Early Warning

MIT Security Studies Program

Quarterly Newsletter | March 2026

The Center for Nuclear Security Policy welcomes Dr. Matthew Sharp

Matthew Sharp, Senior Fellow CNSP

Dr. Matthew Sharp has joined the Center for Nuclear Security Policy (CNSP) as a Senior Nuclear Fellow.

Dr. Sharp's service in the US Department of State spans from 1989 to 2023. A career member of the Senior Foreign Service, he served in a number of positions in the State Department's Bureau of Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance, and European Affairs. This tenure includes the US Mission to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria and the US Mission to Germany for 1014-2016. Learn more about Dr. Sharp and his work.

"Arms control is a pillar of nuclear security and we are fortunate to have someone of Dr. Sharp's caliber and experience join the center," says Vipin Narang, CNSP Director.

The Security Studies Program returns to E-40

The newly renovated Dye Room

The Security Studies Program, along with the rest of the Center for International Studies, returned to Fourth Floor at E40 in December. Six months of renovations have produced more office space, a new Dye Room, and a refreshed Wong Auditorium with newly installed audio-visual equipment. The Dye Room, which has been completely updated to include built-in cameras, microphones, and speakers, is now ready for hybrid and streaming presentations. Updated meeting rooms allow students to built-in video streaming and interactive displays, including the newly installed Jeopardy! Sawaya Room, named after the former International Professor of Political Science and former Director, Robert Sawaya, who passed away in 2025.

Contact SSP at: 1 Amherst St., E40 4th Floor, Cambridge MA 02142.

Clockwise from top: Jeff Lewis, Richard J. Samuels Room, and Eddy Information Center

Military Fellows lead Independent Activities Period discussions during January

Throughout the January Independent Activities Period (IAP), our National Security Fellows, Active-Duty Military Fellows, led presentations and discussions related to national security topics in their branch of service.

LTC Josh Norton, US Army, presents his IAP

This year's IAP topics included Marine Corps force design; modernization of combat training centers; defense acquisitions; surface warfare insights; and army transformation. Thank you, military fellows, for sharing your unique perspectives during IAP!

Center for Nuclear Security Policy partners with Munich Security Conference

CNSP's Nuclear Long 21 and Flash Morning 21 at the Munich Security Conference

As a partner of the Munich Security Conference (MSC), the Center for Nuclear Security Policy (CNSP) co-hosted a breakfast panel on the sidelines of the MSC on February 14, 2026 titled "Mapping US Nuclear Posture Amid Geopolitical and Domestic Uncertainty" at the MSC. The event was attended by current and former US and European government officials.

Upcoming Wednesday Seminars

APR 15	**Rachel Myrick, Duke University** Militarization and International Politics
APR 15	**Joshua Kertzer, Harvard University** Advisors in Foreign Policy
APR 22	**Caleb Pomeroy, University of Toronto** Nuclear Weapons, Conventional Power and the Elusive Pursuit of Absolute Security
APR 29	**Heidi Urben, Georgetown University** In Defiant of Defeat: Assessing Internal Accountability in the US Military

Meanwhile, catch up on the conversation with our past speakers.

Publications

"Interventions in the Crowdsourcing: Commercial Actors, Conflict Zones, and Ukrainian Drone Production"
Erik Lin-Greenberg (Faculty), **Benjamin Harris** (PhD Candidate), and **Daniel Cebul** (PhD Candidate)
Simulation & Gaming, 57(1): December 2025

"Hopes on the Fall of Violent Secrets"
Roger Petersen (Faculty)
Journal of Human Nature and Human Advancement, Version 1, December 30, 2025

"Iran Armed and Contained: Offset Decoupled Regional Policy, Underestimated Israel's Response to Iran"
Roger Petersen (Faculty)
European Journal of International Security, January 23, 2026

"Organized Forced Migration and the External Drivers of Humanitarian Intervention"
Kelly Greenhill (Affiliate) with Fiona B. Adamson
Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, 52(4), February 9, 2026

"Ethnography and Ethnographic Sensibilities in Political Science"
Lauren Gilbert (PhD Candidate) and **Roger Petersen** (Faculty)
Annual Review of Political Science, Vol. 29: February 20, 2026

"Kaboomics Politics: The Designer's Apprentice Effect"
Nick Adams (MC) and **Richard J. Samuels** (Faculty)
European Journal of International Security, Special Issue, March 11, 2026

"Black Frosts, White Hope, and Political Violence in the Postbellum American South"
Joshua Byun (Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow) & Kyoko Kuno
American Political Science Review, 120(1), March 14, 2026

Commentary

"What is the current state of Ukraine's politics and how could this affect a peace deal?"
Mariana Budjeryn (CNSP Senior Researcher)
The Bruxelles Institute, February 17, 2026

"Xi's Purge and the PLA's Leadership Void"
M. Taylor Fravel (Faculty)
Center for Strategic & International Studies, February 24, 2026

"The Nuclear Minefield in the Strait: Iran Holds the Adversary and American Ports Not Good Options"
Vipin Narang (Faculty)
Foreign Affairs, March 13, 2026

Multimedia

Mariana Budjeryn (CNSP Senior Researcher) was quoted in:
European Proxies, "Why France is increasing its nuclear arsenal and how it could replace US as Europe's security guarantor," on March 9, 2026.

M. Taylor Fravel (Faculty) was quoted in:
The Japan Times, "As Trump focuses on U.S. backyard, Venezuela crisis emboldens China," on January 5, 2026

The Economist, "What Xi chooses is worse if China's most senior general resigns," on January 24, 2026.

The New York Times, "Xi's Purges of China's Military Ran Deep, New Study Shows," on February 24, 2026

CNN, "Inside of Xi's military purges could hinder China's ability to fight, says think tank," on February 25, 2026.

ABC, "How Xi's military purges could hamper China's ability to fight," on February 25, 2026

Florian Qalesi (Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow) was quoted in:
RTL, "Inside Macron's new deterrence strategy: A European offer, French nuclear better," on March 9, 2026

Kelly Greenhill (Affiliate) was interviewed by:
Newsweek's Dan Gooding for "Video Admin Slows Mass Migration Review to US Allies, International Threat," on December 5, 2025.

Mark Sharp (CNSP Senior Fellow) was quoted in:
The New York Times, "Deal in China's Mountains, a Nuclear Revival Takes Shape," on January 24, 2026

Caitlin Talmadge (Faculty) was quoted in the following:
The Economist, "Can America clear the Strait of Hormuz of Iran's drones and mines?" on March 19, 2026

Bloomberg, "Iran Has Likely Began Laying Mines in Hormuz, US Says," on March 12, 2026

New York Times, "Bombarded by War, Iran Vies Back by Disrupting a Vital Resource," on March 12, 2026

The Atlantic Times, "Bases across Strait of Hormuz would create global barrier to oil traffic," on March 13, 2026

National Today, "Trump threatens NATO over Iran, as oil hits $120," on March 14, 2026

The Financial Times, "Military briefing: How mines could tighten Iran's Gulf chokehold," on March 19, 2026

News

Daniel Cebul (PhD Candidate) was awarded the Smith Richardson Foundation's Merlin Publications and Statecraft fellowship grant.

Charles Glaser (Senior Fellow) gave a book talk at the Hoover Institute February 3, 2026, at CATO Institute on February 20, 2026, and at the Elliott School, George Washington University.

Kelly Greenhill (Affiliate) was awarded a Derek Bower Fellowship at the University of Cambridge (UK) for Fall 2026.

Richard Nielsen (Faculty) was selected to be a MIT9012 Faculty Fellow, and is part of the inaugural group of Fellows for Spring 2026.

Carol R. Saivetz (Senior Fellow) gave talks at Lincoln Labs on "Arctic Persistence and Ukraine Recovery," on February 27, 2026.

Alumni Books

Kevin Benson (Military Fellow)

Raising the Bar: The School of Advanced Military Studies and the Introduction of Operational Art into U.S. Army Doctrine, 1981-1986

Casemate, March 15, 2026

William Jones (Stanton Fellow)
co-edited with Eong Kwanghi

Congratulations Stories in Arabic-American Modalities: How the Alliance Weathers Crises

Georgetown University Press, March 2026

Alumni Highlights

Rob Adams (MC) has joined the National Taiwan University Center for China Studies (NTUCCS) as a Non-Resident Fellow.

Kevin Benson (Military Fellow) wrote "Original Sin" for Small Wars Journal on February 2, 2026. Benson was featured the History Syndicate podcast on Expectation of Valor
Hollywood episodes, "#1. Discussing Transmission of Valor: Florence Nightingale, Hollywood, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan" and the presented "Operational and Strategic Planning" on Tom Ski Space forum Schreiber Schubert at Johns Hopkins University on January 7, 2026.

Fiona Cunningham (PhD Candidate) "Other than Law: Legitimating China's Nuclear Strategy," in Security Studies, Vol. 34, on February 17, 2026 and "CJR Disable Interceptors with Conventional Attack: Implications for Escalation Control," on January 28, 2026. Additionally, Cunningham is a co-PI on a $200,000 grant awarded by Paris-Nuclear Group at the University of Pennsylvania to study the future nuclear landscape and emerging technologies.

Thomas Fraise (Stanton Fellow) published "The Magicians of Nuclear Strategy: Ritualized Knowledge Production and the Erosion of Strategic Nuclear Thought," in Global Studies Quarterly, 6(1), on February 26, 2026.

Paul Green (MC/Fellow Fellow) published 2 articles in the National Interest: "Why Taiwan's Status Can't Stay 'Undetermined'," on December 16, 2025 and "Why the US - One China Policy' Is Falling Apart" on January 29, 2026.

Laura Holgate (MC) published "The Nuclear Security Summits: Running the Gold Safe from Nuclear Terrorism," in The Foreign Service Journal for the Spring Issue.

William James (Statecraft Fellow) was interviewed on Marianne on "William D. James - Malgré sa réputation, le Japonais ne est pas prêt à en rester des Americains," on January 22, 2026, and appeared in CNIS US podcast, "Iran's impact for Greenland and the implications for the international order" on January 15, 2026.

Deborah Jones (Statecraft Fellow) co-wrote a column for Detroit, "In Trump's Mind, Where Is US Policy Toward Greenland?" on February 23, 2026.

Gregory Koblentz (MC) wrote 2 articles for The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists: "Carving a chemical Tapeworm" on December 5, 2025 and "Great Countries are responsible, they should distribute the new Syrian government destroy leftover chemical weapons" on January 29, 2026. Koblentz also wrote "Chemical weapons have prevented Operational and Strategic Planning" in Foreign Policy on Spare forum Schreiber Schubert at Johns Hopkins University on January 7, 2026.

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Andrew Oliver (MC/Fellow Fellow) published "Deterrence Without Weapons: Lessons from Ukraine" in Global Asia, on December 2025. Oliver also wrote "Ukraine's Nuclear Lessons" on Spare forum Schreiber Schubert at Johns Hopkins University on January 7, 2026. Lastly, he was a speaker on Spare forum Schreiber Schubert at Johns Hopkins University on "Power of Sustainment Journal" on February 26, 2026.

Sarah Lockner (MC) is a visiting scholar at the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Life Writing for Spring 2026, working on a project about human rights attention and the politics of memory.

Neil Peely (MC) published "Deterrence, Reassurance and the North Korean Nuclear Dilemma" in Global Asia, on December 2025. Peely was interviewed with Rose Frum Gower on "A nuclear security scholar's take on recent military actions in Iran," on March 3, 2026, and gave talks on his new book "The Art of Coercion" on Spare forum Schreiber Schubert at Johns Hopkins University Security Research at Lawrence Livermore National Lab. Additionally, he was quoted in the following: "The Ex-advisers Who Want Trump to Stay Out of Iran," in Foreign Policy, on January 9, 2026, and "Trump's Iran Strategy Is Unclear, Its Goal Appears to Be Fear-war," in Newsweek, on March 11, 2026.

Joshua Rovner (PhD) published "The Costs of Consensus," for the Security, Innovation, and New Technology, Spring 2026 edition.

Joshua Schwartz (Statecraft Fellow) published "Delegating Destruction: Coercive Threats and Autonomous Nuclear Systems," in Journal of Strategic Studies, on February 2026. Schwartz also wrote, "Institutional Backlashes and Public Support for Foreign Policy Action," in Duke Journals, on December 5, 2025, and "Nuclear Weapons Accidents and Pack Leaders: Is Deterrence Lies on Farmers' Failure or Leadership?" in Pittsburgh Post Gazette, on January 11, 2026.

Lauren Sukin (Stanton Fellow) published "Rationing the Nuclear Commons: Institutional Design and the Governance of Global Nuclear Resources Profession," with J. Luis Rodriguez and Stephen Herzog, in Perspectives on Politics, on January 28, 2026, and "Low Yields are commonly intended for weapons subsets," in collaboration with Johns, in Journal of Peace Research, on March 16, 2026.

Brian Taylor (PhD) published "With Did Not Cause Polio in Special Forces," in Bulletin of the Washington Quarterly, 48(4), on December 2, 2025.

David Weisberg (PhD) testified to committees of the Maryland House, the Maryland Senate, the Oregon House, the Oregon Senate, and the South Dakota House in support of bills to protect voters against foreign governmental electors, to allow individuals to sue federal agents for rights violations, and to institute special elections for certain legislative vacancies.