

JUNE 10, 2010

**1LT ANDREW J. BACEVICH, JR.,
USA, FELLOWSHIP AWARD**

PRESENTER:

Dr. John Nagl
President,
Center for a New American Security

RECIPIENT:

Brian Burton,
Bacevich Fellow,
Center for a New American Security

MR. FICK: Before your applause, I'd like to ask everyone to please remain in your seats for an important presentation when we're finished. And now please join me in thanking Secretary Flournoy for your presence here. (Applause.)

MR. JOHN NAGL: Thank you, Michele, for that analysis and discussion of the most pressing national security questions facing America today. Thank you as well for your service to our nation.

When Michele and Kurt Campbell established CNAS some four years ago, one of the reasons for their labor of love was their desire to educate, train, and inspire the next generation of national security leaders. Just weeks before the first CNAS annual conference, in May of 2007, just the sort of young person they had in mind, 1st Lieutenant Andrew Bacevich Jr. was killed in action in Saladin Province, Iraq. Andrew's loss affected the whole CNAS family very deeply. Andrew was the son of Professor Andrew Bacevich, a retired Army officer who teaches at Boston University and serves on the CNAS board of advisors. The Bacevich family graciously allowed Kurt and Michele to establish a fellowship in Andrew's honor. The Bacevich fellowship is awarded annually to the member of the CNAS team, whose quality of performance, determination to excel, and dedication to public service best honor the memory of Lt. Andrew Bacevich Jr.

The first Bacevich fellow was Shawn Brimley, who's with us today. Shawn, a one time Canadian Infantry officer, now serves in the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Policy.

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The second Bacevich fellow, Nirav Patel, is currently traveling in his role as senior advisor to the assistant secretary of state for East Asia.

Last year's Bacevich fellow, Christine Parthemore, is with us today – Kurt and Michele haven't gotten her into government yet. (Laughter.) Christine's papers on natural security and on climate change and the U.S. armed forces are being released today.

And the Bacevich fellow for 2010 is Brian Burton. And this is enormously meaningful for me, Brian, and I go back a long way. While Brian was still an undergraduate at Stanford University, he interviewed me for his senior thesis by telephone. Despite the poor quality of his sources – (laughter) – Brian earned interdisciplinary honors in international security studies and the Firestone Medal for Excellence and Undergraduate Research at Stanford University.

I told Jim Miller that Brian was the most talented person I'd never met. (Laughter.) And Jim hired Brian site on seen as an intern. And Brian began in June of 2007. He quickly earned promotions to research assistant and then research associate. While working at CNAS full time, Brian also earned a master's degree in the security studies program at Georgetown University.

He has authored or co-authored a number of CNAS papers, including major studies on the future of the U.S. relationship with Iraq and on the role of officers in the wars we fight today in collaboration with me.

Brian has also been published in the *Washington Quarterly*, the *Journal of Strategic Studies*, the *World Policy Journal*, and *Small Wars and Insurgencies*.

Brian's demonstrated record of intellectual excellence and his commitment to public service well-qualify him to deserve this honor. And therefore, in memory of Lt. Andrew Bacevich Jr.'s exceptional performance and demonstrated devotion to the service of the nation, it is my privilege to congratulate Brian Burton, the 1st Lieutenant Andrew Bacevich Jr. Fellow for 2010. (Applause.)

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for helping us honor Lt. Bacevich. It means a great deal to the Bacevich family.

Our next panel is "Strategy in the Age of Obama: Engagement and Its Limits." It will be chaired by Ambassador Nick Burns, a CNAS board member and a professor at the John F. Kennedy School of International Relations at Harvard University.

It's going to take us about five minutes to get set up, so it's a great time to grab something to drink.