

Senior Conference XLIV
American Civil-Military Relations: Fifty Years after *The Soldier and the State*
Thursday, May 31 - Saturday, June 2, 2007

Topics and Themes

Please plan to arrive Thursday by late afternoon.
The evening reception, dinner, and speaker will begin at 5:30 p.m.
(See agenda for detailed times of each event.)

Opening Keynote Address

Thursday, May 31, Evening Dinner Speaker

Dr. Peter Feaver, Hehmeyer Professor of Political Science and Public Policy
Department of Political Science, Duke University

First Plenary Session

(Friday, June 1, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.)

Theme: The Strategic Environment and Implications for Civil-Military Relations

Chair: Dr. Don Snider

What factors from the strategic environment will shape American
civil-military relations over the next decade?

Focus Topic: Character and Practice of Warfare

How will the evolving challenge of asymmetric and irregular forms of warfare influence civil-military relations? Will the influences have different impacts on civilians and military professionals? Within the military sphere, will they have a different impact among U.S. allies and even among different components of the military profession within the United States?

Respondents

Williamson Murray
Nadia Schadlow

Focus Topic: Requirements of Strategic Decision-Making

Is the traditional view of the civil-military relationship, which focuses primarily on the issue of “control” and also at the very senior level of political leaders and military commanders, now too narrow? Do changes in the practice of warfare, such as increased multinational and interagency cooperation requirements and increased information throughout the battlefield, demand a new paradigm?

Respondents

Richard Lacquement
Denis Sevaistre

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Second Plenary Session

(Friday, June 1, 10:15 – 11:45 a.m.)

Theme: The Evolving Domestic Context and American Civil-Military Relations

Chair: LTC Ike Wilson

What dynamics within American society and the American political system will shape U.S. civil-military relations over the next decade? In what ways will the “decade after Iraq” be similar to and different from the “decade after Vietnam”?

Focus Topic: Changes in the U.S. Military’s Relationship to Society

What are the boundaries of the American military professions today? Are the armed services representative of American society and its changing mores? What is the role of the media in the relationship between the military and the society it serves? What are the implications of changes in these areas for American civil-military relations?

Respondents

David Segal

Jason Dempsey

Focus Topic: Changes in Political Behavior by the Military

Will the extensive integration of the military into the national security decision-making process, combined with U.S. military activism abroad, lead to increased political behavior by the military? To what extent is political behavior by military leaders harmful to democratic norms and military effectiveness? What cultural and political narrative about Iraq will the military adopt in the coming decade, and will this be helpful or harmful to future American civil-military relations? How does political behavior on the part of the military affect the relationship between the military and society?

Respondents

Richard Betts

Risa Brooks

(Lunch and Hudson River cruise will follow the Second Plenary Session.)

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**Third Plenary Session
(Friday, June 1, 2:00 p.m.)**

Theme: Finding the Right Framework for Future American Civil-Military Relations

Chair: LTC Suzanne Nielsen

What is the appropriate model that ought to govern and to manage future civil-military relations in America? Will such a model preserve the supremacy of democratic values while promoting military effectiveness?

Focus Topic: The Appropriate Model of Civilian Control

What norms should guide the civil-military interactions of political leaders and the strategic leaders of the military professions? How much of an issue is politicization of the military and the concomitant erosion of its professional ethic? Is Huntington's "objective control" still the best available model? Does the United States need a new framework? If so, what should it be?

Respondents

Mike Desch

Richard Kohn

Chris Gibson

Focus Topic: Contending with the Unequal Dialogue

How should the strategic leaders of the military respond to domineering civilian superiors who expect policy loyalty instead of expert military advice? Is this problem fundamentally different from military officers who ignore and attempt to "wait out" ineffectual civilian leaders? Is it possible to restructure either decision-making processes to ensure balance? Or, is this an issue of individual leaders and their moral courage rather than process? What is the appropriate role of retired flag officers in future civil-military relations?

Respondents

James Burk

Mat Moten

Friday Keynote Address

Friday, June 1, Evening Dinner Speaker

General (Retired) Eric K. Shinseki

Leadership Chair, Department of Behavioral Science and Leadership

United States Military Academy

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Fourth Plenary Session

(Saturday, June 2, 8:30-10:00 a.m.)

Theme: Policy Issues and Implications

Moderated by Panel Chairs/Rapportueurs

How should the strategic leaders of America's military professions be developed so that they are effective in the future environments? What are the appropriate norms which ought to govern future relationships between the strategic leaders of the military professions and the country's civilian political leaders?

Keynote Address

Saturday, June 2, 10:15 a.m.

Congressman Steve Israel (D-NY)

Fifth Plenary Session

(Saturday, June 2, 11:00 – 12:00 noon)

Wrap Up of Policy Issues and Implications

Moderated by Panel Chairs/Rapportueurs

(lunch will follow the Fifth Plenary Session)