Several members of the MIT Security Studies Program faculty, students, and staff travelled to Washington, DC on March 31, 2016, for a day filled with seminars and events that focused on the Middle East, and alumni outreach.

The first seminar took place at the Pentagon where 120 members of the Department of Defense, Department of State and the four services, all gathered to hear a seminar “Political Struggles in the Greater Middle East: The Organisation and Sustainment of Violence,” chaired by Prof. Barry Posen, Director of SSP. Professors Roger Petersen, Richard Nielsen, Fotini Christia of MIT, and Peter Krause (SSP alum) of Boston College made up the panel. The presentations were very well received and followed by a Q&A session.

A second seminar was held in the afternoon at the Ritz Carlton Pentagon City. Several members of the MIT Alumni community in the DC area and several current SSP graduate students were on hand to hear the presentation and then follow it up with a Q&A session. Following the seminar’s conclusion the group adjourned to take part in the SSP alumni reception.

The popular SSP Alumni Reception is held in Washington, DC every two years and provides a chance for former students and fellows, including military fellows, to renew old ties and to meet the current members of the program.
January, 2016 Independant Activities Period (IAP) at MIT: Contemporary Military Topics

This year’s military fellows led five IAP sessions on Contemporary Military Topics. In a session titled “Owning the Invisible: Electronic Warfare,” Jason Eckberg discussed how Electronic Warfare represents the most versatile and advanced capability to execute national security objectives. Stephen Gabavics offered a session on the overviews of challenges facing the US & allies in a session titled, “Identity Intelligence.” Jeff McCoy led a session titled “The USSC in Jerusalem” which highlighted the rebuilding of the Palestinian Security Forces. Joel Schmidt brought in a great number of weapons from to show case in his session titled “The USMC and Special Operations Forces.” An overview of the Navy’s newest and most advanced warship was the focus of John Krisciuna’s session which concluded the month-long series held at MIT.

Other News

Vipin Narang (faculty), Amanda Rothschild (graduate student), and Mark Bell (graduate student) officially receiving their awards at the ISA Annual Meeting, Atlanta, March 2016. Vipin won for his recent book, *Nuclear Strategy in the Modern Era*. Amanda Rothschild and Mark Bell jointly won the 2016 Patricia Weitsman Graduate Student Paper Award. Mark Bell’s paper is titled “Beyond Emboldenment: The Effects of Nuclear Weapons on State Foreign Policy.” Amanda Rothschild’s paper is titled “Tipping Theory: Origins of Great Britain's Suppression of the Slave Trade and Implications for Today's Collective Action Problems.” For other award featured in this issue, see our *Awards and Scholarships* page.
In February, Professor Catherine M. Kelleher (alum, '67) led an East Asia-focused installation of "A Stable Transition to a New Nuclear Order," as part of a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur grant awarded jointly to Professor Kelleher and Professor Judith Reppy of Cornell University. See more of the story in Notes from All Over.

Where We Spoke

January-March 2016

Mark Bell (graduate student):


David Blum (alum '04):
“Mathematical Concepts and Developments in Warning Analysis,” invited talk at the Naval Postgraduate School, Department of Operations Research.

Jonathan Caverley (research affiliate):

Fiona Cunningham (graduate student):
Participated in the 2016 German Marshall Fund of the United States Young Strategists Forum in Tokyo.

M. Taylor Fravel (faculty):
Mayumi Fukushima (graduate student):
“China-Russia Relations and Their Implications for Japan’s Diplomacy” as an invited speaker at a symposium organized by the World Affairs Council of Atlanta and sponsored by the Consulate General of Japan in Atlanta, March 2016.

Eugene Gholz (alum, ’00):
“Bridging the Political Economy and Security Gap,” Roundtable presentation at the ISA annual meeting, Atlanta, March 2016.

“No Man’s Sea: Implications for Theory and Strategy,” presented at ISA, annual meeting, Atlanta, March 2016.

Kelly M. Greenhill (research affiliate):


Jeanne Guillemin (senior advisor):
On January 27-31 Jeanne Guillemin taught a seminar on "Biosecurity and Bioterrorism" at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, as part of the Oklahoma Scholar-Leadership Enrichment Program, a series for academically gifted students sponsored by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

Michal Ben-Josef Hirsch (alum, ’09):

Peter Krause (alum, ’11):

“When Terrorism Works: ISIS and U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East,” Boston College Dean’s Colloquium, March 2016.

**Alan Kuperman (alum, ’02):**


**Jennifer Lind (alum, ’04):**


**Rachel Odell (graduate student):**


**John Park (research associate):**


**Barry Posen (faculty):**

On January 14, Barry Posen was a participant at the RAND corporation for the “Workshop on International Order.”

On February 25, Barry Posen was the moderator of a Starr Forum titled “With Friends Like These: America’s Allies and the Fight Against ISIS.”

Amanda Rothschild (graduate student):
Invited speaker at the Pine Crest School Holocaust Awareness Symposium in Fort Lauderdale Florida (March 2-3).


Carol Saivetz (senior advisor):


“Russia in Syria: A Dangerous Game,” Lincoln Laboratory.

Richard Samuels (faculty):
“Japan’s Nuclear Hedge,” Presentation to panel on “Prospects and Limitations of the Humanitarian Initiative: Changing German and Japanese Nuclear Policy?” at the Graduate School of East Asian Studies, Free University of Berlin, January 2016.

“Japan’s 3.11 Master Narrative Still Under Construction,” at the East Asian Forum held at the Australian National University, March 2016.


In February Richard Samuels was a panel discussant for “Domestic Politics and Grand Strategy in East Asia,” Program on US-Japan Relations at Harvard University.

Chair and discussant for the panel on “Promoting Peace and stability in East Asia: Theory and Policy” at the ISA Annual Meeting in Atlanta, March 2016.

Jim Walsh (research associate):

Presented and moderated a panel for Reinvent on Nuclear Triad, January, 2016.

Briefed 40 House of Representative Staffers in Washington DC on Implementation of the Iran Agreement.

Visiting lecturer on “Nuclear Power and Nuclear Proliferation,” at Dartmouth Tuck Business School.
Visiting lecturer on Nuclear Proliferation at SAIS Bologna.

“Decoding the 159-Page Iran Agreement: Obligations, Risks & the Nature of Agreements,” at the MIT Lincoln Lab, February 2016.


In January and February, Jim Walsh appeared as discussant on various National and Internet TV and Radio programs including NPR Here & Now, CCTV, Al Hurra, CNN, FOX Biz, Huffington Post, CCTV US, FOX, Bloomberg, Press TV, MSNBC, BBC, AJAM, France 24 TV, AJE, CSM, and Washington Post.

What We Wrote

January-March 2016

Dan Altman (alum, ’15):

David Blum (alum ’04):

Jonathan Caverley (research affiliate):


Eugene Gholz (alum, ’00):

Kelly M. Greenhill (research affiliate):

Robert Haffa (alum ’82):

Alan Kuperman (alum, ’02):


Eric Labs (alum, ’94):

Jennifer Lind (alum, ’04):
“Japan’s Security Evolution,” *CATO Institute*, February 25, 2016. This paper was also read at the CATO institute on March 29, 2016.

John Park (research associate):

Amanda Rothschild (graduate student):


Joshua Shifrinson (alum, ’13):
“The United States, German Reunification, and NATO Expansion at the End of the Cold War,” *International Security* (forthcoming)


Caitlin Talmadge (alum, ’11):

**Glenn Voelz (U.S. Army War College Fellow, ’14-15)**


**Jim Walsh (research associate):**

Contributor/signatory for the Iran Project Statement on Implementation of the Iran Agreement. Jim Walsh also was contributor/editor for the Iran Project Fact Sheet on Iran’s ballistic missile program.

### Notes from All Over

**January-March 2016**

**Mark Bell (graduate student):**

ISQ online held an online symposium on Mark Bell’s article, “Examining Explanations for Nuclear Proliferation.”

**M. Taylor Fravel (faculty):**

In January 2016, M. Taylor Fravel joined the advisory board of the China Power Project, a new program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington DC. He also joined the editorial board of the Journal of Strategic Studies in the same month.

**Oliver Fritz (alum, ’03):**

Accepted the position of lecturer in the Global Security Studies program at Johns Hopkins University, and is teaching a graduate school course on energy, security, and defense.

**Michal Ben-Josef Hirsch (alum, ’09):**

Accepted a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor at the Government Department, Suffolk University.

In February, Professor **Catherine M. Kelleher (alum, ’67)** led an East Asia-focused installation of "A Stable Transition to a New Nuclear Order," as part of a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur grant awarded jointly to Professor Kelleher and Professor Judith Reppy of Cornell University. The three-day workshop, which took place at the Middlebury Institute for International Studies (MIIS) in Monterey, California, included security and nonproliferation experts from the U.S., China, South Korea, and Japan. Notable scholars included Dr. Elena Sokova and Dr. Jeffrey Lewis from MIIS, Dr. Jina Kim from the Korea Institute for Defense Analyses, and Dr. Tong Zhao from the Carnegie–Tsinghua Center for Global Policy in Beijing. Other participants were "next generation" scholars interested in achieving strategic stability while still reducing the numbers of nuclear weapons worldwide. This workshop was the third in its series, preceded by workshops in Berlin, Germany and Ithaca, New York. The final meeting, to address the proliferation crisis in South Asia, will take place...
in D.C. this May. For more information and past workshop summaries, please visit the project website: https://pacs.einaudi.cornell.edu/project-“-stable-transition-new-nucle...

Alan Kuperman ( alum, ’02):
On February 5, 2016, Alan Kuperman appeared as a discussant on “Isis in Libya,” Charlie Rose Show, PBS-TV.


Barry Posen (faculty):

Jacob Hale Russell ( alum, ’08):
Accepted a position as assistant professor of law at Rutgers University.

Carol Saivetz (senior advisor):
Appeared in an interview with slon.ru on March 29.

Awards and Scholarships

January-March 2016

Fiona Cunningham (graduate student):
Received a Smith Richardson Foundation World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship for 2016.

Caitlin Talmadge ( alum, ’11):
Received the Smith Richardson Junior Faculty Fellowship, 2016-18.