

**JOSEPH H. FELTER, PhD**  
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**PROFILE:**

Joe Felter is a research fellow at Stanford's Hoover Institution and William J. Perry Fellow at the Center for International Security and Cooperation. Felter is codirector of the Empirical Studies of Conflict Project and coauthor of *Hacking for Defense*, a defense innovation-focused curriculum taught at more than 20 universities across the U.S. His previous academic positions include director of West Point's Combating Terrorism Center, assistant professor in the US Military Academy's Department of Social Sciences, and adjunct associate professor at Columbia University's School for International and Public Affairs. His research focuses on addressing politically motivated violence and has appeared in the *American Economic Review*, *Journal of Political Economy*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, and a range of other academic and policy-focused publications. He is coauthor of *Small Wars, Big Data: The Information Revolution and Modern Conflict* (Princeton University Press, 2018).

From 2017 to 2019, Felter served as US deputy assistant secretary of defense for South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Oceania. There he was the principal advisor for all policy matters pertaining to development and implementation of defense strategies and plans in the region and responsible for managing bilateral security relationships and guiding Department of Defense (DoD) engagement with multilateral institutions. Felter is a decorated combat veteran and former Army Ranger and Special Forces Officer with multiple combat deployments and service in a variety of special operations, diplomatic and other military assignments.

**EDUCATION:**

Ph.D., Stanford University, Political Science, 2005.

(Dissertation: "Taking Guns to a Knife Fight: A Case for Empirical Study of Counterinsurgency.")

Graduate Certificate in Management, University of West Australia, 2002.

Master of Public Administration, Harvard Kennedy School, 1998.

B.S., United States Military Academy, West Point, NY 1987.

**PREVIOUS ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

Senior Research Scholar, CISAC, Stanford University, 2011-2017

Research Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University, 2009-2017

Co-Director, Empirical Studies of Conflict Project, 2009-2017

Adjunct Professor, School for International and Political Affairs, Columbia University 2007-2008

Director, West Point Combating Terrorism Center, 2005-2008

Assistant Professor, Department of Social Sciences, US Military Academy West Point 2005-2008

**PUBLICATIONS**

***Books***

*Small Wars, Big Data: How the Empirical Revolution Can Help Fight and Win Today's Conflicts* with Eli Berman and Jacob Shapiro, Princeton University Press (2018).

## Journal Articles

“Export Crops and Civil Conflict” with Benjamin Crost. Forthcoming at *Journal of the European Economic Association*

*Election Fraud and Post-Election Conflict: Evidence from the Philippines* with Benjamin Crost, Hani Mansour and Daniel I. Rees. Forthcoming at *World Bank Economic Review*.

“Leaving Afghanistan: Lessons from the Soviet Experience” with Katya Drozdova. *Journal of Cold War Studies*, (2019) 21 (4): 31-70.

“Climate Change, Agricultural Production and Civil Conflict: Evidence from the Philippines” with Benjamin Crost and Daniel I. Rees. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, (2018) 88 (3): 379-395, 2018.

“Limiting Civilian Casualties as Part of a Winning Strategy: The Case of Courageous Restraint” with Jacob Shapiro, *Daedalus*, (2017) 146(1), 44-58.

“Conditional Cash Transfers, Civil Conflict, and Insurgent Influence: Experimental Evidence from the Philippines” with Benjamin Crost and Patrick Johnston. *Journal of Development Economics* (2016) 119:171-182.

“Aid Under Fire: Development Projects and Civil Conflict” with Benjamin Crost and Patrick Johnston. *American Economic Review* (2014) 104(6): 1833-56.

“Modest, Secure and Informed: Successful Development in Conflict Zones” with Eli Berman, Jacob Shapiro and Erin Troland. *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings* (2013) 103, 518-522.

“Can Hearts and Minds be Bought?” *The Economics of Counterinsurgency in Iraq*,” With Eli Berman and Jacob N. Shapiro. *Journal of Political Economy* (2011) 119, 766-819.

“Do Working Men Rebel?” *Insurgency and Unemployment in Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Philippines*.” With Eli Berman, Michael Callen, and Jacob N. Shapiro. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* (2011) 55, 496-528.

## Other Articles, Book Chapters, Policy Papers

“Sources of Military Effectiveness in Counterinsurgency” chapter in “*The Sword’s Other Edge: Tradeoffs in the Pursuit of Military Effectiveness*” Cambridge University Press (2018).

“Aid for Peace: Does Money Buy Hearts and Minds?” With Eli Berman and Jacob Shapiro. *Foreign Affairs*, January 2015.

*Airstrikes Can Only Do So Much to Combat ISIS*, Op-ed to the New York Times, Aug. 13, 2014.

“Why Do Insurgencies Fail? Causes and Effects Governance and Military Force in Counterinsurgency Strategies.” (2012) *Historical Methods: A Journal of Quantitative and Interdisciplinary History* 45(5): 183-186.

*“Afghan Security Forces and Security Lead Transition: The Assessment Process, Metrics and Efforts to Build Capability”* Testimony before the Sub-Committee on Oversight and Investigations, House Armed Services Committee, US House of Representatives. July 24, 2012.

*“The Enemy of my Enemy: Al Qaeda and the Libyan Insurgency”*, With Brian Fishman. *Foreign Policy*, April 2011.

*“Constructive COIN: How Development Can Fight Radicals.”* With Eli Berman and Jacob Shapiro. *Foreign Affairs* (online), June 2010.

*“Iranian Influence in Iraq: Politics and ‘Other Means.’”* With Brian Fishman. Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, NY, October 2008.

*“Al-Qa’ida’s Foreign Fighters in Iraq: A Second Look at the Sinjar Records.”* In Brian Fishman ed. *Bombers, Bank Accounts, and Bleedout: Al’Qa’ida’s Road in and Out of Iraq*. Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, NY, 2008.

*“The Power of Truth: Questions for Ayman al-Zawahiri.”* With Jarret Brachman and Brian Fishman. Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, NY, 2008.

*“The Internet: A Portal to Violent Islamist Extremism.”* Testimony before the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs, US Senate May 3, 2007.

*“CTC Report: An Assessment of 516 Combatant Status Review Tribunal (CSRT) Unclassified Summaries.”* With Jarret Brachman. Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, NY, 2007.

*“Al-Qa’ida’s Foreign Fighters in Iraq: A First Look at the Sinjar Records.”* With Brian Fishman. Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, NY, 2007.

*Harmony and Disharmony: Exploiting al-Qa’ida’s Organizational Vulnerabilities.* Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, NY, 2006. With Jacob N. Shapiro, et. al.

*“Recruitment for Rebellion and Terrorism in the Philippines.”* In James Forest ed. *The Making of a Terrorist: Recruitment, Training and Root Causes* (Praeger International, 2006).

*“Aligning Incentives to Combat Terrorism.”* In Rohan Gunaratna ed. *Combating Terrorism* (Singapore: Marshall Cavendish Academic, 2005).

### **Active Working Papers and Draft Manuscripts**

*Extractive Resource Policy and Civil Conflict: Evidence from Mining Reform in the Philippines.* Revise & Resubmit *Journal of Development Economics*.

*Taking Guns to a Knife Fight: Military Effectiveness in Counterinsurgency.* Unpublished manuscript.

*Expanding Governance as Development” Evidence on Child Nutrition in the Philippines* with Eli Berman and Mitch Downey NBER WP #21849 January 2016.

*“Predation, Taxation, Investment and Violence: Evidence from the Philippines”* with Eli Berman, Ethan

Kapstein, and Erin Troland, NBER Working Paper No. 18375 August 2013.

*“Insurgent Math: The Impact of Civilian Casualties on the Afghan Insurgency.”* with Luke N. Condra, Radha K. Iyengar and Jacob Shapiro, NBER Working Paper 16152, December 2011.

## **TEACHING HISTORY**

### **Stanford University:**

*The Face of Battle* Fall 2011, Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016.

*Hacking for Defense: Solving National Security Problems Using the Lean Launchpad* Spring 2016, Spring 2017

*Technology and National Security* Fall 2016,

*CISAC Undergraduate Honors Seminar* Fall 2012, Winter 2013, Spring 2013.

*Bridging the Civil Military Divide*, Spring 2016.

*Hacking for Diplomacy: Solving National Security Problems Using the Lean Launchpad*, Fall 2016.

### **United States Military Academy at West Point**

Assistant Professor, Department of Social Sciences, United States Military Academy, 2005 – 2008.

Courses taught: International Relations; Advanced International Relations Theory; Terrorism Studies; Advanced Terrorism Studies

### **Columbia University**

Adjunct Professor, School of International & Public Affairs, Columbia University, 2007-2008. Courses Taught: Limited War and Low Intensity Conflict

## **GRANTS**

Office of Naval Research (ONR) NEPTUNE Grant, *“Stanford Hacking for Defense Project,”* 2017, \$2.94M, three years.

Department of Defense Minerva Research Initiative, *“Terrorism, Governance, and Development,”* 2009, Co-PI, \$9.9M, six years.