitive job these days, even if you are already "on the team", is nothing short of agonizing.

Tonight's Report will take a quick look at the roles played by Russel and Mederios in Obama Asia policy, as reported by insiders who have worked with them. One thing immediately stood out: even though both men were described in nearly the same language as playing "central roles" on all major Asia policies and events since the outset of the Administration, neither is known by either the media, or the broader Asia policy community.

"In fact, what little is "known"...Mederios' views on China, for example...is flat wrong, insiders say. He's the toughest guy in the building... Misinformation "out there" on Russel? That Sec. St. Kerry was forced by the WH to accept him as A/S, when, in fact, "the two bonded on Kerry's first Asia trip very much in the same way as Bader and Hillary back in '09!"

More on this, below....

FELLOW PROFESSIONALS DISCUSS RUSSEL FOR A/S STATE, MADERIOS FOR NSC/ASIA...last night we had already pushed "send" on our Report "confirming" that NSC Sr. Director for Asia Danny Russel would soon be nominated to succeed Kurt Campbell as A/S EAP at State when the White House promptly did it, and today formally sent his name to the Senate.

Tonight, we're "confirming" that the NSC's Director for China, former RAND analyst Evan Mederios, will succeed Russel as Senior Director for Asia...let's see if that's formally announced shortly, too!

We mention both men in the same breath, as it were, since they have formed a "team" since then—Sr. Director Jeff Bader brought them on board at the onset of the Obama Administration, and now they are being elevated to the principal advisory and action-oriented, broad Asia policy posts in government...pending the decision on who will succeed Mark Lippert as A/S Asia at DOD, to complete the "troika".

First thing that comes up on Russel is that while most observers seem to know that initially, Sec. Kerry kept asking for "a list" whenever the White House told him they wanted Russel as A/S, only senior players know that Russel and Kerry "bonded" during the prep for Kerry's first Asia trip, and
We relay the story as it’s similar to what happened back in 2009 when then-Sr. Director Jeff Bader and then-Sec. St. Hillary Clinton discovered to their mutual surprise that they liked each other, worked well together, and took it from there...no small feat, given Bader’s early declaration for Obama back in 2007, and his frankly negative impression of Clinton when she was First Lady and he was on White House staff.

Russel never had that burden to overcome...just the natural inclination of Kerry to have "his" people and not "White House" people in key slots. But now, we’re assured by experienced players who have worked with Russel:

"Kerry understands that Danny brings with him the support and respect of Obama and senior White House staff, and so will be an invaluable link for Kerry and 'his people'..."

Second thing that comes up on Russel is frankly problematic: however much he has gained the confidence of Kerry, to quote an insider:

"As you know, his choice is not widely popular in the building, because he’s run into the age-old problem of any career person being on 'detached' duty, and in this case over 4 years at the White House, before returning to the Mother Ship. So he’s really got to work to reach out to former colleagues and re-build personal connections, and, frankly, institutional trust.

He’ll be vastly helped by his close proximity to the President, and that he’s working for a new Secretary of State who’s 'people' won’t have those connections. Unlike them, he won’t have to 'guess' Obama’s priorities.

Danny knows he’s going to have to work overtime to reach out and build, or re-build relationships, and to heal any real or perceived wounds incurred while he was 'White House' and not 'us'...there’s just no substitute for this."

The above may explain the expectation that Russel will retain most if not all of the currently serving DAS’s with the obvious exception of the current Acting Secretary Joe Yun, who is expected to take up an Asia ambassadorial posting later this summer.

Third thing that comes up, even more for Mederios than for Russel, is that because of the strict "no one talks" policies imposed by now-chief-of-staff Dennis McDonough and by some accounts senior economic advisor Mike Froman, neither man has much if any "public profile", whether with Capitol Hill, the generalist commentariat, or the humble scribblers who try to write about Asia
policy.
You have many times heard our speech about the responsibility of public officials to work with
the media as an important part of both delivering the "message" but also hearing about what's
going on outside of the bunker...so we won't repeat that tonight. But in discussing both Russel
and Mederios with insiders, the need for "a serious outreach effort by them will be critical" was
repeated over and over again.
We'll take a look at Mederios when his appointment is officially announced, but for tonight want
to pass on an important point from an informed insider that may well be "news" for media here
and in Asia. The notion that Mederios is "soft" on China is, to quote one:

"Are you kidding? Nonsense! [Ed: a ruder word was used...] He's without question the 'sharpest'
knife on dealing with China of any of the senior White House folks. And don't for one minute
doubt that when it comes to making the recommendations on China policy, and carrying out the
decisions, that's what Evan has done every day since Jeff[Bader] left!"
Interesting. So do the Chinese know this?

"Oh yeah...sure they see him as a young guy, and not a famous guy or big player in DC, but they
know from experience that when it comes to China policy since Bader left? Evan is China policy!
And Beijing knows he's a major advocate of Taiwan arms sales, too..."
One more thing came up in each discussion...same as with Russel:

"He's got to reach out now and build his own 'team' of friends and advisors who aren't just same
old same old...a lot of guys get these policy jobs and especially if they're academics, they don't
'get' this at all, that their success as public policy officials may actually rest on building external
support, and not just having the inside track..."

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THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TONIGHT...