

JANUARY 2017

SSP TRIP TO CONCORD/LEXINGTON

Report by Timothy McDonnell

On October 28, 2016 a group of 19 SSP graduate students, military fellows and faculty traveled to Lexington and Concord MA to learn about the military engagements that took place there in April 1775, marking the beginning of the Revolutionary War. The 'Battle' of Lexington and Concord was a series of small engagements that took place along the road between Boston and Concord MA on April 19, 1775. These engagements pitted a relatively small force of British regular troops against American militia forces that streamed from nearby towns into the battle area in growing numbers throughout the day. A brief stop at the Minuteman National Park Visitor's Center provided background for the rest of the trip. An informative video presentation outlined the political and military context leading up to the battle, before providing a detailed timeline of the April 19 engagements. Several factors contributed to the American rebels' overall advantage in the fight. American intelligence provided strategic and tactical warning of the British effort to dispatch troops from Boston to locate and capture cannons and other military supplies supposedly hidden in Concord. Every colonial town had a well-organized militia comprised of all men between 16 and 64. Finally, a sophisticated and effective alert system, made famous by 'Paul Revere's midnight ride' denied the British the element of surprise, and permitted the American colonists to marshal a combined force of local militias that outnumbered their opponents. The second stop on the field trip was at the site where British troops captured Paul Revere between Lexington and Concord on the night of April 18/19. Revere's capture was not decisive given the redundancies built into the Colonists' alert system. Moreover, for unknown reasons he was released by the British a few hours after his capture. While the American colonists were highly effective in their use of intelligence, the British decision to release Revere prevented the identification and interrogation of a key figure in the American rebellion.

Finally, the SSP group traveled to the Old North Bridge in Concord. This was the site of the second engagement between American and British forces on April 19. By late morning, news of the earlier fighting at Lexington had spread throughout the region. Following an undisciplined or accidental shot from the British ranks, the small contingent of Americans at the bridge returned fire. This exchange, and the subsequent British retreat, marked the beginning of the long and bloody British march back to Boston. Throughout the rest of the day the British faced increasingly persistent attacks from small bands of American colonists who fired upon the British column from concealed positions alongside the road. By the time the British arrived back in Charlestown late on April 19, the British had suffered nearly 250 killed and wounded, as compared with 90 American casualties. This marked the beginning of the American revolution.



NEW FEATURE ON SSP WEBSITE!

As a feature on our brand new website, we have included a section named Alumni Profiles. This is an opportunity for us to stay in touch with our alums through a series of frequently asked questions, such as how your time at MIT helped shape your current career achievements. Now featuring Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at George Washington University, Caitlin Talmadge.

SSP ROUNDTABLE AT US DEPARTMENT OF STATE, DC



On September 29, 2016, SSP faculty members Roger Petersen, Jim Walsh and SSP alum Sameer Lalwani, Deputy Director, South Asia Program at the Stimson Center were invited to give a talk at the Bureau of Counterterrorism at the US Department of State in Washington DC. The visit was facilitated by former SSP military fellow LtCol Eric Thompson, who is currently the Operations Officer, Crisis Response & Preparedness, at the Bureau of Counterterrorism. The two main topics that were discussed were Insurgency, Counterinsurgency and Terrorism; and Nuclear Weapons and Terrorism. The talk was sponsored by the Frankel Global Policy Initiative.

WHERE WE SPOKE

Rachel Esplin Odell, graduate student

Rachel Odell presented “Assessing the Effect of China’s Expanded Presence in the South China Sea on the U.S.-China Military Balance” at the annual ISAC-ISSS Conference held at the University of Notre Dame on November 5, 2016, with MIT SSP alumnus Eugene Gholz as her panel discussant.

M. Taylor Fravel, Faculty

“China’s Approach to the South China Sea: Insights from China’s Other Territorial Disputes,” University of Pennsylvania, December 2016.

“China’s Response to the South China Sea Tribunal,” Boston University, November 2016.

“Regime Insecurity and Chinese Foreign Policy,” CENTRA, Washington, DC, October 2016.

“Maritime Disputes in U.S.-China Relations,” Fairbanks Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University, October 2016.

Kelly M. Greenhill, Alum. '04

“The Weaponization of Migration, Lessons from the Past, Implications for the Future,” as part of Migration, Refugees and Asylum: Concepts, Actors and Practices Since the Second World War in Global Perspective, Institut für Zeitgeschichte, Munich, Germany, December, 2016.

“What Does a Trump Presidency Mean for US National Security and Foreign Policy?” as part of a panel at Tufts University, December, 2016.

Invited keynote address for “The Euro, Markets and Democracy 2016 – In there Life Outside the Euro?” Annual Meeting of the Italian Association for the Study of Economic Asymmetries, Montesilvano, Italy November, 2016.

“A Likely Story? The Role of Information Source in Rumor Adoption and Dissemination,” ISCS Security Policy Workshop, GWU, Washington, DC, October, 2016.

Peter Krause, Alum. '11

“How Human Boundaries Become State Borders: Radical Flanks and Territorial Control in the Modern Era,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, November 2016.

“The Politics of Israel in the Middle East,” MIT-Sloan Business School, November 2016.

“A State, an Insurgency, and a Revolution: Understanding and Defeating the Three Faces of ISIL,” Indiana University, October 2016.

Alan Kuperman, Alum. '02

“Learning from Libya Disaster,” Baltimore Council on Foreign Affairs, December 1, 2016.

Dave Pendall, MIT Army Fellow, '12-13

“Army’s Role in A2-AD and Multi-Domain Battle,” MIT Lincoln Laboratory, Anti Access/Area Denial Workshop, November 17, 2016.

Richard Samuels, Faculty

Spoke at the annual meeting of the board of Albert Einstein Foundation in Berlin on the topic of US alliance.

Spoke at the 25th anniversary of the Center for Global Partnership in Tokyo on the future of the US-Japan alliance.

Caitlin Talmadge, Alum. '11

Caitlin Talmadge gave talks on nuclear escalation and strategic deterrence at Georgetown University, International Theory and Research Seminar; University of Chicago, Program on International Security Policy; and the National Intelligence Council, U.S. Department of State Analytic Exchange.

David Weinberg, Alum. '12

Discussed negative consequences of Congress overriding President Obama’s veto of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act with *Huffington Post Politics Live*, October 4, 2016.

WHAT WE WROTE

Matthew Cancian, graduate student

Matthew Cancian, “Untangling the Arab-Kurdish Web in Post-ISIL Northern Iraq,” *Small Wars Journal*, October 20, 2016.

Kelly M. Greenhill, Alum. '04

Kelly M. Greenhill, “Migration as a Weapon in Theory and in Practice,” invited contribution in *Military Review*, vol. 96, no. 6, November/December 2016 (Spanish and Portuguese translations forthcoming, May/June 2017).

Van Gurley, MIT Navy Fellow '03-04

Van Gurley and Lawrence Stone, “Bayesian Search for Missing Aircraft, Ships, and People,” *Siam News*, November 1, 2016.

Robert Haffa, Alum. '82

Robert Haffa, “Continuity and Change in American Foreign Policy,” *Foreign Policy Association's 'Great Decisions 2017'*, December 2016, pp. 7-14.

Paul Heer, 2015-16 Robert E. Wilhelm Fellow at CIS

Paul Heer with Joseph W. Prueher, J. Stapleton Roy, David M. Lampton, Michael D. Swaine, and Ezra Vogel, “How America Can Lead in Asia,” *The National Interest*, December 12, 2016.

Gregory Koblentz, Alum. '04

Gregory Koblentz and Filippa Lentzos, *21st Century Biodefence: Risks, Trade-offs, and Responsible Science*, BWC Review Conference Series Paper No. 3 (Oslo, Norway: International Law and Policy Institute, 2016).

Alan Kuperman, Alum. '02

Alan Kuperman, “Book Review – Conflict in the Nuba Mountains: From Genocide-by-Attrition to the Contemporary Crisis in Sudan,” *Genocide Studies and Prevention: An International Journal* 10, 2 (2016), pp. 131-134.

Caglar Kurc, Fulbright Visiting Research Scholar '12-13

Caglar Kurc and Huseyin Bagci, “Turkey’s Strategic Choice: Buy or Make Weapons?” *Defence Studies Journal*, December 30, 2016.

Jennifer Lind, Alum. '04

Jennifer Lind, “It Took Years of Diplomacy for Abe and Obama to Stand Together at Pearl Harbor,” *Quartz.com*, December 27, 2016.

Erik Lin-Greenberg, Alum. '09

“So China Seized a U.S. Drone Submarine? Welcome to the Future of International Conflict,” *Monkey Cage, The Washington Post*, December 23, 2016.

“New Declaration Unlikely to Reduce UAV Proliferation,” *Lawfare*, November 20, 2016.

Kacie Kieko Miura, graduate student

Kacie Kieko Miura and Jessica Chan Weiss, “Will China Test Trump? Lessons from Past Campaigns and Elections,” *The Washington Quarterly* and *Washington Post Monkey Cage Blog*, December 6 2016.

Meicen Sun, graduate student

Meicen Sun, “A Bigger Bang for a Bigger Buck: What China’s Changing Attitude Toward UN Peacekeeping Says About Its Evolving Approach to International Institutions,” *Foreign Policy Analysis*, December 20 2016.

Caitlin Talmadge, Alum. ’11

Caitlin Talmadge, Review of Jasen Castillo’s *Endurance and War: The National Sources of Military Cohesion*, H-Diplo Roundtable, January 3, 2017.

David Weinberg, Alum. ’12

David Weinberg, “Americans Can Sue Saudi Arabia Now. So What?” *Huffington Post*, October 4, 2016.

David Weinberg, “Don’t Let Wahhabism Off the Hook,” *Weekly Standard*, October 26, 2016.

David Weinberg and Emanuele Ottolenghi, “Why Are U.S.-Sanctioned Airlines Still Flying to the Gulf States?” *The National Interest*, November 6, 2016.

David Weinberg, “A Tale of Two Trumps: What Will the New President’s Approach to Saudi Arabia Be?” *Weekly Standard*, November 23, 2016.

Rachel Whitlark, Stanton Fellow ’12-13

Rachel Whitlark and Rupal N. Mehta, “Unpacking the Iranian Nuclear Deal: Nuclear Latency and U.S. Foreign Policy,” *The Washington Quarterly* 39, no. 4 (2016), pp. 45-61.

NOTES FROM ALL OVER

William Danskine, MIT Airforce Fellow '03-04

In summer 2016, William Danskine retired from the Air Force Inspector General's Senior Official Inquiries Directorate (as colonel) and am now back in school, at Oregon State University, pursuing a degree in Horticulture ("Ecological and Sustainable Horticultural Production").

Shalom Flank, Alum. '93

Shalom Flank is currently the Microgrid Architect for three different East Coast microgrid development firms. He speaks regularly at industry forums, most recently at the International District Energy Association's Microgrid Summit at the National Press Club on December 7, 2016. He will begin teaching at Georgetown University's Urban Planning department, with a course on Urban Sustainability, in Spring 2017.

Van Gurley, MIT Navy Fellow, '03-04

Van Gurley is now the Chief Operation Officer of Metron Scientific Solutions in the DC area.

Kelly M. Greenhill, Alum. '04

Kelly M. Greenhill received a 2017 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship to support her research on the influence on international politics of extra-factual information – such as rumors, conspiracy theories, and propaganda. She also received a Faculty Research Senior Research Fellowship for AY 2017-18 in support of related research.

Paul Heer, 2015-16 Robert E. Wilhelm Fellow at CIS

Paul Heer has accepted an invitation to teach a course on "Indo-Pacific Security Challenges" for The George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs in the Spring 2017 semester.

John Price, MIT AF Fellow '10-11

John Price finished his 2-year Wing Command of the 305th Air Mobility Wing at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in July and transitioned to be the Vice Commandant of Cadets at the Air Force Academy where he is enjoying daily engagement with 4,000+ cadets as he works to produce Leaders of Character for our Nation.

Richard Samuels, Faculty

Richard Samuels will be receiving a fellowship from the Smith Richardson Foundation to support the completion of his current book project on the history of the Japanese intelligence community.

Caitlin Talmadge, Alum. '11

Caitlin Talmadge's book, *The Dictator's Army: Battlefield Effectiveness in Authoritarian Regimes* (Cornell University Press, 2015), which is based on her SSP thesis, was named the co-winner of the 2017 Best Book Award, International Security Studies Section,

International Studies Association. It was also named to *Foreign Affairs*' "Best Books of 2016" List and was recently reviewed in *Perspectives on Politics and Journal of Strategic Studies*.

David Weinberg, Alum. '12

David Weinberg served as a volunteer advisor on Arabian Peninsula issues for the Middle East Working Group for Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign, Hillary for America.