

commentary

from other pens...

Tightening security is no small challenge

By George Gedda
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — For a fellow who doesn't normally deal with foreign diplomats, David Carpenter boasts considerable clout around the State Department these days. He is the department's chief adviser on diplomatic security, usually a post that doesn't attract much attention.

Following a series of security lapses, including the disappearance last winter of a laptop computer with highly classified information, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has established what amounts to a "zero tolerance" policy on security issues. And it's Carpenter's job to tighten things up.

Albright is motivated partly by the indignation expressed by many in Congress over security shortcomings at the department. The latest example occurred on Monday when the Senate voted to make it a felony for government officials to release any classified information.

The bill also requires the State Department to certify that its employees comply with regulations covering the handling of classified information.

Albright has been eager to please lawmakers. She wants more money and is angered that the Congress doesn't see things her way.

Carpenter was recruited by Albright two years ago after 26 years with the Secret Service. He was sworn in as assistant secretary of state for diplomatic security four days after the bombings at U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. All told, 224 persons were killed, including 12 Americans.

Albright wants to promote Carpenter to the newly created post of undersecretary of state for diplomatic security. As such, he would be propelled into the department elite, outranking all but a handful of officials.

Providing security for a two-square-block building surrounded by heavily traveled streets is no small task. Carpenter says his job is tougher than the CIA in suburban Virginia, where visitors are screened almost a half mile away from the main entrance. At the State Department, visitors aren't screened until after they pass through the front door. That may change.

Carpenter, a native of Denver and a graduate of Oklahoma State University, has closed off public access to one adjacent street and may recommend shutting down others to all but official traffic.

Early on in his tenure, Carpenter was seized with providing additional protection to overseas installations — a concern brought about by the East Africa bombings.

Lately, the focus has been on finding ways to protect the State Department itself. Albright admitted she was "humiliated" by the disappearance of the laptop, an incident that occurred only months after the discovery of an eavesdropping device in a seventh floor conference room. A Russian agent alleged to have been involved was ordered out of the country.

Since then, mandatory security briefings have been held for more than 8,000 department employees. "Loss of classified information results in measurable harm to our nation — up to Exceptional Grave Damage," the employees are told.

Security is an issue that just won't go away. Relatively minor security infractions delayed Senate confirmation of seven ambassadorial nominees.

Late last month, Martin Indyk, the U.S. ambassador to Israel, was stripped of his security clearance because he allegedly mishandled classified work-related material.

Not surprisingly, Carpenter has alienated people in his quest for a more secure building. At one point, he told a congressional hearing, "If it was within my power, I would not have any press in the building." Some reporters were offended and he later retracted the remark.

A far bigger outcry occurred in August when Carpenter decreed that retired diplomats be escorted when they visit their old haunts. Some describe the policy as "insane" and "insulting," are demanding it be dropped.

Carpenter says there can't be exceptions. "To be effective," he says, "our access control policy must be comprehensive and uniformly enforced."

EDITOR'S NOTE — George Gedda has covered foreign affairs for The Associated Press since 1968.

The Goodland Daily News

(USPS No. 222-460. ISSN 0893-0562)
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Published daily except Saturday and Sunday and the day observed for New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, at 1205 Main St., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

Periodicals postage paid at Goodland, Kan. 67735; entered at the Goodland, Kan., Post Office under the Act of Congress of March 8, 1878.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Goodland Daily News, 1205 Main St., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

TELEPHONE: (785) 899-2338. Editorial e-mail: daily@nwkansas.com. Advertising questions can be sent to: gdnadv@nwkansas.com

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SUBSCRIPTIONS: In Sherman County and adjacent counties: three months, \$20; six months, \$35; 12 months, \$65. By mail in Kansas, Colorado: three months, \$25; six months, \$45; 12 months, \$85. (All tax included.) Out of area: three months, \$30; six months, \$50; 12 months, \$90.

Incorporating:
The Sherman County Herald
Founded by Thomas McCants 1935-1961
THE SHERMAN COUNTY STAR
Founded by Eric and Roxie Yonkey 1994-2000
Nor'West Newspapers
Haynes Publishing Company



Time to change the dog's name

"Hello, Mrs. Haynes, I think we have your dog."

It was the vet — the one that serves as the temporary pound until the dog catcher can take strays to the real pound or find their owners. They had a Brittany with a collar and tags identifying it as belonging to one Steve Haynes.

I called the house, knowing that Steve hadn't left yet.

"Where's YOUR dog," I asked sweetly.

"In her kennel, I guess," he naively replied. "Why do you ask?"

Annie is a nice dog. She is friendly to a fault, gentle, loving and beautiful. Steve couldn't figure out why anyone would want to get rid of her.

He soon found out. She runs away.

We bought a kennel before she came home the first time. She soon found the weak spots in the wire and was gone. Steve went looking, but it was the police chief who found her. That cost him.

He fixed the weak spots. She found more. He looked. The chief found. He paid.

This was starting to get a little old and a little expensive.



cynthia haynes

• open season

We took to tying her inside the kennel, being careful that she could get into her house and to her food and water but not over the top. We didn't want to come home to find that she had tried to jump the fence.

Soon, however, Annie found new ways to escape her confinement. She started to dig along the back wall of the kennel and soon was able to get between the back yard fence and the back of the kennel.

This didn't do her much good, since she was still on the lead, but she was very proud of her escape. She could even get back into the kennel by ducking back under the fence. We saw what was happening, but since she couldn't get away we shrugged and let her have her fun. Steve said he'd

get some blocks to fill the hole on Monday.

Then we got the call from the vet.

We're still not sure how she got away. The lead and fasteners weren't broken and her collar was intact.

My theory is some helpful person came along and saw her on the wrong side of the kennel and, worrying that she couldn't get to her water, undid the fastening, planning to put her back in the kennel. Either she ran away before they could get her back in or she took off through her hole after they left.

However she escaped, a passing motorist caught her prancing down the middle of the highway and turned her in before she became road kill.

We went to get the wayward pup and, of course, had to pay, again. This dog is getting expensive, and I don't mean in dog food.

Steve now has cement blocks at the back of the kennel. When she digs under them they just fall in her hole, blocking her escape.

Personally, I'm tucking away a little every week for the next fine and I'm thinking of changing that dog's name to Houdini.

The trouble with being ten

Is being ten horrible or what?

You always get into trouble and get blamed for everything. Some kids' nightmare is chores, but to me that's actually not too bad.

In school I talk too much and get into trouble. I just can't keep my mouth shut. And I also hate when you're not listening and the teacher calls on you to answer the next question, and you get it wrong and you feel pretty stupid.

One day right in the middle of something important, my trapper keeper fell apart. That's happened to me twice now.

And one day when I had my water bottle on my desk, I lifted my desktop and my water bottle fell right off. It cracked and leaked water all over the



kathryn craft

• youthful chatter

floor right before P.E. and Music.

I have had some other things happen to me too. One more thing that's just awful is Debra. In case you don't know her, she works with my mom. She pesters me so much and keeps saying "Kathryn have you written your column yet?"

But I guess she's better than Jim who works in the back. He says I leave messes that I don't. He

teases me too. He says I eat rats and worms and that the popcorn has bugs in it. He pesters me way, way more than Debra.

Sometimes I think being ten is great, but now I'm not so sure.

There's way more that happens to me, but for now I'll just kick back and relax.

Well not exactly, and don't you ever say I'm perfect or I'll, I'll get mad. OK, I think you got it, I hope you do.

Well that's all about the horrible tens. I shouldn't say that. It's not that terrible, but sometimes it just seems like it.

Since I have run out of things to say, I guess I'll go. So ciao.

Wanting things for yourself can hurt others

Selfishness has probably caused more problems in this world than a lot of us may realize or want to admit. I believe more people have been hurt because of it. Think about it.

Why do people steal? Because they want something for themselves that they don't have. Why do people lie? Because they want to make themselves look good. Why are people jealous? Because they don't have what someone else has. Why do people murder? Because some person did something to them and they care more about themselves than they do that person.

Self is at the center of it all.

Please, hear me. I am not perfect. I goof up too. But ask yourself this question. Who said you deserve whatever it is you want, anyway?

Isn't it you? Isn't it that voice inside you that says, "Why shouldn't I have it?"

However, is using someone else or hurting



janet craft

• craft's corner

someone else for your own selfish gains or desires worth it?

I think there has to be a lot of miserable people in this world because of selfishness.

For myself, when I set out to have something I want or something my way, I end up feeling bad.

I am much more content when I don't have everything I want. I'm just not a very likeable person when I get my way all the time.

But if a person turns things around and begins to forget about what they want and what will please them, they will see a change. They will become a

better person.

After all, how many of us know a child or an adult who is used to getting their way or whatever they want all the time? How pleasant are they to be around?

Are we truly content when we get what we want all the time? And guess what, we still have to live with ourselves after all is said and done. Who wants to live with a miserable person?

Besides, when I am willing to truly give up something for someone else, I've noticed that I gain something in return, even though I wasn't expecting it. Sometimes it may just be the knowledge that I did the right thing.

So, I've come to see the truth in the statement that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

And isn't giving unselfishly to someone else, showing real love? Isn't that what real love is all about?

God's lessons seem to have been forgotten

It's probably a measure of how truly flawed we humans are that, despite all the good we do, we can't seem to stop killing each other in the name of God.

I've always marveled at our ability to do ungodly things in His name. We've done it throughout history, and we show no sign that we have learned anything.

A few years ago, it was Christian killing Christian in Ireland. Christian killing Muslim in Bosnia. Today, as always, it is Jew versus Muslin in the Holy Land.

A headline in one of the Sunday papers seemed ludicrous: "The battle for Jerusalem has begun," it said, quoting one of the combatants. Seems to me it began a few hundred centuries ago.

Thousands of years, and still we have not learned.

Let's leave the Eastern religions out of this for now, but you have to accept the fact that all three great Western religions work off of the same Book.



steve haynes

• along the sappa

And then you have to ask, "Why are we killing each other?"

I can't believe that God wants us to do that. He commands us to love one another. He commands us not to murder.

Christ himself commands us to respect all those who believe, not just those we agree with. That was clear, at least to me, in this week's Gospel reading, recorded by the Apostle Mark at 9:38-40:

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw a man who was driving out demons in your name, and we told him to stop, because he doesn't belong to our group."

"Do not try to stop him," Jesus told them, "because no one who performs a miracle in my name

will be able soon afterward to say evil things about me. For whoever is not against us is for us."

I was still thinking about that, not yet snoozing, when Father Jim Hoover delivered one of the more thoughtful sermons I've heard lately.

He challenged the congregation to be truly pro-life, not just to oppose abortion but mercy killing, the death penalty and other forms of murder. And he suggested that instead of protest or violence, the way to see right triumph is to step aside, pray and let God handle it.

The other route, he said, won't work, but prayer and faith will.

That's a message that they should hear in the Holy Land, I think, but I'm having trouble coming up with enough faith to believe it will happen. Not faith in God, whom I truly believe makes all things possible, but faith in mankind.

It's we who have failed, not God. And, it seems to me, we are the ones who need to change.

It couldn't happen too soon.