

Early Warning July 2019

### **Taylor Fravel Named Director of the MIT Security Studies Program**

After 13 years as SSP Director, Barry Posen will be stepping down and Taylor Fravel, Arthur and Ruth Sloan Professor of Political Science, will be taking over the role. Fravel studies international relations, with a focus on international security, China, and East Asia. Posen will continue his research and teaching responsibilities at MIT, and he will continue leading the Grand Strategy, Security, and Statecraft Fellows Program.



### **SSP Senior Congressional and Executive Branch Staff Seminar**

This year, the Security Studies Program hosted its 20<sup>th</sup> annual Senior Congressional and Executive Branch Staff Seminar from April 17-19, 2019. “Regions and Rivals: American Strategy in a Time of Uncertainty” marked this year’s theme, focusing on the current political and geographical unrest across the various hot spots across the globe. Outside experts, along with MIT faculty examined the nuclear and geographical threats affecting US interests. The seminar brought 25 staffers, representing the U.S. House and Senate, along with analysts from the Congressional Research Service, the Department of State, and the Department of Defense to MIT’s campus to take part in the intensive three-day seminar. Keynote speakers included Kathleen Hicks, Senior Vice

President, Henry A. Kissinger Chair, Director, International Security Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), and Karl Eikenberry, Director, U.S.-Asia Security Initiative, Stanford University. The group also visited Lincoln Lab for a tour and briefings on various initiatives. A more extensive report will be included in the upcoming SSP annual report which is expected to be published in early fall.



### We Bid Farewell to our Military Fellows

The 2019-20 military fellows are moving on after a busy and fruitful year at SSP! **Jeff Bergmann (Colonel, US Army)** will be deploying to Afghanistan for 12 months to serve as the Director, Rule of Law Development Directorate. **Sean Coakley (Lieutenant Colonel, US Army)** has been appointed Senior Intelligence Officer, Joint Multinational Training Center (JMRC), Hohenfels, Germany. **David Emmel (Lieutenant Colonel, US Marine Corps)** is being assigned to Marine Corps University in July where he will be an instructor at Marine Corps Command and Staff College. **Chris Keithley (Lieutenant Colonel, US Air Force)** will be moving to Washington to his next assignment as the Deputy Director of the Joint Staff Innovation Group in the Pentagon. **Joshua Wenker (Commander, US Navy)** will be attending Naval Nuclear Power School in Charleston, SC before taking over as the Executive Officer of the USS Nimitz (CVN 68) in Bremerton, WA.



## Where We Spoke

### **Eugene Gholz (Alum, '00)**

"America's Role in the World: A Debate," Public Debate with Jennifer Lind, Constanze Stelzenmuller, Jake Sullivan, and Stephen Wertheim, organized by the Brookings Institution, the Charles Koch Institute, and the Dickey Center at Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, May, 2019.

### **William James (Grand Strategy, Security, and Statecraft Fellow, 2018-19)**

James presented a chapter, "Grand Strategy and the Challenge of Change," from the forthcoming volume, *The Oxford Handbook of Grand Strategy*, at a seminar hosted by the Modern War Institute at West Point.

### **Gregory D. Koblentz (Alum, '04)**

Koblentz presented "Editing Biosecurity: Needs and Strategies for Governing Genome Editing," at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, Middlebury Institute of International Studies, Monterey, CA, April 5, 2019. Koblentz served as the instructor for the "Chemical and Biological Warfare and Terrorism: Contemporary Challenges" course also at the same institute.

### **Peter Krause (Alum, '11)**

"To Which Victor Go the Spoils? Predicting the 'Day After' Regimes Fall," Uppsala University, Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, April 2019; Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), May 2019; University of Hamburg, Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy, May 2019.

"Contemporary Civil Wars: Challenges and Dynamics in Syria, Afghanistan, and the West Bank," University of Southern Denmark, Center for War Studies, May 2019.

"Rebel Power: Why National Movements Compete, Fight, and Win," Uppsala University, Uppsala Forum on Democracy, Peace, and Justice, April 2019.

### **Aidan Milliff (Graduate Student)**

"Facts Before Feelings: Theorizing Emotional Responses to Violent Trauma," at the annual meeting of Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2019.

## What We Wrote

### **Noel Anderson (Alum, '16)**

Noel Anderson, "Competitive Intervention, Protracted Conflict, and the Global Prevalence of Civil War," *International Studies Quarterly* (2019).

### **Eugene Gholz (Alum, '00)**

Eugene Gholz, "Here's the Dirty Truth about China's Rare-Earth Threat," *Washington Post*, May 31, 2019.

### **Erik Lin-Greenberg (Alum, '09)**

Erik Lin-Greenberg, "Backing Up, Not Backing Down: Mitigating Audience Costs Through Policy Substitution," *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 56, No. 4

Erik Lin-Greenberg, "Trump is Playing Iran's Game of Drones," *Foreign Policy*, June 20, 2019.

### **Gregory D. Koblentz (Alum, '04)**

Gregory D. Koblentz, "Historical Aspects of Biological Weapons Development and Use," in Sunit K. Singh and Jens H. Kuhn, eds., *Defense Against Biological Attacks*, Volume 1 (Basel, Switzerland: Springer Nature AG, 2019)

### **Peter Krause (Alum, '11)**

Peter Krause, "It Comes with the Territory: Why States Negotiate with Ethnopolitical Organizations," with Victor Asal and Daniel Gustafson, *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* Vol. 42, No. 4 (April 2019), pp. 363—382.

### **Alan Kuperman (Alum, '02)**

Alan Kuperman, "Did the R2P Foster Violence in Libya?" [\*Genocide Studies and Prevention\* 13, 2](#) (2019): pp. 38-57.

Alan Kuperman, "Luria Erred on Nuclear Fuel Decision," [\*The Virginian-Pilot\*](#), op-ed, June 27, 2019.

### **Aidan Milliff (Graduate Student)**

Aidan Milliff (with Milan Vaishnav, Saksham Khosla, and Rachel Osnos), “Digital India? An Email Experiment with Indian Legislators,” *India Review* 18, no. 3 (2019): 243—63.

**Mina Pollmann (Graduate Student)**

Mina Pollmann, “Learning to Embrace an Unequal Alliance,” [Tokyo Review](#), June 7, 2019.

**Jim Walsh (Senior Research Associate)**

Jim Walsh, “How Donald Trump Pushed Iran to the Bomb,” *CNN Opinion*, July 11, 2019.

Awards and Scholarships

**Noel Anderson (Alum, '16)**

Anderson was awarded a Connaught New Researcher Award.

**Gregory D. Koblentz (Alum, '04)**

Koblentz received a grant from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency’s Project on Advanced Systems and Concepts for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction (PASCC) for a project on “Preventing State-Sponsored Nuclear Proliferation by Iran and North Korea: Lessons from Pakistan.”

**Rachel Esplin Odell (Graduate Student)**

Odell was awarded a Predoctoral Fellowship by the International Security Program at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government for the 2019-2020 academic year.

**Barry Posen (Faculty)**

Posen received the “Lifetime Achievement Award for Innovative Approaches to Grand Strategy” from the University of Notre Dame’s International Security Center.

## Notes from All Over

### **Kevin Benson (Army Fellow, '01-02)**

Benson moderated a classified war game presentation to the senior leaders of US Central Command's J4 (Logistics) directorate in April. He also has concluded a chapter for an anthology on close combat for the US Army Combined Arms Center, due to be out in November 2019.

### **Andrew Charles (Graduate Student)**

Named semi-finalist for *MIT Tech Review's* Innovators Under 35.

### **Douglas W. Copeland (Army Fellow, '17-18)**

On 26 July Copeland will take command at Program Executive Office Soldier as the Project Manager for Soldier Sensors and Lasers.

### **William James (Grand Strategy, Security, and Statecraft Fellow, 2018-19)**

James successfully defended his DPhil thesis at the University of Oxford in late May. He will start a post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard's Belfer Center in fall 2019.

### **Se Yong Jang (Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow, 2018-19)**

Jang will begin a new position from August 2019 as Assistant Professor in the School of Asian Studies, Faculty of Humanities at Leiden University.

### **Edward "Randy" Jayne (Alum, '69)**

On April 5, Jayne was honored in Colorado as a [US Air Force Academy Distinguished Graduate](#). Jayne also gave a keynote, "Secret Base, Secret War," at the first reunion of military personnel who served at Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base during the Vietnam conflict, 1963-1975.

### **Erik Lin-Greenberg (Alum, '09)**

Lin-Greenberg completed his PhD in political science at Columbia University and will join the faculty of American University's School of International Service as an assistant professor after

spending 2019—2020 as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania's Perry World House.