

“Civil-Military Relations and Democracy in Polarized America”
Clements Center (Virtual), University of Texas
Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2020 @8:00pm EST
Invitation Annex
DRAFT Script/Outline

8:00 pm: Welcome from Prof. Sherman Teichman. Sponsor and co-sponsors. Nature of audience.

8:05: Moderator script:

Harvard political scientist Samuel Huntington, one of the founders of the modern study of civil-military relations, laid out two important reasons for us to survey habitually and cultivate this field. He called these reasons “imperatives of civil-military relations.” A functional imperative drove military organizations to high levels of operational and strategic competence for defending society against external threats, those primarily manifest in the armed services of rival nation-states. The second imperative was internally directed, that military institutions remain reflective and contained, conforming to dominant social forces, ideologies, and non-military institutions of the society uniformed officers were sworn to defend.

Our two-part series on contemporary civil-military relations emphasizes these same imperatives in turn. Tonight, we examine mounting evidence of politicization of the U.S. military, such as the events in Lafayette Square last June, and draw implications for the first imperative—again, civil-military relations ought to promote development of military competency to support the Commander-in-Chief in defense of the country, according to the rule of law and under the oversight of citizens’ representatives in Congress. After the election, we will hold a second expert panel to promote civil discussion of politicization of the military and its consequences for social and political functioning of democracy in the United States.

For tonight’s session, we have Jim Golby of the Clements Center for National Security at the University of Texas; Risa Brooks, Allis Chalmers Associate Professor at Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Col Heidi Urben, who in addition to her military assignments is adjunct professor at Georgetown University; and Col Suzanne Nielsen, head of the Department of Social Sciences, affectionately and respectfully known as SOSH, at the United States Military Academy, West Point. All our distinguished panelists are dedicated scholars and teachers of civil-military relations. Jim, Heidi, and Suzanne have lived civil-military relations as senior officers in the U.S. Army. Professor Brooks will anchor the civilian strategist’s perspective this evening, and I commend to our audience her lead article on “Paradoxes of Professionalism: Rethinking Civil-Military Relations in the United States,” in the Spring 2020 issue of the prestigious scholarly journal, *International Security*.

As your moderator, I am Damon Coletta, 2020-2021 Scowcroft Professor at the U.S. Air Force Academy, and I would be remiss if I did not mention that we assemble in civil society one week from the nation's first presidential election since we lost, in August, Air Force Lt Gen (ret.) Brent Scowcroft. Colleague of William Clements across two administrations in the wake of Watergate; National Security Advisor to two presidents in different decades; mentor to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, and countless others, as an O-5, Lt Col Scowcroft was also deputy before he became head of my department—the Department of Political Science—at USAFA during the early 1960s. You can read about Brent Scowcroft's life and career in Bartholomew Sparrow's acclaimed biography, *The Strategist*, as well as explore rich tributes to him from the Atlantic Council in Washington, D.C. and the Aspen Institute Strategy Group, Washington, D.C. and Colorado. One inspiring virtue trumpeted consistently and unmistakably from all these sources is General Scowcroft's *policy integrity*. I would like to kick off by asking all of us, as we listen intently for our panelists' remarks, to ponder this phrase, policy integrity. What does "policy integrity" mean"? What does it entail when applied to an extraordinary person who served the Joint Chiefs of Staff then the U.S. National Security Council as senior military officer and ultimately civilian strategist over several tumultuous and, it must be said, polarized decades for the United States in world affairs?

Dr. Golby of the Clements Center, we are ready: a penny for your thoughts on "Civil-Military Relations and Democracy in Polarized America."

8:15: Jim on Trump's generals and the process of advising the president.

8:22: Risa on paradoxes of professionalism in polarized America and implications for making National Security policy

8:30: Heidi on explicit partisanship among junior officers and troops in polarized America—what it means for senior ranks serving the president and informing Congress.

8:38: Suzanne on the service academies and PME—suggestions for civ-mil education on strategic thinking in polarized America.

8:46: Question & Answer (40 minutes), moderated in virtual space by Damon with Ben as back-up, monitoring, organizing, and feeding chat traffic.

9:26: Thank you to Sherman and Clements Center! Advertisement for session II.

9:30 pm: END