

THE PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH BOOT CAMP

OCTOBER 22 - 25, 2020

Held virtually in light of the ongoing public health crisis, the inaugural Peace Through Strength Boot Camp was an intensive four-day program run in partnership between the Alexander Hamilton Society and the Ronald Reagan Institute. The program educated a group of 20 advanced undergraduate students, graduate students, and recent graduates about the vocabulary, theory, practice, and organization of U.S. defense policy.

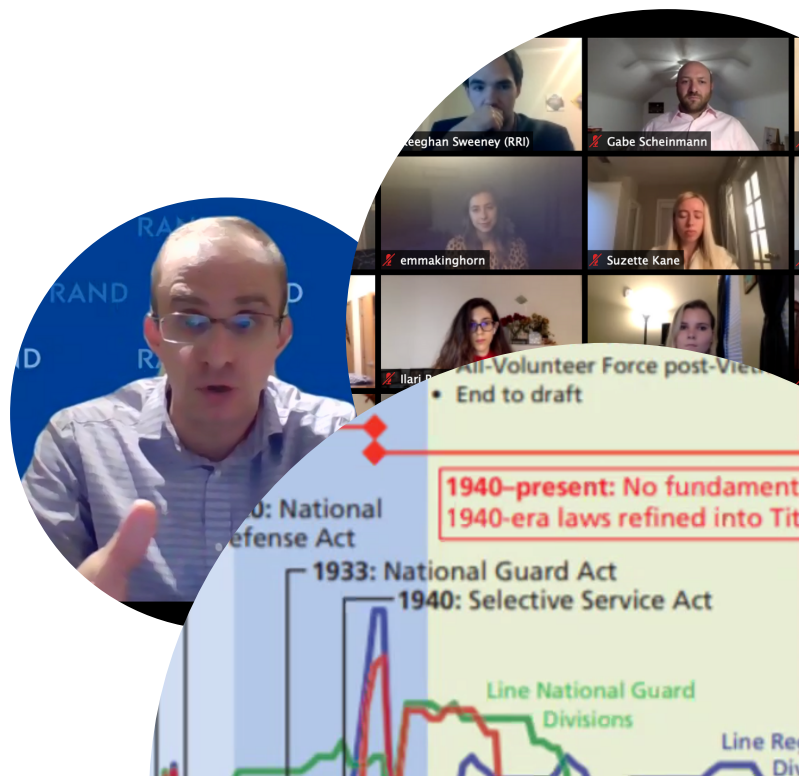
In a series of eight virtual sessions, participants heard from distinguished senior leaders in the national security and military communities, emerging with a strong fundamental understanding of defense affairs. Experts covered topics from budgeting to strategy planning, force structure to the industrial base.

The opening session featured a conversation with Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster on his book *Battlegrounds: The Fight to Defend the Free World*, in which McMaster outlined his views on the foremost challenges for American policymakers in the years ahead. Raphael Cohen of RAND Corp. gave students an overview of the national defense apparatus, sketching the historical contours of its various branches and organizations. Former Ambassador Eric Edelman then discussed the twin challenges of developing and implementing a national defense strategy, from planning documents to on-the-ground execution.

AEI's William Greenwalt next walked students through the budget and acquisition processes, tracing the transformation of bureaucratic plans into operational realities. In the final two sessions to close out the Boot Camp, the Center for Budgetary Assessment's (CSBA) President Dr. Thomas Mahnken gave students an overview of the current U.S. Military's force structure, then looked ahead to the future roles technology might play in how America wages war.

"My experience with the Peace Through Strength Boot Camp was amazing, and I couldn't recommend it more highly. **If you are looking for a solid grounding in national defense policy, this program couldn't be more perfect.**"

STUDENT TESTIMONIAL



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STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

"The AHS & RRI'S Peace Through Strength Bootcamp has been the highlight of my academic career thus far. The opportunity to engage with leading academics and policymakers about the most prominent challenges to American national security allowed me to supplement my knowledge and hone new skills.

I feel better prepared to enter the workforce armed with my experience from this Bootcamp."

"Like many other students, my college curriculum is seriously lacking in courses about defense and military history: there are very few opportunities to discuss these topics even briefly. I would highly recommend the PTS Boot Camp to any and all of those who are interested."



SCHEDULE & AGENDA

Thursday, Oct 22

Introductions and Guest Speaker

Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster

Friday, Oct 23

Session 1: Introduction to National Defense

Raphael Cohen

Session 2: Developing Defense Strategy

Amb. Eric Edelman

Saturday, Oct 24

Session 3: Budget, Industrial Base, and Policy

William Greenwalt

Session 4: Force Structure & Weaponry

Thomas Mahnken

Sunday, Oct 25

Session 5: Future of Technology in Warfare

Thomas Mahnken