



**2018 Sasakawa USA Emerging Expert Delegation (SEED) to Japan  
December 8-15, 2018**

***Delegation Bios***



**Tara Copp**  
**Pentagon Bureau Chief, *Military Times***

Tara Copp is the Pentagon bureau chief for the *Military Times* newspapers, where she directs daily coverage of Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and overall Pentagon policy. She was previously a Pentagon correspondent for *Stars and Stripes*. She has reported from the Middle East, Europe and Asia, and has appeared on CNN, BBC, FOX, HLN, National Public Radio and C-SPAN to discuss military issues.

Tara is a Plan II Honors Program graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and was editor of *The Daily Texan*. She earned her master's degree from Georgetown University in Security Studies. Her latest book "The Warbird" (Squadron Books) published in 2017. Her first book was "The Daily Texan: The first 100 Years" (Eakin Press, 1999.) She lives with her husband in Washington, D.C.



**Robbie Gramer**  
**Diplomacy and National Security Reporter, *Foreign Policy***

Robbie Gramer is a diplomacy and national security reporter at *Foreign Policy*, covering the State Department. Before he joined FP in 2016, he managed the NATO portfolio at the Atlantic Council, a Washington-based think tank, for three years. He's a graduate of American University, where he studied international relations and European affairs.



**John Hudson**  
**National Security Reporter, *Washington Post***

John Hudson is a national security reporter at the *Washington Post* covering the State Department and diplomacy. He previously covered foreign affairs for *Foreign Policy* magazine and BuzzFeed News where he reported from several geopolitical hotspots, including Ukraine, Pakistan, Malaysia, China, and Georgia. In 2008, he covered the August war between Russia and Georgia from Tbilisi and the breakaway region of Abkhazia. John graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in international relations.



**Tim Mak**  
**Political Reporter, NPR**

Tim Mak covers national security and politics for NPR. His reporting topics include investigating Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election, as well as the potential for future interference by foreign actors; challenges to America's democratic institutions; as well as the conservative movement and Republicans in the context of the 2018 elections. Before joining NPR, Mak worked as a senior correspondent at *The Daily Beast*, covering the 2016 presidential elections with an emphasis on foreign affairs. He has also worked on the Politico Defense team, the

Politico breaking news desk, and at the *Washington Examiner*. He covered the rise of the Tea Party movement in 2009 and 2010 for FrumForum. He has reported abroad from the Horn of Africa and East Asia. Mak graduated with a B.A. from McGill University, where he was a valedictorian. He also holds a national certification as an Emergency Medical Technician.



**Catherine (Katie) Putz**  
**Managing Editor, *The Diplomat***

Katie Putz is managing editor of *The Diplomat*. She is responsible for managing *The Diplomat's* monthly magazine as well as editing and writing for the website. In her writing, Katie focuses on Central Asia and Afghanistan. Katie is a graduate of the Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce at the University of Kentucky (2011), where she studied international security and Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania (2010), where she majored in history with a focus on U.S. diplomatic and conflict history.



**Alex Ward**

**International Security and Defense Writer, Vox** Alex Ward is the staff writer covering international security and defense issues, as well as a co-host of Vox's "Worldly" podcast. Before joining Vox, Alex was an associate director in the Atlantic Council's Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security where he worked on military issues and US foreign policy. He also wrote the #NatSec2016 newsletter for War on the Rocks where he covered the 2016 presidential election and the candidates' views on national security.



**Mackenzie Weinger**  
**Policy Editor, *National Journal***

Mackenzie Weinger is National Journal's policy editor. She previously covered national security at The Cipher Brief and reported on politics and media at Politico. Her work has also appeared in the Financial Times, World Politics Review, and The Washington Diplomat, among others. Mackenzie is a Los Angeles native and has a master's degree in War Studies from King's College London and a B.A. in history from the University of California, Santa Barbara.



**Kristina Wong**  
**Pentagon and National Security Correspondent, Breitbart News**

Kristina Wong covers the Pentagon and national security for *Breitbart News*. She was previously a staff writer at *The Hill* where she wrote about defense and Capitol Hill politics for *The Hill's* print edition and its defense blog, *Defcon*. She also worked as a national security reporter at *The Washington Times*, where she was embedded in Afghanistan in May 2013. Kristina has a Master of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University and received her B.A. in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles.