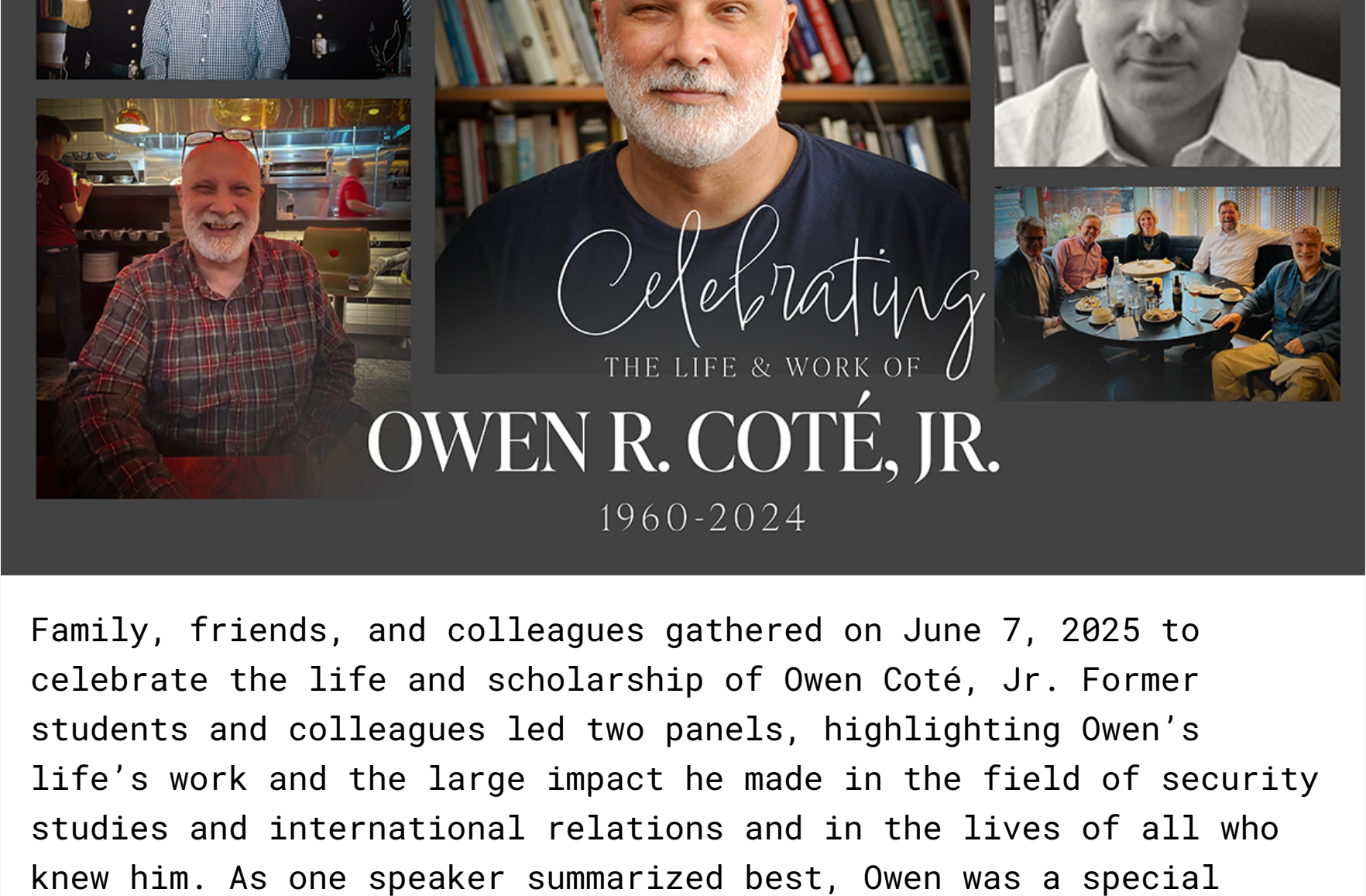


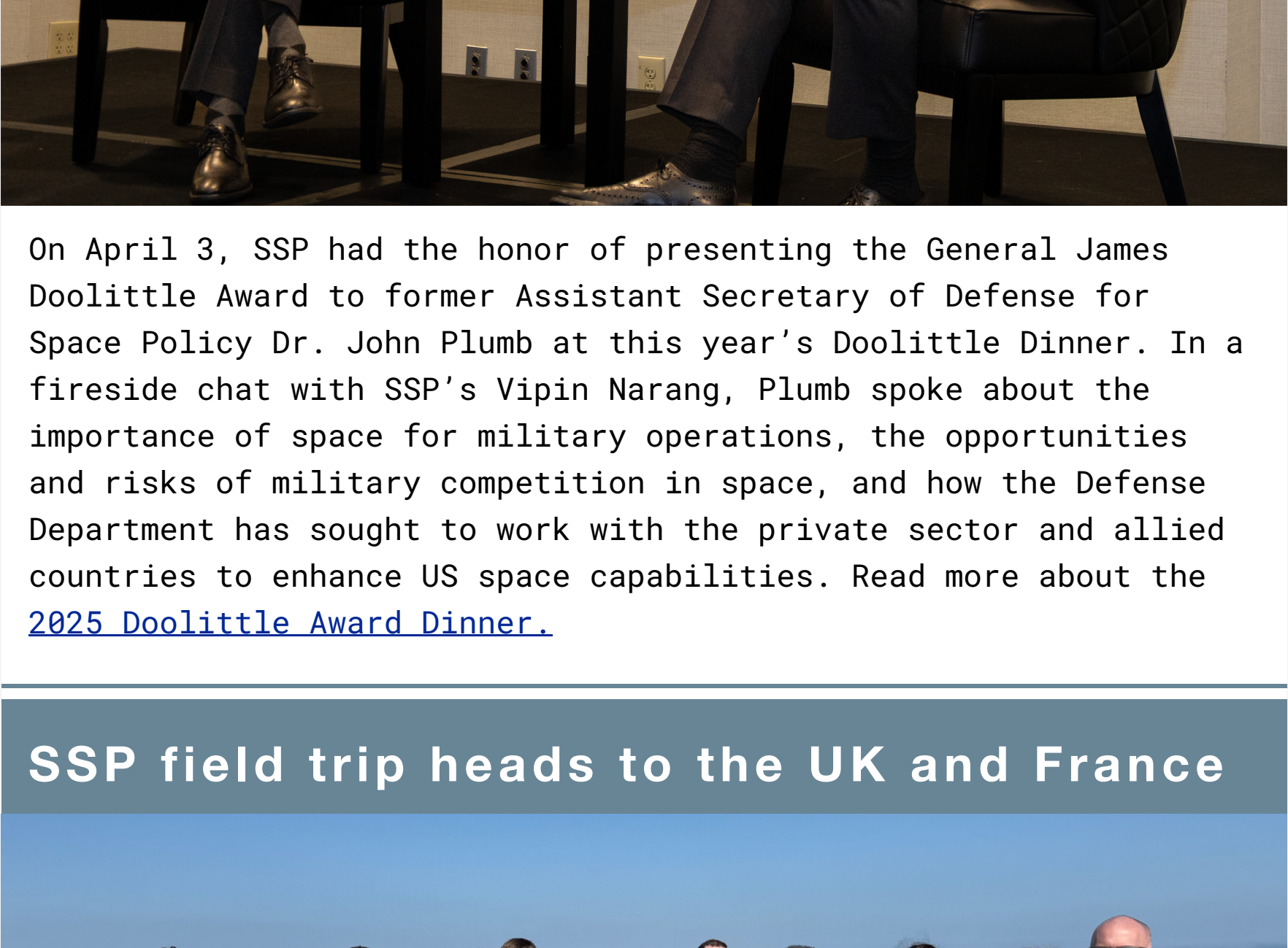
Celebrating the life and work of Owen Coté, Jr.



Family, friends, and colleagues gathered on June 7, 2025 to celebrate the life and scholarship of Owen Coté, Jr. Former students and colleagues led two panels, highlighting Owen's life's work and the large impact he made in the field of security studies and international relations and in the lives of all who knew him. As one speaker summarized best, Owen was a special person, a dear friend to many, and impossible to replace. [Read more about the event.](#)

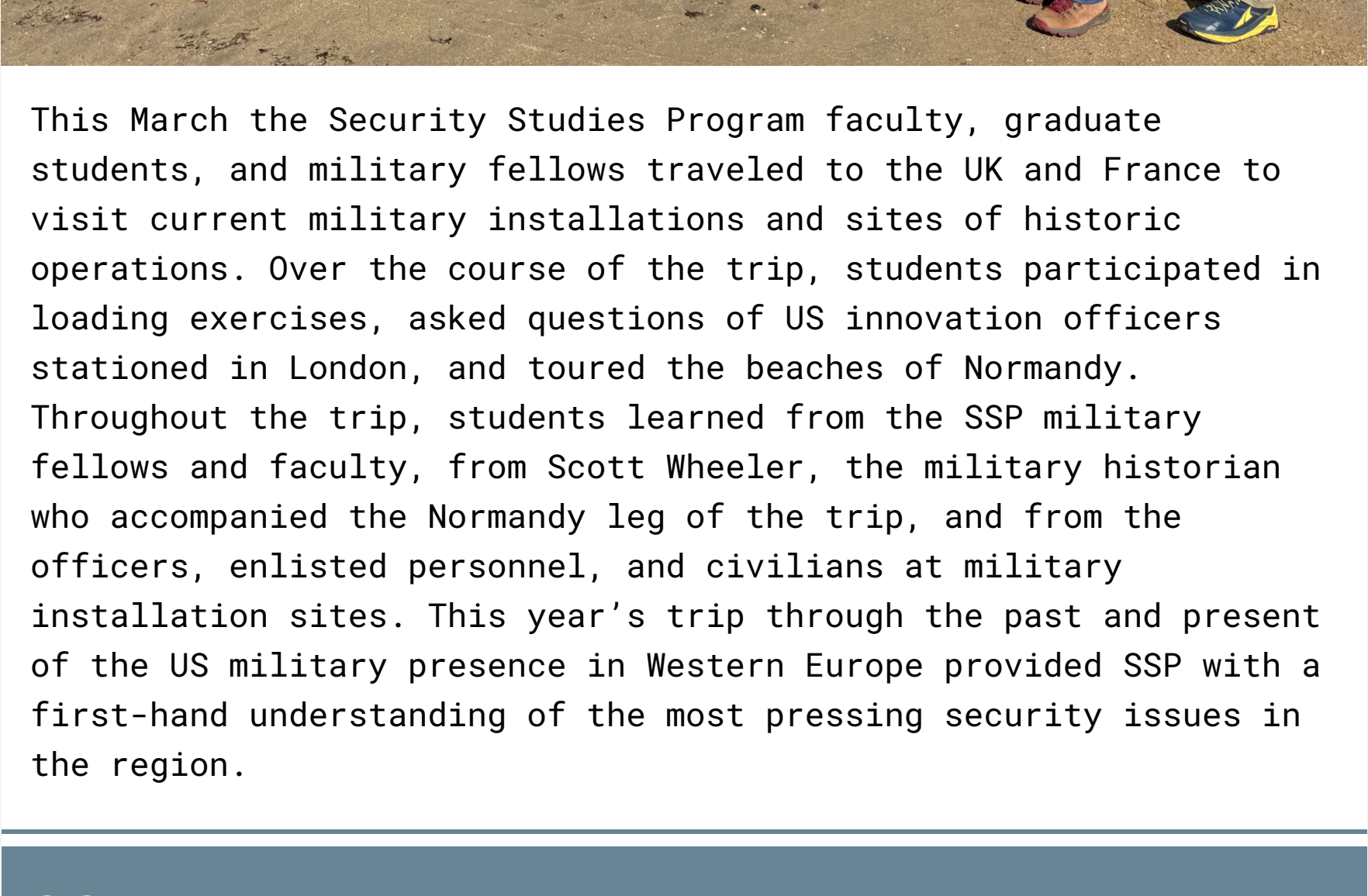
To honor Owen's memory and scholarly contributions, SSP is establishing an award that will bear his name. The Owen Coté, Jr. Award will be given annually to recognize the best scholarly article in the field of security studies published in the previous calendar year, and award will include a cash prize. If you would like to contribute to the endowed fund to sustain the award, [donations can be made here.](#)

2025 Doolittle Award given to John Plumb



On April 3, SSP had the honor of presenting the General James Doolittle Award to former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy Dr. John Plumb at this year's Doolittle Dinner. In a fireside chat with SSP's Vipin Narang, Plumb spoke about the importance of space for military operations, the opportunities and risks of military competition in space, and how the Defense Department has sought to work with the private sector and allied countries to enhance US space capabilities. Read more about the [2025 Doolittle Award Dinner.](#)

SSP field trip heads to the UK and France



This March the Security Studies Program faculty, graduate students, and military fellows traveled to the UK and France to visit current military installations and sites of historic operations. Over the course of the trip, students participated in loading exercises, asked questions of US innovation officers stationed in London, and toured the beaches of Normandy. Throughout the trip, students learned from the SSP military fellows and faculty, from Scott Wheeler, the military historian who accompanied the Normandy leg of the trip, and from the officers, enlisted personnel, and civilians at military installation sites. This year's trip through the past and present of the US military presence in Western Europe provided SSP with a first-hand understanding of the most pressing security issues in the region.

SSP celebrates the end of year with gala



On May 15, members of the SSP community convened for cocktails, dinner, and conviviality at Monteverdi in Cambridge to close out the 2024-25 academic year. The dinner included remarks from SSP Director M. Taylor Fravel who applauded the many achievements from within the program over the past year. PhD students Raymond Wang and Wright Smith took the stage to playfully roast the program to the delight of the attendees. And as tradition holds, the parting military fellows presented a gift to Taylor and the program as a token of their appreciation.

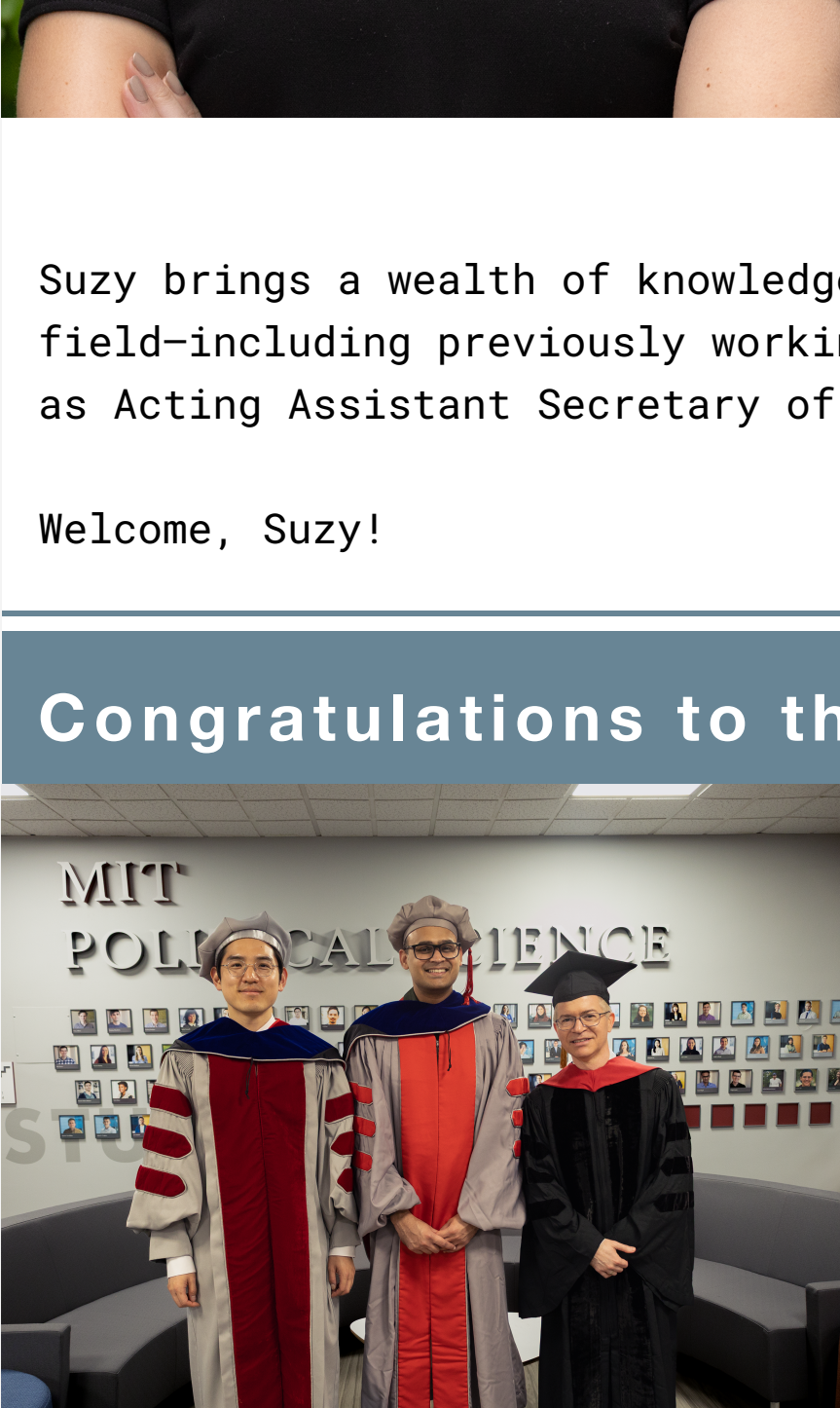
Erik Lin-Greenberg takes command of the 820th Intelligence Squadron



Erik Lin-Greenberg '09, the Leo Marx Career Development Associate Professor in the History and Culture of Science and Technology and a lieutenant colonel in the US Air Force Reserve, recently took command of the 820th Intelligence Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska.

Lin-Greenberg will continue working at MIT full time while in command. Read more about [Lin-Greenberg's new assignment.](#)

PhD student Victoria Henley promoted to major

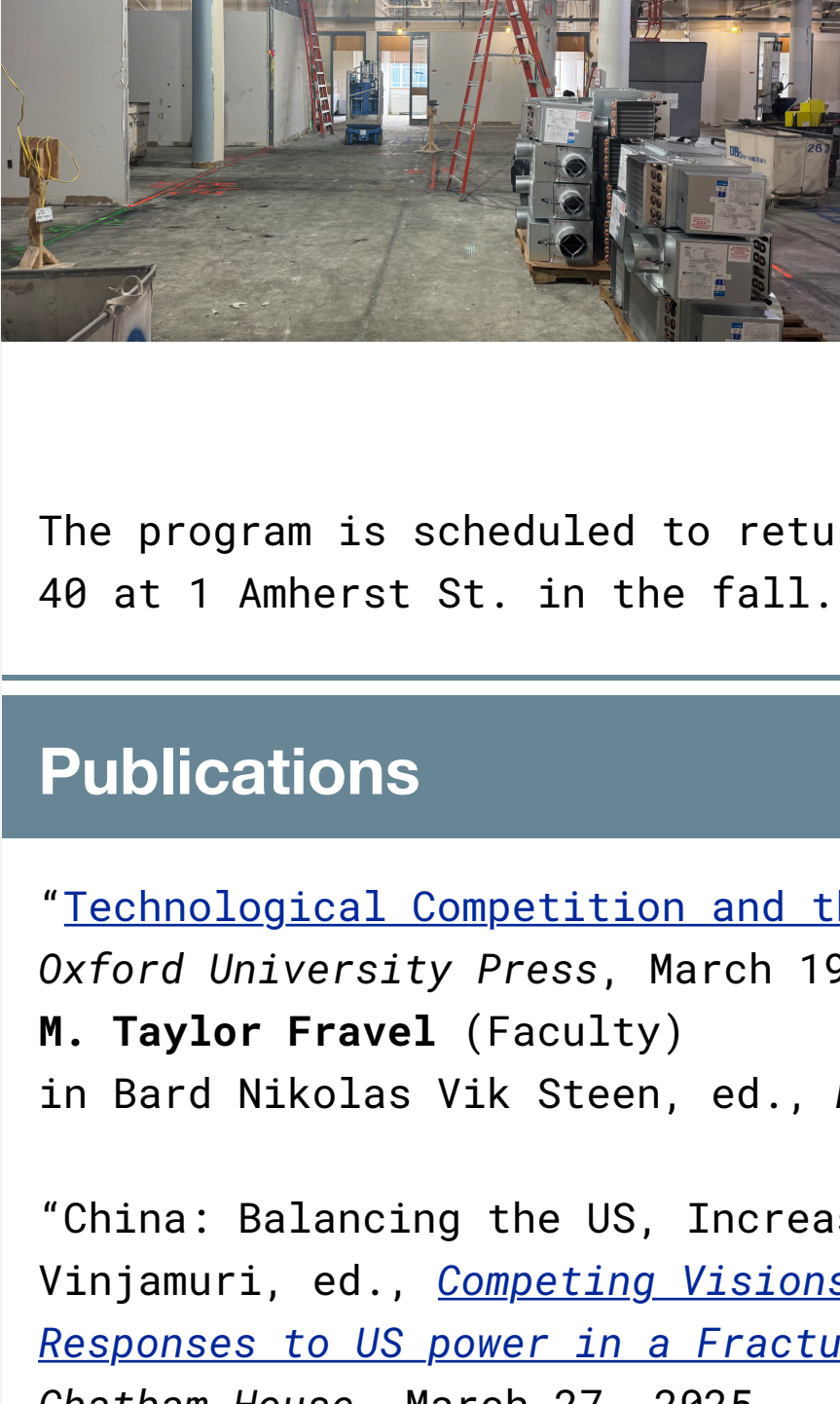


On May 15, SSP had the honor of hosting Victoria C. Henley's promotion ceremony from captain to major in the United States Army. Henley is currently a fourth-year PhD student of international relations and security studies with interests in military statecraft and alliance politics. She received a BS with Honors from the United States Military Academy at West Point.

The ceremony was held at the Kendall/MIT Open Space. Lieutenant Colonel Erik Lin-Greenberg of the US Air Force Reserve administered the oath of commissioned officers. SSP Associate Director Laura Kerwin read the promotion orders, and PhD students Kathryn Dura and Julia Loden pinned on Henley's new rank.

Congratulations, Major Henley!

The Center for Nuclear Security Policy welcomes Suzy Claeys as program administrator

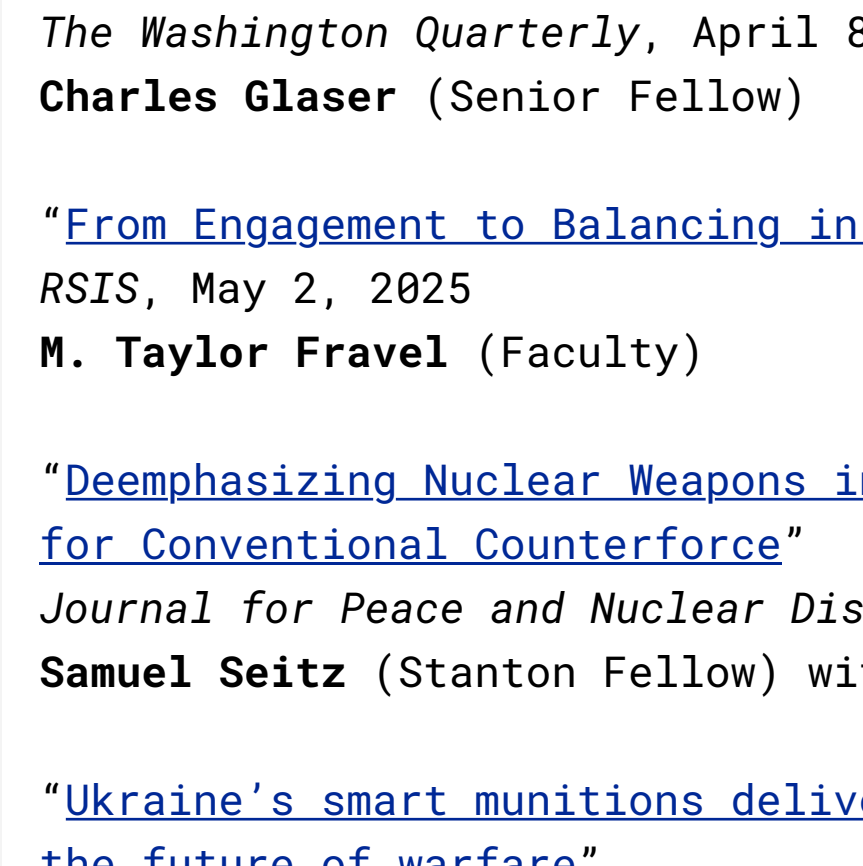


In June, SSP welcomed Suzy Claeys as the new CNSP program administrator. In this role, she will help manage the center's activities, fellows, events, and work closely with CNSP Director Vipin Narang. Prior to joining SSP, Suzy was a Nuclear Deterrence Advisor for Nuclear Deterrence Policy in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy at the Department of Defense. She holds an MA in Security Policy Studies from George Washington University and a BA in International Studies and Spanish from American University.

Suzy brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in the nuclear field—including previously working alongside Vipin when he served as Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy.

Welcome, Suzy!

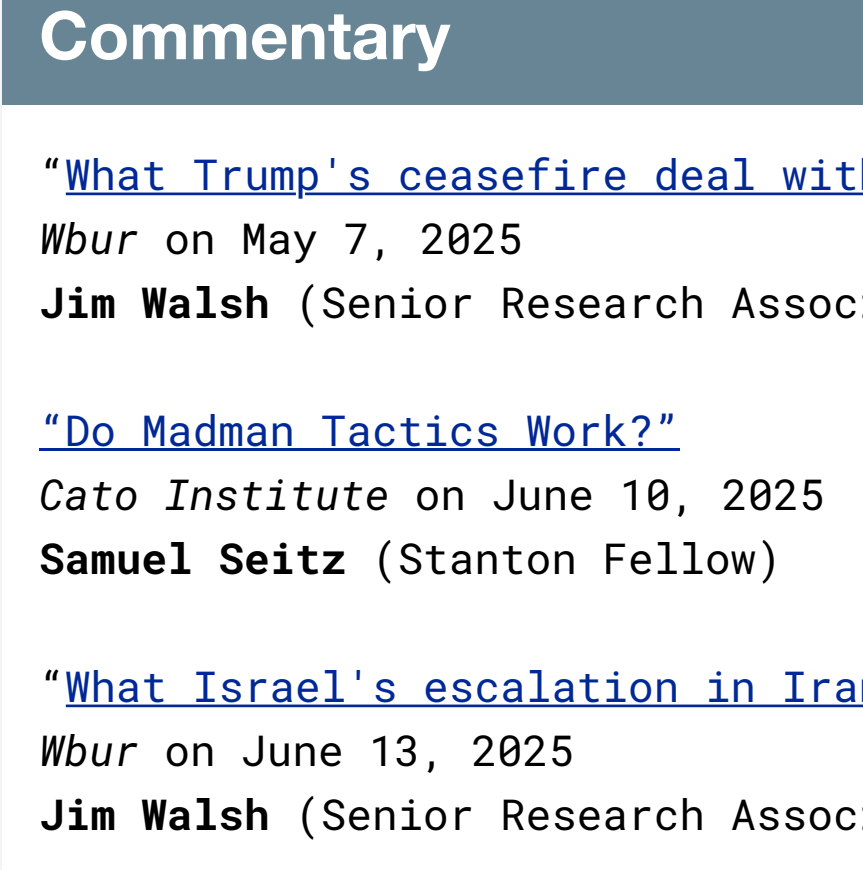
Congratulations to the SSP class of 2025!



We are proud to celebrate the hard-earned achievements of our graduate students who have graduated from the Department of Political Science and received their PhDs: Zachary Burdette, Jung Jae Kwon, and Kunal Singh. We are looking forward to sharing their ongoing contributions to the field of security studies.

Pictured from left to right: Jung Jae Kwon and Kunal Singh with Political Science Department Head David Singer.

Pardon our dust—SSP temporarily relocates



The SSP offices are being remodeled to facilitate the growing needs of the program, specifically within the new Center for Nuclear Security Policy. The program's temporary address is:

[600 Technology Square, Floor 3, Cambridge, MA 02139.](#)

The program is scheduled to return to its renovated offices in E-40 at 1 Amherst St. in the fall.

Publications

["Technological Competition and the US-China Rivalry"](#)
Oxford University Press, March 19, 2025
M. Taylor Fravel (Faculty)
in Bard Nikolais Vik Steen, ed., *Not Just Another Cold War*

"China: Balancing the US, Increasing Global Influence," in Leslie Vinjamuri, ed., [Competing Visions for International Order: Responses to US power in a Fracturing World](#)
Chatham House, March 27, 2025
M. Taylor Fravel (Faculty)

["Considering a US-Supported Self-Defense Option for Taiwan,"](#) Vol. 48, No. 1 (Spring 2025), pp. 187-204
The Washington Quarterly, April 8, 2025
Charles Glaser (Senior Fellow)

["From Engagement to Balancing in US-China Relations"](#)
RSTS, May 2, 2025
M. Taylor Fravel (Faculty)

["Deemphasizing Nuclear Weapons in Nuclear Deterrence: The Case for Conventional Counterforce"](#)
Journal for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament, May 30, 2025
Samuel Seitz (Stanton Fellow) with **Lauren Sukin** (Stanton Fellow)

["Ukraine's smart munitions deliver a punch-and a warning about the future of warfare"](#)
Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, June 13, 2025
Erik Lin-Greenberg (Faculty)

Commentary

["What Trump's ceasefire deal with Yemen's Houthis rebels means"](#)
WBur on May 7, 2025
Jim Walsh (Senior Research Associate)

["Do Madman Tactics Work?"](#)
Cato Institute on June 10, 2025
Samuel Seitz (Stanton Fellow)

["What Israel's escalation in Iran means for the region"](#)
WBur on June 13, 2025
Jim Walsh (Senior Research Associate)

Multimedia & Talks

Suzanne Freeman (PhD Candidate) spoke at the workshop "The Future European Security Order: A New Voices in National Security Workshop" on June 13, 2025 in Washington, DC. The event was organized by Bridging the Gap and the Transatlantic Policy Center at American University.

Roger Petersen (Emeritus) gave a talk at West Point Military Academy on "A Reconsideration of the Iraq War," on April 22, 2025.

News

Erik Lin-Greenberg (Faculty) was featured on MIT News: ["The scholar-warrior: How Erik Lin-Greenberg bridges academia and Air Force intelligence"](#)

Samuel Seitz (Stanton Fellow) accepted a postdoctoral position at the University of Oxford for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Wright Smith (PhD Candidate) starting August 1st, he will be a Predoctoral Fellow in the International Security Program at the Belfer Center at the Harvard Kennedy School.

Caitlin Talmadge (Faculty) delivered the 2nd Annual Richard K. Betts Lecture on "War and Peace" at Columbia University in April on the topic of the emerging nuclear landscape and its implications for the United States.

Alumni Highlights

Mark Bell (PhD) will publish ["Stability and Change in Nuclear Thinking: Grand Strategy, Nuclear Weapons, and Policy Change"](#) in *Journal of Strategic Studies*. He also wrote an article with Fabian Hoffmann on ["Europe's Nuclear Trilemma"](#) for *Foreign Affairs*, on March 31.

Kevin Benson (Former Military Fellow) signed a contract with Casemate Publishing for his next book, *A History of the School of Advanced Military Studies*. Anticipated US release is 1 February 2026.

Michal Ben-Josef Hirsch (PhD) and Jennifer M. Dixon published ["The State of Repair: The International Norm of Reparations between Aspirations and Expectations"](#) in the *International Journal of Transitional Justice*, Volume 19, Issue 1, on March 2025.

Zachary Burdette (PhD) published ["The US-China Military Balance in Space"](#) in *International Security*, on May 1, 2025.

Matt Cancian (PhD) published ["States of Denial: Sensibly Defending Taiwan"](#) a chapter in *Survival: April-May 2025* (1st ed.), for The International Institute for Strategic Studies, on April 7, 2025.

Christopher Clary (Affiliate) published ["Is India underbalancing China?"](#) for the *Journal of Strategic Studies* on April 15, 2025. He also wrote ["India-Pakistan rivalry is old, but Pahalgam marked a new chapter"](#) for *Times of India* on May 11, 2025 and was interviewed by Nikhil Lakshman in ["Neither India Or Pakistan Desire Full-Scale War"](#) for *Rediff* on May 10, 2025.

Shawn Creamer (Former Military Fellow) published ["A Matter of Authorities: A Study of Command and Control though the Republic of Korea – United States Alliance"](#) in Institute for Korean-American Studies on January 29, 2025 and ["Unpreparedness is a Choice"](#) for *Small Wars Journal* on March 5, 2025.

Calleigh Glenn (Former Statecraft Fellow) will join the Department of Political Science at Middlebury College as Assistant Professor this summer.

Eugene Gholz (Affiliate) presented three talks: "China's Potential to Blockade Taiwan using Missile Attacks on Ports," at the Academia Sinica, Taiwan on June 9, 2025, "China's Potential to Blockade Taiwan using Missile Attacks on Ports," at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, NTU, Singapore on May 29, 2025, and "Planned International Order vs. Emergent International Order," Plenary presentation at the Mont Pelerin Society regional meeting, Mexico City, Mexico on March 17, 2025.

Doreen Horschig (Former Stanton Fellow) published two articles, ["Is Fragile Consensus? The Pressure on the Norm Against Nuclear Testing"](#) for *Tifri Papers* on April 2025 and ["What Factors Drive U.S.-Israeli Differences on Iran's Nuclear Challenge?"](#) in *CSIS* on April 4, 2025.

William James (Former Statecraft Fellow) published ["Neville, you must remember you don't know anything about foreign affairs": Assurance, air power, and alternative histories to appeasement"](#) in *Journal of Strategic Studies* on April 2025.

Se Young Jang (Former Stanton Fellow) published a book in Korean, ["The Signing and Ratification of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty \(NPT\) by South Korea, 1968-1975"](#), Seoul: Korea National Diplomatic Academy, 2025.

Alan J. Kuperman (PhD) wrote ["How Trump Could Make 'Muscular Meditation' Work in Ukraine"](#) for *Wall Street Journal* on April 23, 2025.

Gregory Koblentz (PhD) published ["The Case for Limiting 'Sequences of Concern' to Those with Demonstrated Pathogenic Function"](#) with co-authors, with *Liberty Pub* on May 2025. Additionally, he was interviewed in ["Trump's lastminute gain-of-function policy could sow researcher confusion"](#) by Matt Field for *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* on May 20, 2025.

Eric Labs (PhD) co-authored with Stephen Biddle: ["Does America Face a 'Ship Gap' with China?"](#) an article for *Foreign Affairs*, on June 19, 2025.

Sara Plana (PhD) started as Defense Policy Advisor to Senator Tammy Duckworth, managing Duckworth's defense and military priorities and advising her on legislation, appropriations, Senate Armed Service Committee activities, and engagements with international partners.

Andrew Radin (PhD) with additional authors, published ["Lessons from the War in Ukraine for Space: Challenges and Opportunities for Future Conflicts"](#) for *RAND* on May 21, 2025.

Russell Rumbaugh (MS) wrote ["Breaking stovepipes, not checking boxes: DoB's audit challenge"](#) for *Breaking Defense* on May 29, 2025.

Jacob Hale Russell (MS) and Dennis Patterson published a book with The MIT Press, ["The Weaponization of Expertise: How Elites Fuel Populism"](#), in March 2025.

Joshua Schwartz (Former Statecraft Fellow) wrote two articles: ["How Drones Make Civil Wars Worse"](#) with co-authors for *The Warfare Institute* on March 16, 2025 and ["The hidden costs of Trump's 'madman' approach to tariffs"](#) for *Responsible Statecraft* on May 12, 2025. Additionally, he appeared on a CBC podcast with Jayme Poisson, ["Cheap and deadly: How drones are reshaping war"](#) on June 6, 2025.

Rachel Whitlark (Former Stanton Fellow) since 2024, has served as Senior Nuclear Deterrence Policy Advisor on the Nuclear Deterrence Policy team in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy, Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy. For her work, Whitlark earned the Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service.

Alec Worsnop (PhD) published ["Rebels fire and maneuver too: How small-unit combat leaders sustain guerrilla warfare"](#) in *Journal of Strategic Studies* on June 3, 2025 and will have a forthcoming book, ["Rebels in the Field: Cadres and the Development of Insurgent Military Power"](#), at Oxford University Press.