

2020 FACULTY & GUEST SPEAKERS



H.R. MCMASTER

Introductory Guest Speaker

H. R. McMaster is the Fouad and Michelle Ajami Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University. He is also the Bernard and Susan Liautaud Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute and lecturer at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business. He was the 26th assistant to the president for National Security Affairs. Upon graduation from the United States Military Academy in 1984, McMaster served as a commissioned officer in the United States Army for thirty-four years before retiring as a Lieutenant General in June 2018.

McMaster holds a PhD in military history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was an assistant professor of history at the United States Military Academy from 1994 to 1996. He is author of *Battlegrounds: The Fight to Defend the Free World* and the award-winning *Dereliction of Duty*. He was a contributing editor for *Survival: Global Politics and Strategy* from 2010 to 2017. His many essays, articles, and book reviews on leadership, history, and the future of warfare have appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Survival*, *the Wall Street Journal*, and the *New York Times*.



RAPHAEL COHEN

Session 1: Introduction to National Defense

Raphael "Rafi" Cohen is the associate director of the Strategy and Doctrine Program in Project AIR FORCE at RAND. He works on a broad range of defense and foreign policy issues, including defense strategy and force planning, Middle East and European security and civil-military relations. Cohen previously held research fellowships at the Brookings Institution, the American Enterprise Institute and the National Defense University's Center for Complex Operations.

He has written for a variety of forums, including the *Journal of Strategic Studies*, *Foreign Affairs*, *The Washington Quarterly*, *Orbis*, *Fox News*, *War on the Rocks*, *Lawfare*, *The National Interest* and other publications. He also served as a staffer on the Congressionally-appointed 2018 National Defense Strategy Commission. A military intelligence branched lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve, Cohen has held a variety of command and staff positions in both the active and reserve components, including during two combat tours in Iraq from 2005 to 2006 and again from 2007 to 2008. He holds a B.A. magna cum laude in government from Harvard University and an M.A. in security studies and Ph.D. in government from Georgetown University.



ERIC EDELMAN

Session Two: Developing and Implementing Defense Strategy

Ambassador Eric S. Edelman is Counselor at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments. He retired as a career minister from the U.S. Foreign Service on May 1, 2009. He has served in senior positions at the Departments of State and Defense as well as the White House. As undersecretary of defense for policy (August 2005-January 2009), he was DoD's senior policy official, overseeing strategy development with global responsibility. He served as U.S. ambassador to Finland in the Clinton administration and Turkey in the Bush administration and was Vice President Cheney's principal deputy assistant for national security affairs. He was chief of staff to Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, special assistant to Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Robert Kimmitt, and special assistant to Secretary of State George Shultz. Ambassador Edelman has been awarded the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Joint Distinguished Civilian Service Award, the Presidential Distinguished Service Award, and several Department of State Superior Honor Awards. In 2010, he was named a knight of the French National Order of the Legion of Honor. Ambassador Edelman serves as the Chair of the National Defense Strategy Commission and on the bipartisan board of directors of the United States Institute of Peace.



BILL GREENWALT

Session Three: Budget, Industrial Base, and Policy

William C. Greenwalt is a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), where he focuses on the expansion of America's defense industrial base and defense management issues. Issues include technology-transfer reform, defense acquisition and procurement reform, technology policy and innovation, and the civil-military integration of Silicon Valley and the Department of Defense. Before rejoining AEI, Mr. Greenwalt served in senior positions at the Department of Defense, in Congress, and in the defense industry. As deputy under secretary of defense for industrial policy, he advised the under secretary of defense for acquisition, technology, and logistics on all matters relating to the defense industrial base. In Congress, he worked for the Senate Armed Service Committee, the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee. In the private sector, Mr. Greenwalt worked for Lockheed Martin and the Aerospace Industries Association. Mr. Greenwalt has a BA in economics and political science from California State University, Long Beach, and an MA in international relations and defense and security studies from the University of Southern California.



THOMAS MAHNKEN

Session 4: Force Structure & US Weapons Capabilities

Session 5: Future of Technology in Warfare

Dr. Thomas G. Mahnken is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments. He is a Senior Research Professor at the Philip Merrill Center for Strategic Studies at The Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). He currently serves as a member of the Congressionally-mandated National Defense Strategy Commission and as a member of the Board of Visitors of Marine Corps University. His previous government career includes service as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Policy Planning from 2006–2009, where he helped craft the 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review and 2008 National Defense Strategy. He served on the staff of the 2014 National Defense Panel, 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review Independent Panel, and the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction. He served in the Defense Department's Office of Net Assessment and as a member of the Gulf War Air Power Survey. He served for 24 years as an officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve, to include tours in Iraq and Kosovo. In 2009 he was awarded the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service and in 2016 the Department of the Navy Superior Civilian Service Medal.

2020 CLASS ROSTER



ALEX HU
Yale University '22

My principal intellectual interests center on the ways in which national historical experiences, political narratives, and cultural values affect our moral and strategic thought. This was largely spurred by my study of the “great books” of the Western tradition and hearing from foreign policy professionals who have been inspired by their liberal education. I am currently personally grappling with the whole host of seemingly irreconcilable visions of national identity that American leaders have grappled with in history: Where should sovereignty lie in a federal polity? Is America exceptional? What implications might this have on the role of the state in public life? What responsibilities do we have to the world? I hope to explore them further with AHS. I believe that our founding commitment to the principles of liberal democracy constrain us in peculiar ways when it comes to thinking about defense policy and the role of the armed forces in American life. In the future, my dream job is to work in Washington on education policy for national security professionals, as I believe that the liberal arts have much to offer.



ALLISON PLUEMER
Wake Forest University '22

I am a junior at Wake Forest University where I major in Politics and International Affairs with a focus on Indo-Pacific national security concerns. I first became interested in national security as a senior in high school when I took a course titled ‘Espionage and Diplomatic Policy’ from a former intelligence officer. That course piqued my curiosity, and I have continued to expand my knowledge and interests through my coursework, internships with the Hudson Institute and the Council on Foreign Relations, and my engagement with the Alexander Hamilton Society as a 2020 Summer Fellow. In this program, I hope to interact with peers who share similar passions, to learn from leaders in the defense and national security industries, and to grow as a young professional. In the next five years, I hope to enter the workforce with a depth of understanding of defense topics that speaks to my undergraduate and professional experiences. I aim to use my analytical and research skills and knowledge of national security issues to benefit the nation through government employment in the areas of national security, defense, or intelligence.



BRAYDEN HELWIG

Hillsdale College '21

Brayden "Brady" Helwig is a senior at Hillsdale College, where he studies politics with an emphasis in strategy and statesmanship. He currently serves as president of Hillsdale's AHS chapter. An aspiring strategist, Brady is interning at the Hudson Institute, where he conducts research on China strategy and the U.S.-China 'tech war' for senior fellow Nadia Schadow. This spring, he interned at The Heritage Foundation's Center for National Defense. Brady's research interests include the history and practice of grand strategy, Chinese strategic thought, and emerging technologies, and he is writing a senior thesis on the grand strategic thought of Alexander Hamilton. He hopes the Peace Through Strength boot camp will help him better understand the military instrument of grand strategy. After graduation, Brady plans to spend a year working in either Taiwan or Washington, D.C. before applying to graduate programs in strategic studies. His long-term goals include learning Mandarin Chinese and working as a China strategist in the Executive Branch.



CALLAHAN STOUB

Hillsdale College '21

I recently began my fourth year studying human nature through the liberal arts at Hillsdale College, primarily as a history major. I find the best way to attempt an understanding of human nature is through the act of evaluating the past through diplomacy, economics, philosophy, politics, religion, social order, and more. Within the past year, both my brothers and two of my closest friends have decided to pursue careers in the military. As an aspiring diplomat, the chance that their lives could be at risk because of my actions reminds me of the seriousness of the field. For this reason, military affairs have piqued my interest in courses such as American military history, war and politics, and small unit military leadership. Just as the liberal arts examine humanity through the lens of different disciplines, I believe it is important for diplomacy to be informed by different perspectives, especially a military perspective.



EMMA KINGHORN

**Junior Strategic Communications Specialist, Booz Allen Hamilton
Miami University '20**

I recently graduated from Miami University with degrees in Journalism and Individualized Studies (International Security) and a minor in Arabic. My father is the reason I became interested and involved in military-related study. He is a lover of military history, and it was often something he and I set aside time for throughout a busy childhood. Now a consultant for Booz Allen Hamilton, I hope to be exposed to this apparatus in a variety of contexts over the next five years, and eventually to move back into federal service at the Department of Defense or the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. Throughout this experience, I hope to gain insight into best practices and future problems as seen by those who have already served in a variety of impactful roles in our national security space.



CAMERON VEGA

Arizona State University '21

Cameron Vega is a senior at Arizona State University studying classics, history, and foreign policy. The intersection of these studies and how they relate to human rights and mass atrocity crimes prevention is his academic and professional focus. The initial spark of interest in this came from a course he took with the Executive Director of the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, along with his internship at the U.S. Department of State's Office of United Nations Political Affairs. Cameron hopes to gain a more grounded understanding of the technicalities and complexities of defense policy from the Peace Through Strength Boot Camp, shifting away from the academic and toward the professional. Hailing from the state of the late Senator John McCain, he is also hoping to learn more about the annual National Defense Authorization Act process. In addition, he is excited to engage in discussions with peers and challenge his own thinking. Cameron will pursue a Masters of Arts in International Peace & Security from King's College London after graduation, with the goal of returning to the United States on a Pickering or Rangel Scholarship and entering the Foreign Service.



ETHAN EDWARDS

Ohio State University '21

Politics, I believe, is for the benefit of people. Both foreign and domestic politics should be utilized to promote the common good. However, there is an intrinsic need to understand economics and its role in ensuring prosperity. This intersection of politics and economic policy is both an area of interest and study for me as I enter my senior year at the Ohio State University. I was raised in a family that instilled both a sense of justice and sacrificial service. To us, sacrifice and justice are intertwined. And it is from this perspective that I have sought to understand economic and political policies, their domestic impact, and how sound policy can increase a country's wealth and security. I earnestly desire to serve my country well in this regard. Therefore, I believe that this program will allow me the opportunity to further my studies in these areas and better understand the domestic influences on American power projection. I believe that this will prepare me academically and professionally. I aspire to study strategic studies and its economic component in order to work as an analyst or policy maker in the defense and foreign policy community.



ILARI PAPA

**Research Assistant, Washington Institute for Near East Policy
Georgetown University '20**

I am currently working as a Research Assistant for Michael Singh, the Managing Director, at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. My interest in foreign policy and national security stems from my background. My grandfather was an Office of Strategic Services intelligence officer during WWII, which inspired me to study politics. Additionally, I attended an international high school, United World College, in the Netherlands, which introduced me to diverse cultures and helped me forge friendships with peers from all over the world. That experience taught me about the importance of empathy in foreign policy.

Furthermore, I decided to study international politics and security at Georgetown University, from which I graduated summa cum laude in May 2020 and wrote a thesis on Russia's information warfare in Albania. My studies at Georgetown as well as internships at New America and the Communities Overcoming Extremism Project honed my passion in studying disinformation, and my work for General Wesley Clark and Dr. Matthew Kroenig helped me bridge my interest in information warfare with great power competition.

I hope to use the Boot Camp to better understand the government's view on the paramount national security challenges in the great power competition era and to help foster productive alliances between the private and public sectors in countering disinformation. Over the next five years, I aim to pursue my graduate studies and join tech companies in order to help them fight against foreign and domestic disinformation, especially in developing countries where the companies seem to lack capabilities.



JOSH CHANG

**Research Assistant, Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments
Georgetown University '20**

Josh Chang graduated with honors from Georgetown University with a BSFS in International Politics, concentrating in International Security and minoring in Spanish and Diplomatic Studies. He is currently a second-year master's candidate at Georgetown University's Security Studies Program and a research assistant at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments (CSBA), where he focuses on US defense strategy, great power competition, and foreign military capabilities. He seeks to broaden his analytical skills and knowledge of defense and foreign policy issues through the PTSBC program. In the future, he hopes to become a foreign policy analyst and/or research fellow, disseminating articles, reports, and other materials to inform both the private and public sector on pressing issues in US national security policy.



JOSHUA HIGGS
Vanderbilt University '21

I am majoring in Law, History, and Society and minoring in Political Science and Business. Majority of the men in my family enlisted in the Army and Air Force at a young age. Seeing the discipline enacted by the men in my family led me to eventually become interested in National Security Law/National Defense. I hope to gain a more visceral understanding of the arduous process that it takes to coordinate a feasible and ambitious defense policy. I have always read about the history and theoretical justifications for defense planning, but have no idea about the budgeting behind those ideals. This bootcamp will give me a much appreciated outlook on US Defense Policy and Budgeting. Learning this at the forefront of my career would equip me with a foundation to discern what viable US strategic ideals should be of utmost importance to our diplomatic needs. I plan on commissioning as an Officer in the Air Force. My next five years will be focused on being the best officer and leader I can be in hopes of serving either in the Pentagon, NSC, or any high office that will aid in American dominance throughout the world.



MAX CASTROPARDES
Policy Advisor, Department of Homeland Security
University of Virginia '20

I recently graduated with distinction from the University of Virginia this past May with a degree in Foreign Affairs. Following graduation, I moved to Washington, D.C., and am currently in the onboarding process to begin next month at the Department of Homeland Security as a policy advisor for the Assistant Secretary Border Security and Immigration. After attending the Reagan Defense Forum and writing a thesis on President George H.W. Bush's foreign policy, I developed a strong interest in learning more about national security and statecraft. Through your program, I hope to meet other talented peers that are as motivated as I am about working in government. I am especially eager to listen to your program's guest speakers like Ambassador Eric Edelman and Thomas Mahnken to learn more about what war might look within my lifetime given rapid advancements in weapons technology.



KEVIN PETERSON
Columbia University '22

Kevin Petersen is a junior at Columbia University and a U.S. Army veteran of Operation Freedom's Sentinel in Afghanistan. At Columbia, he primarily studies economics with an intended focus on developmental economics. However, he also studies international relations and history, specifically intellectual history and Middle East history. He has been a member of Columbia University's Alexander Hamilton Society chapter, the treasurer for the Columbia University Libertarians, and the Student Veteran Representative on student council. He also served as the Columbia University delegate to the annual Student Conference on United States Affairs at the United States Military Academy. From this seminar, he hopes to better understand the organizational decision-making process of the United States military in relation to its near-term grand strategy. After graduating from Columbia, he intends to continue his military service in the U.S. Army National Guard while pursuing a career in either economic research or journalism.



MICHAEL SAUER

University of Wisconsin '21

Michael Sauer is a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison studying Economics and Political Science, with certificates in East Asia studies, South Asia studies, and Public Policy. He completed intensive Hindi language training while studying in New Delhi, India in summer 2018. This experience crystallized Michael's passion for international affairs, foreign policymaking, and facilitating a rising, peaceful Indo-Pacific security order for the 21st century. At Wisconsin, Michael leads several policy and academic organizations aimed at fostering dialogue, ideas, and debate among students. He recently represented Wisconsin at the Henry Clay Center for Statesmanship's 2020 College Student Congress. There, Michael was a contributing member to the policy committee on U.S.-China relations. Additionally, he participated in AEI's 2020 Summer Honors course on China's Military and the Balance of Power in Asia, taught by Dr. Oriana Skylar Mastro. Through the Peace Through Strength Boot Camp, Michael aspires to explore the defense budget's intricacies, U.S. military readiness, and the future of warfare. Over the next five years, Michael hopes to serve as an Intelligence Officer in the United States Air Force, where he would analyze information, coordinate with the Joint Force, and assess adversarial capabilities.



NICK DANBY

United States Navy OCS

Harvard University '20

I graduated magna cum laude with Highest Honors from Harvard University this May while concentrating in history and government. My senior thesis focused on American grand strategy in the Persian Gulf from 1977-1990. I will be heading to Navy OCS in November to commission as an active duty naval intelligence officer for the next four years. As a naval officer, I hope to further develop my leadership skills, become more comfortable with professional ambiguity and intelligence analysis, and better understand the psychology and actions of America's burgeoning adversaries. After completing my initial four-year commitment, I plan to take up my offer at the University of Cambridge for an MPhil in International Relations and attend law school.



SAMANTHA COOPER

George Washington University '21

Samantha Cooper is a senior at George Washington University majoring in political science. She has interned with the Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, where she was a research assistant on topics pertaining to nuclear command and control, supply chain management, and public opinion surrounding defense initiatives. She has also interned with Congressman Vern Buchanan of Florida. Samantha is currently working for the Florida Department of Education and the non-profit group, A21, on the writing team for the first human trafficking prevention curriculum guide to be created in any state. While she has worked on a range of projects, she has been interested in the defense field since she was a child, largely due to her parents' careers as Naval Officers. Samantha hopes to improve her practical knowledge in U.S. defense policy during the Peace Through Strength Boot Camp and leave with the ability to apply that knowledge to her future projects.



SEBASTIAN BORDA

**Foreign Policy Legislative Correspondent, Office of Sen. James Lankford
Duke University '20**

In May, I graduated from Duke University where I studied public policy and political science. Over the last few months, I interned for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and recently accepted a position in Senator Lankford's office, where I will be the foreign policy legislative correspondent. I'm eager to learn more about the Senate's role in formulating national security policy and the role of various committees, particularly the Senate Appropriations Committee. I hope my time on Capitol Hill allows me to assess my theoretical understanding of politics and weigh it against its practice. In addition, I hope to develop a clearer sense of my regional and topical interests when responding to constituents and handling correspondence. As I cover the defense, veterans, trade, and foreign policy portfolios, I am sure I will gain a deeper understanding of the broader national security apparatus, which will prove valuable in my graduate studies and beyond.



SHANNON STILLWELL

American University '21

I am a senior at American University's School of International Service, focusing on National Security, Foreign Policy, Global Security, and Conflict Resolution with a regional concentration in Russia and Russian language. My discovery of Ronald Reagan's Berlin Wall Speech during my sophomore year of high school sparked an enthusiasm for Reaganite philosophy, which has since blossomed into a passion for international relations, military institutions, defense strategy, and Cold War history. I am incredibly honored to have been selected for the inaugural Peace Through Strength Boot Camp with the Alexander Hamilton Society and the Ronald Reagan Institute. I look forward to expanding my knowledge on defense and national security, particularly in the spheres of force structure and readiness and the future of warfare. Following graduation, I intend to work as an analyst of Russian influence in Latin America, coupling my Spanish and Russian language skills with my passion for American military defense. In the next five years, I plan to pursue a master's-- and eventually a doctorate--degree in Security Studies while being a productive member of the American intelligence analysis community. Above all else, my aim is to use my ever-evolving skill sets to protect American interests at home and abroad.



SUZETTE KANE

**Research Analyst, Baron Public Affairs
Georgetown University '20**

I currently work as a research analyst at Baron Public Affairs, where I focus on China-related political risk and security issues for government and private sector clients. I joined Baron after graduating this spring from Georgetown's School of Foreign Service, where I majored in International Politics with a minor in Spanish. Within the field of national security, I am particularly interested in the practical obstacles – such as budgeting issues and differing priorities of the private sector – that complicate the implementation of U.S. defense strategy. In line with these interests, I hope to deepen my understanding of why and how certain issues present such enduring challenges to achieving strategy objectives over the course of this program. Over the next five years, I hope to continue working to assist the private sector navigate shifts in the political environment, as well as support efforts to bring their interests in alignment with those of the U.S. national security establishment. I also plan to return to school, although I am undecided between pursuing a JD or a master's degree focusing on national security or political risk.



VINCENT CONE

Carleton College '22

I am a junior at Carleton College majoring in International Relations and Asian Studies and minoring in Chinese. Within my major, I am focusing primarily on U.S. foreign policy and Sino-American relations. Although I am incredibly grateful for the classes that I have been able to take thus far at Carleton and have been incredibly impressed with my professors, I have not had the occasion to adequately study defense or military history as a college student. The Peace Through Strength Bootcamp will undoubtedly work to fill that academic void. AHS has consistently provided me with opportunities to study defense policy outside the traditional classroom, and this is yet another outstanding chance to do so. After I graduate, I would like to pursue a career in government service, preferably in diplomacy or defense. Ultimately, my goal is to further U.S. national security goals in any capacity, especially as they relate to China and East Asia.



BEN NOON

**Research Assistant, Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments
Vanderbilt University '20**

Ben Noon is a research assistant at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments. He is also a fellow in the Public Interest Fellowship, a two-year educational and employment placement program. Ben is professionally interested in East Asian security, great power competition, and Chinese politics. Ben is a graduate of Vanderbilt University, where he majored in Political Science and minored in Asian Studies. He is Vanderbilt's founding member of the Alexander Hamilton Society. Ben has interned at various institutions such as American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai, the RWR Advisory Group, and the Research on Conflict and Collective Action Lab at Vanderbilt University. In the Peace Through Strength Boot Camp program, Ben hopes to gain a deeper understanding of the theory and practice of American defense strategy. In the future, he hopes to pursue an advanced degree in international studies and serve in the Department of Defense or State.