

SECURITY STUDIES

For decades, CIS has been the home of some of the most rigorous research and educational programs on arms control, defense, and national and international security issues in the United States.

In 1958, Director Max Millikan headed a committee on the future of social science teaching and research at MIT. One of its recommendations was that the Institute take on initiatives in defense and arms control. In 1960, Professor Lincoln Bloomfield, a former State Department official, organized graduate seminars on the use of military force, conventional weapons transfers, and arms control. The next year, Professor William Kaufmann, a former RAND defense and security analyst, joined the Center and started a seminar series on defense budgeting and analysis. During the mid 1970s, Professors Jack Ruina (an electrical engineer) and George Rathjens (a chemist) organized MIT-wide seminars on nuclear weapons and arms control policy.

These elements were the seeds for the establishment, in 1976, of the Defense and Arms Control Studies program (DACS), which in 1996 became the MIT Security Studies Program (SSP).

DACS and SSP have had two overriding missions: to train MIT students to become leading analysts of security policy and to conduct research on international affairs within a scientific and technological context, for the purpose of informing public policy.

Despite shifts in emphasis and personnel, security studies has been one of the most enduring programs at CIS—in part because of the importance of the subject, but also because the Center created an ongoing community of scholars and policy analysts from numerous disciplines and backgrounds working on issues vital to national security. This was the kind of thing Max Millikan hoped to do when he established the Center.

Crisis Simulations

During the late 1950s and early 1960s, Professor Lincoln Bloomfield pioneered the technique of political-military gaming, and developed a series of simulations for high-level government decision-makers. Later, Bloomfield and Allen Moulton, a computer scientist, developed CASCON (Computer-Aided System for Analysis of Local Conflicts)—software to provide governments and policy-makers with early warning and analysis of impending crises.



DACS

The early years of the Defense and Arms Control Studies program (DACS) for graduate research and education coincided with the Carter-era focus on arms control and nuclear weapons and the Reagan-era intensification of Cold War concerns. While the program took on comparative defense policy and politics as well as defense budgeting issues, much of its work reflected the times, and centered on analyses of Soviet and U.S. strategic nuclear systems. *Soviet Defense Notes*, published by a DACS working group led by Stephen Meyer, became the leading open-source, non-governmental resource on the Soviet military.

During the early 1990s, DACS increased its focus on international relations and brought in visiting fellows from each of the military services. The program also launched its influential publication, *Breakthroughs*.



ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

CIS received several grants during the 1960s and 1970s to study arms control and disarmament. In 1963, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency called on the Center to study Soviet attitudes toward the possible impact of disarmament on the U.S.S.R. In 1973, the Center received additional funds for research and training in the field, and new projects led by Professors Jack Ruina, George Rathjens, Eugene Skolnikoff and other faculty members were begun.



William Kaufmann

William Kaufmann, a RAND defense and security analyst, came to MIT in 1961 and laid the groundwork for the graduate program in security studies at CIS. His research and teaching—and his consulting for the Defense Department—focused largely on the U.S. defense budget.



Jack Ruina

Jack Ruina was the first director of DACS (1976–1989). Earlier, he had been director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and president of the Institute for Defense Analyses. Professor Ruina taught in MIT's Electrical Engineering Department, and, during the late 1960s, was vice-president of the MIT defense laboratories.



George Rathjens

Prior to joining CIS, George Rathjens worked at the Weapons Systems Evaluation Division of the Department of Defense, the Institute for Defense Analyses, and the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. He was Deputy Director of DARPA under Jack Ruina. An expert on international arms control who joined MIT's Political Science Department in 1968, he founded the New Directions in International Security and Defense Policy Working Group with



Carl Kaysen

Carl Kaysen was Deputy National Security Advisor to President Kennedy and Director of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. He joined MIT in 1976 as a member of DACS and as a Professor of Political Economy. As Director of the MIT Program in Science, Technology and Society (1981–1987), he focused on the interplay between technology, politics and arms policy.



Stephen Meyer

Political Scientist Stephen Meyer led DACS's groundbreaking academic program dedicated to an intensive study of the Soviet military.



Harvey Sapolsky

The director of DACS/SSP since 1989, Professor Harvey Sapolsky led the program through its transition and expansion. He is a political scientist with public policy expertise in both defense and health care issues.

SSP

DACS was renamed the MIT Security Studies Program (SSP) during the 1996–1997 academic year, under the direction of Professor Harvey Sapolsky. SSP continued the post-Cold War shift in emphasis away from the nuclear balance of power and toward such topics as ethnic conflict, humanitarian intervention, defense politics, foreign policy, international relations theory, and comparative grand strategy. Working groups on non-proliferation studies and Asian security issues were formed, and the military fellows program was expanded. At the end of the decade, SSP was the largest degree program of its kind in the United States.



A RANGE OF EXPERTISE

Many first-generation faculty members in security studies at CIS had worked at the State Department, the White House and the Department of Defense, and brought with them hands-on experience in national security and intelligence matters. Most of the faculty hired in the ensuing years were academics whose research dealt with both Cold War and post-Soviet concerns. A third generation expanded the purview of security studies still further, to include ethnic politics and international relations theory. The program has always included faculty with degrees in engineering and the physical sciences, as well as in political science.

Barry Posen

Political Scientist Barry Posen, a specialist in comparative grand strategy and military doctrine, U.S. national security policy, the control of escalation, and military innovation. Author of the award-winning book, *The Sources of Military Doctrine*.



Thomas Christensen

Thomas Christensen, a political scientist with expertise on international relations and strategic studies, particularly of East Asia. (Shown here with members of the Chinese military.)



Theodore Postol

Theodore Postol, an MIT-trained physicist and Professor of Science, Technology and National Security Policy. Before joining CIS, he worked at the Argonne National Lab and the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, and was science advisor to the Chief of Naval Operations. Postol is a leading critic of the U.S. missile defense program.



Cindy Williams

Dr. Cindy Williams, a mathematician whose areas of specialization include the national security budget, command and control of military forces, conventional air and ground forces, and nuclear weapons. Before coming to CIS, was Assistant Director for National Security at the Congressional Budget Office.



George Lewis

George Lewis, an associate director of the Security Studies Program. His focus is on the technical analyses of arms control and international security issues.



Owen Coté, Jr.

Dr. Owen Coté, Jr., an associate director of SSP. A DACS-trained political scientist who specializes in the organizational, technological, and external threat-driven determinants of the military doctrines of each of the military services.



Stephen Van Evera

Stephen Van Evera, an expert on the causes of war, U.S. foreign policy, and U.S. intervention in the developing world. Named Associate Director of CIS in 2000.



Allison Macfarlane

A geologist, Allison Macfarlane's research focuses on the issues surrounding the management and disposal of high-level nuclear waste and fission materials.



Geoffrey Forden

Geoffrey Forden, a physicist with expertise in technical analyses of strategic weapons systems.

