Early Warning July 2017

Doolittle Dinner

Ms. Betty J. Sapp, Director, National Reconnaissance Office, was the 2017 recipient of SSP's annual General James Doolittle Award.

Betty Sapp was appointed the 18th Director of the National Reconnaissance Office (DNRO) on July 6, 2012. She is a former Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Portfolio, Programs and Resources), Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, and began her government career as a United States Air Force officer.

National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) Director Betty J. Sapp was awarded the General James Doolittle Award at a dinner on April 27, 2017. Her address on the history and role of the NRO was followed by an insightful question and answer session with the SSP community. She began by noting the role of Jimmy Doolittle’s support for the establishment of one of the National Reconnaissance Office’s earliest and most important programs, the Corona photo reconnaissance satellite program. The Corona program provided the United States with critical information about Soviet strategic nuclear capabilities at a crucial period of the Cold War. Space-based surveillance offered a way to keep U.S. pilots out of harm’s way, an advantage highlighted when Gary Powers was shot down flying a U-2 spy plane over the Soviet Union in 1960. Many attempts to launch the satellite failed before the first “Keyhole” photo reconnaissance satellite entered orbit in August 1960.

Director Sapp then offered a snapshot of the small, elite organization at NRO, which focused heavily on innovation to continue to provide “eyes and ears” to the United States from space. The NRO’s targets had gone from being big, noisy and fixed to small, quiet and mobile, making the organization's task all the more challenging. Despite the sobering nature of the threats the NRO helps the United States to counter, Director Sapp’s remarks also conveyed the inspiring quality of spaceflight, and the scientific and technological innovations at the core of the NRO’s mission. Taking questions from the SSP community, Director Sapp discussed some of the major
challenges that adversaries posed to the United States in and out of space. She also offered insights into the recruitment, organizational practices, inter-agency coordination, and supplier and allied relationships that allow NRO to fulfill its day-to-day missions and long term objectives.

19th MIT Senior Congressional and Executive Branch Staff Seminar


Rebecca Hersman, Director of the Project on Nuclear Issues, and Senior Adviser, International Security Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies was the luncheon keynote speaker. Siegfried Hecker, Senior Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, and Research Professor of Management Science and Engineering, Stanford University was the keynote speaker at the dinner.

This year, 25 staffers from Congress and the Senate, as well as the State Department, Department of Defense, and other Executive Branches, travelled to MIT to participate in the three-day Seminar.

The seminar was a project of the Frankel (MIT) Global Policy Program Fund.

*A more detailed report will be featured in the upcoming SSP annual report (2016-17)

Where We Spoke

Noel Anderson, Alum ’17
"Competitive Intervention, Protracted Conflict, and the Global Prevalence of Civil War” at the Young Scholars in International Relations Conference, Christopher H. Browne Center for International Politics, University of Pennsylvania, May 19, 2017.

Boaz Atzili, Alum ’06

Stacie Goddard, Research Affiliate
Presented at a workshop, Policy Levers on Great Power War, Yale University.

Eugene Ghoz, Alum ’00


Kelly M. Greenhill, Research Affiliate


“Information and Other Influence Operations,” as part of a DOD-sponsored workshop on Societal Warfare, Washington, DC, June 2017.

Greenhill also participated on a panel on "Migration, Refugees and Security" for the Gerda Henkel Foundation's meeting on "Security, Society and the State" at Kloster Hegne, Konstanz, Germany, June 2017.

**Robert Haffa, Alum ’82**

“Continuity and Change in American Foreign Policy” The Teacher’s Institute, Foreign Policy Association, NYU Midtown Center, New York, NY, June 28, 2017.

**Greg Koblentz, Alum ’04**


**Peter Krause, Alum ’11**


NBC-Boston: “Reaction to President Trump’s Airstrikes in Syria,” April 7, 2017.


**Alan J. Kuperman, Alum ’02**


Marika Landau-Wells, Graduate Student

Speaker at the Cambridge offices of IDEO, a global design and innovation company, on the influence of threat perception on political behavior, June 7, 2017.

Roger Petersen, Faculty


Barry Posen, Faculty

Hertie School of Government, Berlin, Germany “Multipolarity—the emerging structure of international politics?” May 19, 2017.

Egmont Institute, Brussels, Belgium, panelist, “Allies, Partners and Rivals – And European Strategic Autonomy,” June 1, 2017.

Jayita Sarkar, CIS Security Studies Fellow ‘16-17
Jayita Sarkar gave presentations at the University of Cambridge’s Clare College on 6 July 2017, ETH Zurich’s Center for Security Studies on 12 May 2017, and Graduate Institute Geneva’s Department of International History on 9 May 2017, entitled, “American Policy to Curb West European Nuclear Exports in the 1970s.”

Sarkar also gave a talk at the ‘Nuclear History of France’ workshop at CERI Sciences in Paris on 5 May 2017, titled, “New Findings on Franco-Indian cooperation.”

Caitlin Talmadge, Alum ’11

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Seminar XXI.

Council on Foreign Relations, McCloy Roundtable on Setting the National Security Agenda.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology MIT Senior Congressional and Executive Staff Seminar.

**Paul Walker, Alum ’78**


Live interview with Leigh Sales, ABC News, Melbourne, Australia re: Syria & chemical weapons, April 5, 2017.


Class presentation, “From Ypres to Damascus: A Century of Effort to Abolish Chemical Weapons,” Bonn International Center for Conversion, University of Bonn, Germany, June 12, 2017.


**Jim Walsh, Faculty**


MIT Senior Congressional and Executive Staff Seminar, “North Korea,” April 20, 2017.


MIT nuclear weapons event, May 6, 2017.

IFANS (South Korea Government Think Tank), North Korea, June 21, 2017.
Asian Institute, North Korea, June 21, 2017.


What We Wrote

Noel Anderson, Alum ’17

Shawn Creamer, Army Fellow ’16-17

Eugene Gohlz, Alum ’00

Kelly M. Greenhill, Research Affiliate
Kelly M. Greenhill, “Faking News: Fake news and alternative facts are nothing new. But only by understanding their history can we diffuse their disruptive power,” Tufts Magazine (May 2017).


Also, Spanish and Portuguese translations of Greenhill’s “Migration as a Weapon in Theory and in Practice” piece, which appeared in Military Review in December 2016 were published in May/June 2017 issue.

Jeanne Guillemin, Senior Advisor

is based on the proceedings of the April 2015 conference sponsored by the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science and the Fritz Haber Institute, Berlin.

**Robert Haffa, Alum ’82**

**Greg Koblentz, Alum ’04**


**Peter Krause, Alum ’11**

**Jeremy Pressman, Alum ’02**

**Russell Rumbaugh, Alum ’04**
Congressional Research Service report: Defining Readiness: Background and Issues for Congress.

**Jayita Sarkar, CIS Security Studies Fellow, ’16-17**


**Paul Staniland, Alum ’10**

**Caitlin Talmadge, Alum ’11**

**Alec Warsnop, Alum ’17**  

**Paul Walker, Alum ’78**  

**Jim Walsh, Faculty**  


“North Korea won’t be solved without South Korea - Trump Summit with President Moon is a chance to align strategy with key ally,” Fox News, June 21, 2017.

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**Notes from All Over**

**Joel Brenner, Senior Research Fellow**  
In late May Brenner spent four days in Tokyo briefing officials from the Cabinet office, the ministries of defense and economics, trade, and industry, and many private companies on our recent report on protecting critical infrastructure networks.

**Eugene Gholz, Alum ’00**  
Eugene Gholz is moving to the University of Notre Dame (leaving the University of Texas at Austin). His first day as an associate professor in the political science department at Notre Dame was July 1, 2017.

**Jeanne Guillemin, Senior Advisor**  
Jeanne Guillemin was the first to correctly answer Council quiz stating that Congress has passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for 55 years in a row until now. This year’s NDAA has not been passed yet. She was also the first to answer last week’s Center quiz, stating the U.S. ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in April, 1997.
Paul Staniland, Alum ’10
Paul Staniland was promoted to Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago.

Paul Walker, Alum ’78

Alec Warsnop, Alum ’17
Alec Warsnop was selected as a Non-Resident Fellow at the Modern War Institute at West Point for 2017-18. Warsnop will also be starting as an Assistant Professor in the School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland in August.

Awards and Scholarships

Shawn Creamer, Army Fellow ’16-17
Creamer’s Civilian Research Project for the Army War College won the General Ridgway Research Award this year. Professor Richard Samuels was Creamer’s academic adviser for this project. The project was titled, "Answering the Korea Question: U.S. Government Policy toward the Unified Command and the Korean Armistice Agreement."

Reid Pauly, Graduate Student
Reid Pauly won a Tobin fellowship to support his dissertation research.

Barry Posen, Faculty
Barry Posen was awarded the MIT, Frank Perkins Award in May 2017. The Frank E. Perkins Award for Excellence in Graduate Advising is given each year to a professor who has served as an excellent advisor and mentor for graduate students. The award is named in honor of Frank E. Perkins, Dean of the Graduate School from 1983-95.

Alec Warsnop, Alum ’17
Alec Warsnop’s dissertation received the Lucian Pye Award for best Political Science dissertation in the MIT Department of Political Science for 2017.

Ketian Zhang, Graduate Student
Ketian Zhang was awarded two fellowships: The Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Dissertation Fellowship and a Pre-doctoral Research Fellowship at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs.