

2018 SSP Military Field Trip

Recently, a group of twenty MIT students, military fellows, faculty members and staff returned from the annual SSP field trip. During five days of travel through the southwestern United States, the group visited facilities operated by all four branches of the US armed forces.



At Naval Station San Diego, SSP toured the cruiser USS Lake Erie, as well as the amphibious assault ship USS San Diego. Both ships' captains provided thoughtful answers to the group's questions about their ships, their roles, and their experiences in the Navy. At Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, the group observed an ongoing training exercise for Joint Terminal Air Controllers (JTACs), toured the flight line, and received a briefing and F-35B walk-around tour from the commander of VMFA-122, one of the first Marine Corps units to fly the F-35. While at the Army's National Training Center (NTC) at Ft. Irwin, CA, the group was hosted by the commander of the Operations Group as well as the commander of the NTC's dedicated opposition force. Stops at a tank gunnery range, a simulated village and the live fire training control facility gave the SSP group a good understanding of brigade level combined arms ground combat training. Finally, at Nellis Air Force Base the SSP group was hosted by 2016/2017 SSP military fellow and current deputy commander of the 57th Wing, Erick Gilbert. Col Gilbert provided a briefing on the most recent Red Flag training exercise, as well as a tour of the Threat Training Facility, Thunderbirds headquarters and the Nellis flight line, where the group took

walk-around tours of an F-15C and an F-15E, while observing take-offs and landings by F-15s, F-16s, F-22s, and F-35s.

The purpose of the field trip is to marry SSP graduate students' research and coursework on international politics and conflict to a concrete understanding of how military forces train, operate and fight. By this standard, this year's field trip was enormously successful.

Timothy McDonnell, Graduate Student

2018 Doolittle Award Ceremony

The 2018 General James Doolittle Award for contributions to American Air Power was presented to David W. Thompson, President and Chief Executive Officer of Orbital ATK at a dinner held April 10, 2018. Mr. Thompson's address, "The Role of Space Systems in National Security," outlined both the history of space systems, and the need for continued innovation in both the civilian and military sectors. He emphasized the importance of the military space security sector speeding up design, approval and deployment systems in order to keep pace with changes around the world, and to better exploit the more agile civilian space sector.

The General James Doolittle Award dinner has been held annually since 1994 to honor the memory of MIT alum and WWII hero James (Jimmy) Doolittle. In July 1923, after serving as a test pilot and aeronautical engineer at McCook Field, Ohio, Doolittle entered the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, earning his master's degree in 1924. He went on in 1925 to get the first Ph.D. in Aeronautics awarded by MIT.



General Doolittle remains the only American to receive both the country's highest military and civilian honors - the Medal of Honor and the Medal of Freedom. The Doolittle Award Dinner

honors that spirit by presenting the James Doolittle Award for each year to a person, either military or civilian, who has made significant contributions to the advancement of US Air Power.

Past award recipients include several US Air Force Chiefs of Staff, Air Force generals, and academic and other civilian luminaries.

In 2017, Pierre (MIT SB 1988) and Amy Chao made a generous pledge to the Security Studies Program in support of the Doolittle Award. Mr. Chao, who has had an active career in the aerospace/defense industry, earned dual Bachelor of Science degrees in Political Science and Management Science from MIT. The endowment allows SSP to sustain the Doolittle award event, ensuring that future MIT graduate students and fellows are acquainted with the contribution that science and engineering can make to national security.

2018 Consuls General Briefing

Several members of the SSP faculty took part in the MIT Center for International Studies second annual Consuls General Briefing, held at the Samberg Center on April 10, 2018.



The day-long event hosted Consuls General, or their representatives, from 15 consulates in the Boston area. Organized by John Tirman, CIS Executive Director, the briefing provided the opportunity for members of CIS to give presentations on a variety of current issues affecting the globe, as well as giving the consular staff the opportunity to ask questions of the experts.

The topics included in the discussion were:

- “Illiberal Hegemony? Trump’s Surprising Grand Strategy,” Barry Posen
- “Putin the Disrupter: Foreign Policy Meddling around the Globe,” Carol Saivetz; *and* “The Russian Politics of Insecurity in the Presidential Campaign Cycle of 2018,” Elizabeth Wood
- “The North Korean Nuclear Crisis,” Vipin Narang
- “China’s Maritime Disputes,” Taylor Fravel
- “China in Southeast Asia,” Eric Heginbotham
- “Trump, Iran, and the JCPOA: How does the opera end?” Jim Walsh
- “Current Issues in U.S. National Security Law and Process,” James Baker

Where We Spoke

Mark Bell (Alum, ’16)

“How to Think About Nuclear Crises,” Stimson Center, Washington DC (Feb. 7, 2018); Princeton University (Feb. 28, 2018); Sciences PO (March 13, 2018).

“Nuclear Revolutions: How States Use Nuclear Weapons in International Politics,” Cornell University (March 29, 2018).

Jonathan Caverley (Research Associate)

“Blurred Lines: Civil-Military Relations and Modern War,” Modern War Institute, United States Military Academy, March 28-29, 2018.

M. Taylor Fravel (Faculty)

“China’s Calculus in the South China Sea,” Harvard University, March 2018.

“Active Defense: China’s Military Strategy Since 1949,” Princeton University, March 2018.

Eugene Gholz (Research Affiliate)

“Comments on ‘In Pursuit of Influence: The United States and China’s Competition for Leadership in East Asia,’” Bridging Asia Conference at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, March 19, 2018.

“Economic Effects of Nuclear Disasters & Management,” Presentation at Stimson Center-RCSS Track II Workshop Planning for the Worst: Disaster Management in South Asia, Colombo, Sri Lanka, February 24, 2018.

“Facing China’s Rise: How Technology Gives America Strategic Options,” Presentation to the University of Kentucky John Quincy Adams Society, Lexington, KY, February 16, 2018; Presentation for Capital Hill Staffers organized by the Defense Priorities Foundation, Washington, DC, January 18, 2018.

“Oil and National Security Policy,” “Structure, Conduct, and Performance in the U.S. Defense Industry,” “President Trump and U.S. Foreign Policy,” “Designing and Reforming the Defense Acquisition System,” and “Sources of Technological Innovation in Defense,” Lectures presented at the Central University of Finance and Economics, Beijing, China, January 4-10, 2018.

Kelly Greenhill (Research Affiliate)

[“Taking Fake News to Task”](#) (Interview with Courtney Hollands), *Tufts Now* (March 12, 2018)

Peter Krause (Research Affiliate)

Peter Krause spoke at the following institutions: University of Pittsburgh, Ridgeway Center for International Security Studies (March 2018); Harvard Kennedy School, Belfer Center, International Security Program (February 2018); University of Chicago, Program on International Security Policy (February 2018); College of Charleston (February 2018).

Sara Plana (Graduate Student)

“Rogue Guns: Explaining the (Un)Reliability of State-Sponsored Armed Groups,” at the Boston International Security Graduate Conference, February 23, 2018.

Barry Posen (Faculty)

Panelist at “The Future of Transatlantic Relations: A Debate,” The Academy of Medicine, Georgia Institute of Technology, January 31, 2018.

Co-discussant in “Understanding the Full Range of Consequences of War,” at Aspen Institute Congressional Conference, *Finding a Diplomatic Solution to the North Korean Crisis*, Stanford University, March 2-4, 2018.

Joshua Rovner (Alum, '08)

“Strategy and Grand Strategy,” Yale University, Brady-Johnson Program on Grad Strategy, February 2018.

“Victory Fever,” Boston University Pardee School of Global Studies, March 2018.

Carol Saivetz (Senior Advisor)

“The Trajectory of US-Russian Relations,” Starr Forum on “US-Russian Relations: What’s Next?” March 20, 2018.

“The Putin-Trump Bromance,” Jewish Community Day School of Greater Boston, March 18, 2018.

Joshua Shifrinson (Alum, '13)

“The Future of European Security: U.S., Russia, and NATO,” with the Davis Center (Harvard) – Institute for Higher Education (Moscow) Conference on U.S.-Russian Relations, Moscow, Russia, December 2017.

Ketian Zhang (Graduate Student)

Ketian Zhang was the speaker at the Belfer Center “International Security Brown Bag Seminar” at Harvard Kennedy School on March 8, 2018. Her title was “Calculating Bully: Explaining Chinese Coercion.”

What We Wrote

Dan Altman (Alum, '15)

Dan Altman, “Advancing without Attacking: The Strategic Game around the Use of Force,” *Security Studies*, Vol. 27, No. 1 (2018), pp. 58-88.

Dan Altman and Nicholas Miller (Alum, '15), “Red Lines in Nuclear Nonproliferation,” *The Nonproliferation Review*, Vol. 24, no. 3-4 (2017), pp. 315-342. Published February 2018.

Mark Bell (Alum, '16)

Mark Bell, [“Authoritarian Public Opinion and the Democratic Peace.”](#) *International Organization*, vol. 72, no. 1 (January 2018), pp. 227-242.

Mark Bell, “North Korea Won’t Give Up It’s Nuclear Weapons. The United States Has Three Good Reasons to Talk Anyway,” *Washington Post/Monkey Cage*, March 9, 2018.

Kevin Benson (Army War College Fellow, '01-02)

Kevin Benson, “It is OUR Fault,” *Infinity Journal* (forthcoming)

Jonathan Caverley (Research Associate)

Jonathan Caverley, “Amphibs in Sea Control and Power Projection,” *Proceedings* 144, no. 4 (April 2018).

Jonathan Caverley, “A Good Cartel? Slowing the Proliferation of Major Conventional Weapons,” *Ethics & International Affairs* 31, no. 4 (Winter 2017).

Christopher Clary (Alum, '15)

Christopher Clary, [“Personalities, Organizations, and Doctrine in the Indian Military.”](#) *India Review*, Vol. 17, 2018.

M. Taylor Fravel (Faculty)

M. Taylor Fravel, “Shifts in Warfare and Party Unity: Explaining Changes in China’s Military Strategy,” *International Security*, Vol. 42, No. 3 (Winter 2017/2018).

Kelly Greenhill (Research Affiliate)

Coercion: The Power to Hurt in International Politics, ed. Kelly Greenhill and Peter Krause (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018)

Kelly Greenhill and David Lazaer et al., “The Science of Fake News,” *Science*, vol. 359, no. 6380 (March, 2018).

Kelly Greenhill with Robert Art, "The Power and Limits of Compellence: A Research Note," *Political Science Quarterly*, vol. 133, no. 1 (Spring, 2018), pp. 77-97.

Paul Heer (CIS Robert E. Wilhelm fellow, '16)

Paul Heer, "[Understanding the Challenge from China](#)," in the Asan Forum, 3 April, 2018.

Paul Heer, *Mr. X and the Pacific: George F. Kennan and American Policy in East Asia*, Cornell University Press, 2018.

Gregory Koblentz (Alum, '04)

Gregory D. Koblentz, "Saddam Versus the Inspectors: The Impact of Regime Security on the Verification of Iraq's WMD Disarmament," *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 41, No. 3 (April, 2018), pp. 372-409.

Gregory D. Koblentz, "[A Critical Analysis of the Scientific and Commercial Rationales for the Synthesis of Horsepox Virus](#)," *mSphere*, Vol. 3, No. 2 (March/April, 2018), pp. 1-10.

Gregory D. Koblentz, "[#NoImpunity: Will the Newest International Effort to Stop Chemical Attacks in Syria Succeed?](#)" *War on the Rocks*, March 2, 2018.

Gregory D. Koblentz and Lynn C. Klotz, "[New pathogen research rules: Gain of function, loss of clarity](#)," *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, February 26, 2018.

Peter Krause (Research Affiliate)

Coercion: The Power to Hurt in International Politics, eds. Kelly Greenhill and Peter Krause (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018).

Peter Krause, "Coercion by Movement: How Power Drove the Success of the Eritrean Insurgency, 1960-1993," in *Coercion: The Power to Hurt in International Politics*, eds. Kelly Greenhill and Peter Krause (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018).

Alan Kuperman (Alum, '02)

Alan Kuperman, "[The US Navy Should Start Weaning its Reactors off Bomb-Grade Uranium](#)," *Defense One*, March 13, 2018.

Alan Kuperman, "Avoiding Highly Enriched Uranium for Space Power," *NETS-2018, Nuclear Emerging Technologies for Space, Conference Proceedings* (American Nuclear Society, Aerospace Nuclear Science and Technology Division, 2018).

Alan Kuperman, "[Terrorism and Precedent, not Japanese Trustworthiness](#)," Correspondence, *Nonproliferation Review*, published online February 11, 2018.

Austin Long (Alum, '10)

Austin Long, "[Discrimination Details Matter: Clarifying and Argument about Low-Yield Nuclear Warheads](#)," *War on the Rocks*, February 16, 2018.

Austin Long, [“Red Glare: The Origin and Implications of Russia’s ‘New’ Nuclear Weapons.”](#) *War on the Rocks*, March 26, 2018.

Austin Long, [“Location, Location, Location: Evaluating Risks to Submarines from Low-Yield Warhead and Submarine Missile Launch Detection.”](#) *The RAND Blog*, March 12, 2018.

Austin Long, [“North Korean Intentions.”](#) *The ASAN Forum*, February 27, 2018.

Austin Long and Joshua Shifrinson, [“How long until midnight? Intelligence-policy relations and the United States response to the Israeli nuclear program, 1959-1985.”](#) *Journal of Strategic Studies*, March 2, 2018.

Roger Petersen (Faculty) and Matthew Cancian (Graduate Student)

Roger Petersen and Matthew Cancian, “Between Two Caesars: The Christians of Northern Iraq,” *Providence*, Winter, 2018.

Barry Posen (Faculty)

Barry Posen, “The Rise of Illiberal Hegemony,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 97, No. 2 (March/April 2018), pp. 20-27.

Jeremy Pressman (Alum, '02)

Jeremy Pressman and Erica Chenoweth, [“New count of U.S. protests shows more than 300 separate rallies against gun violence in Feb.”](#) *The Washington Post*, March 30, 2018.

Jeremy Pressman and Erica Chenoweth, [“The Women’s March could change politics like the Tea Party did.”](#) *The Guardian*, January 31, 2018.

Joshua Rovner (Alum, '08)

Joshua Rovner, “A Long War in the East: Doctrine, Diplomacy, and the Prospects for Protracted U.S.-China Conflict,” *Diplomacy & Statecraft*, Vol. 29, No. 1 (2018), pp. 129-142.

Joshua Rovner, [“Was the 2016 Election an Intelligence Failure?”](#) *War on the Rocks*, January 4, 2018.

Joshua Rovner, [“Could Obama Have Stopped the Election Hack?”](#) *War on the Rocks*, February 6, 2018.

Joshua Rovner, [“Was there a Nuclear Revolution? Strategy, Grand Strategy, and the Ultimate Weapon.”](#) *War on the Rocks*, March 6 2018.

Carol Saivetz (Senior Advisor)

Carol Saivetz, [“Frenemies: Putin and Erdogan.”](#) *Lawfare Blog*

Joshua Shifrinson (Alum, '13)

Emma Ashford and Joshua Shiffrinon, [“Trump’s National Security Strategy: A Critic’s Dream,”](#) Policy Roundtable; What to Make of Trump’s National Security Strategy, *Texas National Security Review*, December 21, 2017.

Forthcoming: *Rising Titans, Falling Giants: How Great Powers Exploit Power Shifts* (Cornell University Press, Summer 2018).

General announcements

Awards and Scholarships

Kelly Greenhill (Research Affiliate)

Kelly Greenhill was awarded an American Political Science Association COSSA Advocacy Grant.

John Henderson (SSP Army Fellow, 2014-15)

John Henderson was nominated by the President and later confirmed by the Senate, to serve as the [Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment, and Energy](#). He also received the [Federal Engineer of the Year Award from the National Society of Professional Engineers](#) in February, 2018.

Peter Krause (Research Affiliate)

Peter Krause was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor.

Rachel Esplin Odell (Graduate Student)

Rachel Esplin Odell was awarded a World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship by the Smith Richardson Foundation to fund her dissertation field research in India and China this upcoming fall 2018.

Jeremy Pressman (Alum, '02)

Jeremy Pressman was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to spend Spring 2019 at the Nobel Institute in Oslo, Norway. He will be writing about the US-led autonomy talks that followed the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty of 1979.

Joshua Shiffrinon (Alum, '13)

Joshua Shiffrinon will be returning to the Boston area as an Assistant Professor of International Relations with Boston University’s Pardee School of Global Studies.

Ketian Zhang (Graduate Student)

Ketian Zhang will be a 2018-2019 Shorenstein Postdoctoral Fellow in Contemporary Asia at the Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center at Stanford University.