



# The Passport

World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area ([www.wacmb.org](http://www.wacmb.org))

January 2019

## Financing Terror: ISIS and Antiquities

**Jason Blazakis**

**Professor and Director,**

**Center on Terrorism, Extremism, and Counterterrorism, MIIS**

**Monday, January 21, 2019**

**11:30 am: Registration ~11:50 am: Luncheon ~12:50 pm: Program**

**\*\* Hilton Garden Inn, 1000 Aguajito Road, Monterey \*\***

For a number of years, ISIS has been engaged in the illegal antiquities trade, generating millions of dollars by looting priceless cultural artifacts. Jason Blazakis, the Director of the Center on Terrorism, Extremism, and Counterterrorism at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies (MIIS) will address this practice in his talk on January 21. He will discuss the overall ways that ISIS finances itself, and will then delve more specifically into its process of exploiting antiquities for profit. He will also address some of the countermeasures employed by the US government to combat this problem.



Professor Blazakis is a specialist in terrorism and counterterrorism, including the finances, group structures, social media presence, and state sponsorship of organizations that utilize terror. He was employed by the federal government for almost twenty years, working at the State Department, the Congressional Research Service, and the US Congress. Before arriving at MIIS in the Fall of 2018, he was the Director of the Counterterrorism Finance and Designations Office at the State Department. He holds master's degrees from Columbia and Johns Hopkins Universities.

### Calendar of Events

**Thursday, January 3**

**4:30 pm**

**Board Meeting: McCone Building Conference Room, MIIS. Open to members.**

**Monday, January 21**

**11:30 - 2:00 pm**

**Luncheon and Presentation: *Financing Terror: ISIS and Antiquities*, by Jason Blazakis**

**Monday, January 28**

**4:00 - 5:30 pm**

**Great Decisions: MPC Social Science Building Room 101. Parking \$3.00 in Lot D.  
(See page 2 for more information.)**

# GREAT DECISIONS IS BACK!

WACMB presents *Great Decisions*, an eight-week program produced by the Foreign Policy Association of America. *Great Decisions* is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. Each year, the program provides background information and policy options for eight of the most critical issues facing the United States; this information serves as the focal text for discussion groups all across the country, including ones at MPC and OLLI/CSUMB.

***Great Decisions* is free and open to the public.**

The following topics will be discussed: Refugees and Global Migration; The Middle East: Regional Disorder; Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future?; The Rise of Populism in Europe; Decoding US-China Trade; Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics; The US and Mexico: Partnership Tested; State of the State Dept. and Diplomacy.

Briefing Booklets should be available for purchase from the moderators at each site on a first come/first served basis. They may also be available at the January luncheon. You can buy yours online at [www.greatdecisions.org](http://www.greatdecisions.org) or by calling 1-800-477-5836. Ordering by phone or online may be more expensive than buying in person.

**MPC:** Meetings are 4:00-5:30 pm in Room 101, Social Sciences Building, on Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, 25, Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25. Parking is available for \$3 in Lot D.

**OLLI/CSUMB:** Meetings are 4:00-5:30 at the CSUMB Ryan Ranch Location, on Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25. Parking is free.

*Preregistration is required for the OLLI program.* Register at [olli.csumb.edu](http://olli.csumb.edu) (do not include a "www" at the beginning of the URL).

# October Program Report

## Dr. Thomas Bruneau

At the October luncheon, WACMB was honored to host Dr. Thomas Bruneau, Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the Naval Postgraduate School. Bruneau spoke on "Patriots for Profit? America's Experience with Private Military Contractors," with a particular focus on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Using private military contractors can be an attractive option for decision makers because there are no long term costs committed to a particular job, just a shorter term contract. In addition, such contractors can be quite effective, as they are often retired special forces and other well trained American military personnel. These sorts of contracts provide significant flexibility to decision makers.

Still, according to Bruneau, the use of private military contractors has gotten out of hand. In 2017, the total Department of Defense budget for contractors was \$320 billion, or 55% of the total DoD budget. Some people view contractors as mercenaries, a term Bruneau said is loaded. In reality, contractors are used by the DoD for a wide variety of jobs, from cooks to truck drivers to warriors. This kind of outsourcing is quite legal; indeed, it has been strongly encouraged in US law since the 1980s.

Contractors have become so pervasive in the DoD that most DoD contracting officers who write and oversee various contracts, are contractors themselves. At the end of the day, contractors report to the head of the company that employs them, not to the unit commander in whose office they work. Bruneau argued that significant reform is needed in the DoD contracting model in future American wars abroad.

by Glenn E. Robinson

## RESERVATION FORM

*Reservations due January 17 for January 21 presentation*

Registration 11:30 am

Luncheon 11:50 am

Program 1:00 pm

Mail form and check or credit information to:

WACMB, PO Box 83, Monterey, CA 93942

or fax reservation form to (831) 643-1846

Members @ \$29 \_\_\_\_\_

Guests @ \$35 \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Vegetarian? (Requires 72 hours notice) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Call the office at (831) 643-1855

## A Polite Request

Things become complicated when luncheon reservations reach the office after the deadline, and also when people arrive at the luncheons without making reservations beforehand. The luncheon venues charge WACMB a higher rate for meals that are ordered past the deadline. We don't want to pass those extra costs on to our members, and so we ask that you please respect the deadlines for registration that are listed on the reservation form.

Did you forget to mail your reservation in time to meet the deadline? Don't worry: you can now register online! Just go to [www.wacmb.org](http://www.wacmb.org) and find the News and Events list on the right sidebar. Click on the link to the next luncheon, then scroll down to Registration. The first paragraph contains options to register by phone or fax, and the second contains a link to register online. Check it out: it's easy and efficient!

## LUNCHEON MENU

- California Field Greens Salad
- Grilled Salmon Filet with a  
Lemon Dill Beurre Blanc
- Rice Pilaf and Seasonal  
Grilled Vegetables
- Fresh Rolls and Butter
- New York Cheesecake with  
Mango Coulis and Berries
- Coffee

## VEGETARIAN OPTION

- Bell Peppers Stuffed with Roasted  
Vegetables, Rice and Cheese

*This is the monthly newsletter of the World Affairs Council of the Monterey Bay Area (WACMB). Founded in 1951, the council is a non-profit, non-partisan organization established to promote the presentation, discussion, and study of international affairs. WACMB is a tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) organization, EIN-770301206. Contributions are tax deductible as permitted by law. WACMB sponsors monthly luncheons, discussion groups, and student scholarships.*

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- \*California State University Monterey Bay
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Student*.....	\$15

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\*Student memberships are limited to full-time students matriculating at an accredited college or graduate school. This also includes a special military membership for enlisted personnel, grades E-1 to E-4 only.

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