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.

**DACS**

The early years of the Defense and Arms Control Studies program (DACS) for graduate research and education coincided with the Carter Administration’s arms control and nuclear weapons and the Reagan-era internationalization 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 funding for research and training in the field, and new projects led by Professors Jack Ruina, George Rathjens, Eugene Stolnoff and other faculty members were begun.

**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-Cold War concerns. A third generation expanded the purpose 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.