

NATE D.F. ALLEN

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Associate Professor

Africa Center for Strategic Studies
National Defense University
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Washington, DC 20319

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY:

Africa Center for Strategic Studies , Associate Professor of Security Studies	2019-Present
Stellenbosch University , Non-Resident Research Fellow	2022-Present
Council on Foreign Relations , Term Member	2020-Present
U.S. Institute of Peace , Policy Advisor, Task Force on Extremism in Fragile States	2018-2019
Johns Hopkins University , Researcher, Nigeria Social Violence Project	2014-2017
Department of State , Rosenthal Fellow, Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations	2013
NORC at the University of Chicago , Research Analyst, International Projects	2009-2012
U.S House of Representatives , Intern, Foreign Affairs & Armed Services Committees	2008-2009

EDUCATION:

Johns Hopkins University, Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)

Ph.D., International Relations (2018)

- Dissertation: “Confronting the Janus Face: The Armed Forces and African Transitional Politics.”
- Quantitative cross-country analysis and field research in Nigeria and Tunisia.
- Subfields: Strategic Studies, Political Economy, African Studies (*with honors*)

Princeton University, School of Public & International Affairs

M.P.A., Development Studies (2014)

- Served as associate editor of Journal of Public and International Affairs.

Swarthmore College

B.A., Political Science, cum laude (2008)

- Studied abroad with School for International Training and interned for USAID in Bamako, Mali.

PUBLICATIONS:

Peer and Editor-Reviewed Journal Articles:

- “Unpacking Stacking: Research Political Identity in Armed Forces.” *Armed Forces and Society*, February 2022. With Risa Brooks. [link](#)
- “Civil-Military Relations and Sudan’s Treacherous Path to Democracy,” *Texas National Security Review Policy Roundtable* (May 2021). With Luka Kuol. [link](#).
- “Interrogating Ethnic Stacking: The Uses and Abuses of Security Force Ethnicity in Sudan,” *Civil Wars*, 22:2-3 (2020), 243-265. [link](#).
- “Authoritarian Armies and Democratizing States: How Civil-Military Relations Affect Political Transitions in Africa.” *Democratization* 26:2 (2019). [link](#).
 - Winner of *Democratization’s* Frank Cass Award for best article by a young scholar
- “A Transformative New Approach or a Repeat of Failures Past? Assessing a Decade of U.S. Military Strategy in Africa.” *Orbis* 62:4 (2018). [link](#).
- “Unusual Lessons from an Unusual War: Boko Haram and Modern Insurgency.” *The Washington Quarterly* 40:4 (2017). [link](#).
- “Process Peace: A New Evaluation Framework for International Diplomacy,” *International Negotiation* 22:1 (2017). With Travis Sharp. [pdf](#).
- Misreading Mali’s Collapse: Foreign Aid, Governance and Political Instability in Emerging Democracies.” *Journal of Public and International Affairs* 24 (2013). [pdf](#).

Op-Eds and Short-Form Analysis:

- “Lessons From Ghana’s Multistakeholder Approach to Cyber Security.” *Africa Center for Strategic Studies*, January 4, 2023. With Kenneth Adu Amanfoh. [link](#).
- “African Lessons in Cyber Strategy.” *Africa Center for Strategic Studies*, March 8, 2022. With Abdul Hakeem Ajijola. [link](#).
- “Artificial Intelligence Creeps onto the African Battlefield.” *Brookings Institution*, February 2, 2022. [link](#). With Ify Okpali.
- “Deluge of Digital Repression Threatens African Security.” *Africa Center for Strategic Studies*. With Catherine Lena Kelly, January 4, 2022. [link](#).
- “How Digital Tools Exacerbate Authoritarianism across Africa.” *Brookings Institution*, November 19, 2021. With Matthew La Lime. [link](#).
- “How African Countries Should Address State-Sponsored Cyber Threats.” *Brookings Institution*, July 15, 2021. With Noëlle van der Waag-Cowling. [link](#).

- “The Promises and Perils of Africa’s Digital Revolution.” *Brookings Institution*, March 11, 2021. [link](#).
- “Africa’s Evolving Cyber Threats.” *Africa Center for Strategic Studies*, January 19, 2021. [link](#).
- “How Boko Haram Has Regained the Initiative and What Nigeria Should Do to Stop It.” *War on the Rocks*, December 24, 2019. [link](#).
- “African Dictators Have Been Losing Power. Militaries Can Help Tip the Scales Toward Democracy.” *The Washington Post*, September 18, 2019. With Alex Noyes. [link](#).
- “Can Sudan’s Military Be Convinced to Support Democracy?” *War on the Rocks*, June 25, 2019. With Sharan Grewal. [link](#).
- “How States Foster Violent Extremism and What to Do About It.” *Lanfare*, June 16, 2019. With Michael Marcusa and Larry Rubin. [link](#).
- “Why Security Sector Governance Matters in Fragile States.” *United States Institute of Peace*, June 11, 2019. With Rachel Kleinfeld. [link](#). [Reprinted](#) by the Carnegie Endowment.
- “Beyond By, With and Through: Reforming America’s Security Partnerships,” *The Hill*, March 29, 2019. With Philip McDaniel and Tommy Ross. [link](#).
- “Trump’s Africa Policy Takes Form,” *The Hill*, March 19, 2018. With Landry Signé. [link](#).
- “U.S. Military Assistance to Africa is Growing. But is it Succeeding?” *World Politics Review*, September 23, 2016. [link](#).
- “Charting Boko Haram’s Rapid Decline.” *War on the Rocks*, September 22, 2016. [link](#).
- “No Time for a Peacekeeper Exit in Liberia.” *The Global Observatory*, May 24, 2016. [link](#).
- “Western Partners Can’t Provide Military Assistance to Fight Boko Haram. Here’s What They Can Do.” *African Arguments*, September 25, 2015. [link](#).
- “Down, Not Out: How to Fight Back Against Boko Haram’s Newest Strategy.” *Foreign Affairs*. June 18, 2015. With Peter M. Lewis and Hilary Matfess. [link](#).
- “The Islamic State, Boko Haram, and the Evolution of International Jihad.” *The Washington Post*, March 27, 2015. [link](#).
- “The Boko Haram Insurgency, by the Numbers.” *The Washington Post*, October 6, 2014. With Peter M. Lewis and Hilary Matfess. [link](#).

Policy and Think Thank Reports:

- *The Downsides of Digital Revolution: Confronting Africa’s Evolving Cyber Threats*. Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime. December 2022. [link](#).
- “Cyberspace and Security Sector Governance in Africa” Hybrid Roundtable Executive Summary. *Africa Center for Strategic Studies*, September 2022. [link](#).

- “Cyberspace Security Priorities for Africa’s National Security Actors: Executive Summary.” *Africa Center for Strategic Studies*, January 2022. [link](#).
- *Preventing Extremism in Fragile States: A New Approach*. Final Report of the Task Force on Extremism in Fragile States, 2019. [link](#).
- *Beyond the Homeland: Protecting American from Extremism in Fragile States*. Interim Report of the Task Force on Extremism in Fragile States, 2018. [link](#).
- *Bridging Divides: Track II Diplomacy in the Middle East*. With Princeton Policy Research Workshop led by former Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer). Woodrow Wilson School Policy Report, 2014. [link](#).
- *Another Crossroads? Professional Military Education Two Decades After the Goldwater-Nichols Act and the Skelton Panel*. Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, U.S. House of Representatives, 2010. Research Assistance. [link](#).

Media:

- “Confronting Africa’s Evolving Cyber Threats.” Global Initiative against Organized Crime podcast. March 2023. [link](#).
- “Technology, AfCFTA and African renaissance.” The Cable. February 2023. [link](#).
- “An African Defense Against Dishonesty.” Christian Science Monitor. January 2023. [link](#).
- “Defending the Digital Gates,” Africa Defense Forum Magazine, November 2022. [link](#).
- “Africa Faces High Tech Enemies,” Africa Defense Forum Magazine, November 2022. [link](#).
- “African Phones Face Unique Cybersecurity Risks.” Inkstick Media, October 25th, 2022. [link](#).
- “Organized crime and cyber crime,” The Dark Global Matters, April 2022. [link](#).
- “Kenya to host Google’s first product development site in Africa, BBC Newsday, April 2022. [link](#).
- “Island National Tackles Cyber Security,” Africa Defense Forum Magazine, April 2021. [link](#).
- “Protests in South Africa, Cyber Security and Sovereignty, and a Fight Over Jerusalem,” Leaders of Africa Podcast, July 2021. [link](#).
- “Pandemic Effects and Peace Operations,” International Affairs Forum, July 2020. [link](#).

Research in Progress:

- “Why The American Tech Industry Needs Africa” draft op-ed with Carnegie Fellow Nanjira Sambuli
- “Information Technology and Trajectories of Violence in the Boko Haram and Al Shabaab Insurgencies.” To be submitted 11/1 for consideration in special issue of *Journal of Peace Research*

- “African-Led Peace Operations Overlooked Contributions to Regional Security” *Africa Center for Strategic Studies*.
- “New Media, Old Methods: Cyberspace and Strategic Competition in African International Relations.” Academic working paper. With Matthew La Lime. Expected journal submission: Q1 2022.
- “Critical Information Infrastructure Protection in Emerging Economies.” Academic working paper. Expected journal submission: Q4 2022.
- *The Fourth Industrial Revolution and African Peace and Security*. Africa Center for Strategic Studies Security Brief.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

2022. Security Institute for Governance and Leadership in Africa (SIGLA), Stellenbosch University, Research Fellowship.

2018. American Political Science Association Congressional Fellowship (52K; declined)

2016. William Jennings Randolph Dissertation Fellowship, U.S. Institute of Peace (20K)

2016. Policy Engagement Fellowship, Bridging the Gap Project (3K)

2014. National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Honorable Mention

2013. Harold Rosenthal Fellow, Association of Schools of Public and International Affairs

2013. Eleanor Lansing Dulles Fellowship, Princeton University (22K)

2013. Certificate of Appreciation, U.S. Department of State

2012. Graduate Fellowship, Princeton University (22K)

2007. Maimonides Leaders’ Fellowship, Swarthmore College (1K)

2007. Public Policy Field Research Grant, Swarthmore College (2.5K)

2004. Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship, U.S. Department of Education (9K)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2022. Faculty Lead. “Africa’s Contemporary Security Challenges.” Africa Center for Strategic Studies Academic Seminar, Washington, DC.

2022. Facilitator. “Emerging Security Sector Leaders Seminar.” Africa Center for Strategic Studies Academic Seminar, Washington, DC.

2021-2022. Guest Lecturer, “Africa’s Digital Revolution,” Foreign Service Institute Sub Saharan Africa Regional Overview Course, Washington, DC.

2020-2022. Faculty Lead. “Understanding Africa’s Emerging Cyber Threats.” Africa Center for Strategic Studies Webinar Series, Washington, DC.

2021-2022. Faculty Lead. “Taking Stock of African Peace Operations.” Africa Center for Strategic Studies Webinar Series, Washington, DC.

2021-2022. Faculty Lead. “Cyberspace Security Priorities for Africa’s National Security Actors.” Africa Center for Strategic Studies Virtual Academic Programs, Washington, DC.

2021. Facilitator. “Countering Transnational Organized Crime: Security and Justice Coordination.” Africa Center for Strategic Studies Virtual Academic Program, Washington, DC.

2020. Facilitator. “Community Policing Approaches to Countering Violent Extremism in Africa.” Africa Center for Strategic Studies Virtual Academic Program, Washington, DC.

2019. Instructor. “Africa in World Politics.” Undergraduate Elective Course. African Studies Institute, George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs.

2017. Instructor. “Savior or Saboteur? The Soldier and the African State.” Undergraduate Winter Term Course. Johns Hopkins University Department of Political Science.

2016. Teaching Assistant. “Comparative National Systems” (for Allison Berland). Graduate Core Course. Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

TALKS AND LECTURES

September 2022. “Emerging Technology and Conflict in Africa.” LA Consular Corps Roundtable. Panelist.

September 2022. “Cybersecurity and Armed Conflict in Africa.” High Level Panel for Women in International Security Conference in Nairobi. Panelist.

September 2022. “Africa’s Emerging Cyber Threats.” U.S. Africa Command. Panelist.

July 2022. “Defining the Cyber/Emerging Technology Challenge.” NESAs Executive Seminar. Panelist.

June 2022. “Africa’s Cyber Threat Landscape.” Africa Center for Strategic Studies Emerging Security Sector Leaders Program, Washington, DC. Panelist. [link](#).

June 2022. “Centering ‘Cyber’ in Defense Policy and Strategy.” Nigeria Cyber Security Experts Association Annual Conference. Lecture.

June 2022. “Assessing National Cyber Security and Defense Policy in Africa.” Africa Cyber Defense Forum. Lecture.

May 2022. “Africa’s Digital Revolution.” Department of Defense 5th Annual Africa Symposium. Lecture.

May 2022. “Africa’s Emerging Cyber Threats.” U.S. Africa Command. Panelist.

April 2022. “Civil-Military Relations in Africa.” State Department / NIC Analytic Exchange. Panelist.

November 2021. Panelist. “Peace Operations in Africa.” Department of Defense.

September 2021. “Africa’s Emerging Cyber Threats.” U.S. Africa Command. Panelist.

September 2021. “Managing Threats Caused by Emerging Technologies.” Pre-Tana Regional Multi-Stakeholders Dialogue. Virtual. Panelist.

August 2021. “Cyberspace Security Priorities for Africa’s National Security Actors.” Africa Center for Strategic Studies Virtual Academic Program, Washington, DC. Moderator, sessions 2-4. [link](#).

August 2021. “Africa’s Cyber Threat Landscape.” Africa Center for Strategic Studies Virtual Academic Program, Washington, DC. Panelist. [link](#).

May 2021. “Cyber Dimensions of Transnational Organized Crime in Africa.” Africa Center for Strategic Studies Academic Webinar, Washington, DC. Moderator. [link](#).

May 2021. “Cyber Dimensions of Violent Extremism in Africa.” Africa Center for Strategic Studies Academic Webinar, Washington, DC. Moderator. [link](#).

April 2021. “Taking Stock of African Peace Operations: The G5 Sahel Joint Force.” Africa Center for Strategic Studies Academic Webinar, Washington, DC. Moderator. [link](#).

March 2021. “Cyber Dimensions of Statecraft in Africa.” Africa Center for Strategic Studies Academic Webinar, Washington, DC. Moderator. [link](#).

February 2021. “Taking Stock of African Peace Operations: An Overview.” Africa Center for Strategic Studies Academic Webinar, Washington, DC. Moderator. [link](#).

December 2020. “Emerging Cyber Dimensions of Africa’s Security Landscape.” Africa Center for Strategic Studies Academic Webinar, Washington, DC. Moderator. [link](#).

November 2020. “National-Local Engagement in CVE.” Africa Center for Strategic Studies, Washington, DC. Panelist. [link](#).

October 2020. “Cyber Policy and Geopolitics.” Cybersecurity in Africa Cybersecurity Awareness Month Week of Cyber. Panelist. [link](#).

November 2019. U.S. Security and Development Partnerships and Programs.” Washington Diplomatic Seminar, Africa Center for Strategic Studies, Washington, DC. Moderator.

September 2019. “United Nations Peacekeeping Operations in Africa.” Africa’s Contemporary Security Challenges Course, Africa Center for Strategic Studies, Washington, DC. Panelist. [slides](#).

September 2019. “Civil War: Case Study of South Sudan.” Africa’s Contemporary Security Challenges Course, Africa Center for Strategic Studies, Washington, DC. Moderator.

June 2019. “Hard and Soft Approaches to Engaging Extremisms in Africa – Militarized and Developmental Approaches.” George Washington University African Studies Institute, Washington, DC. Panelist.

May 2019. “Improving the Effectiveness of Security and Justice Sector Assistance in Fragile, Conflict Affected States.” JUSTRAC Symposium Security Assistance in Conflict-Affected Areas, Washington, DC. Panelist.

April 2019. “Assessing a Decade of U.S. Military Strategy in Africa.” DOD Annual Africa Regional Expert Symposium, Department of Defense, Washington, DC. Speaker.

April 2019. “Roundtable: Aligning Security Cooperation with Prevention.” United States Institute of Peace, Washington, DC. Panelist.

March 2019. “Aligning Security Cooperation and Assistance with Prevention.” Anti-Corruption Action Network Working Group, Washington, DC. Speaker.

December 2018. “What Works in Confronting Extremism in Fragile States.” Task Force on Extremism in Fragile States Listening Session, United States Institute of Peace. Moderator.

November 2018. “Supporting Local Actors in Confronting Extremism.” Task Force on Extremism in Fragile States Listening Session, United States Institute of Peace. Moderator.

October 2016. “Military Rule and the Institutionalization of Democracy: Lessons from Fieldwork in Nigeria.” Johns Hopkins University, Washington, D.C. Speaker.

October 2015. “Confronting the Janus Face: The Armed Forces and the Politics of Democratization in Africa.” Johns Hopkins University, Washington, D.C. Speaker.

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

November 2021. “Increasing the Diversity of Topic Areas in Cyber Security.” Cato Institute Virtual Workshop. Panelist.

November 2020. “Cyberspace and Strategic Competition in African International Relations.” African Studies Association Annual Conference (virtual). Panelist.

September 2019. “Unpacking Stacking: How Authoritarian Regimes Manipulate Identity in Security Force Institutions.” American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Washington, DC. Panelist. With Risa Brooks.

November 2018. “Unpacking Ethnic Stacking in Sudan.” Rethinking Civil-Military Relations in Africa Workshop, School of Public and International Affairs, North Carolina State University. Discussant and Panelist.

December 2018. “Jihadist Militancy, Patronage Politics, and the African State.” African Studies Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA. Panelist.

April 2018. “Assessing a Decade of U.S. Military Strategy in Africa.” International Studies Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA. Panelist.

April 2018. “New Methods for a New Order? Exploring the Politics of U.S. Military Engagement.” International Studies Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA. Panel Organizer

March 2017. “Transitional Shocks and the Institutional Ties that Bind: The Role of the Military in the Politics of African Democratization.” International Studies Association Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD. Panelist.

November 2017. “New Data and Analysis of U.S.- Africa Foreign Relations.” African Studies Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL. Chair.

November 2017. “Assessing a Decade of U.S. Military Strategy in Africa.” African Studies Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL. Panelist.

July 2017. Clement Center Summer Seminar in History and Statecraft. Beaver Creek, CO. Participant.

December 2016. “From Power to Poverty: The Armed Forces and the Institutionalization of Nigerian Democracy.” African Studies Association Annual Conference, Washington, DC. Panelist.

December 2016. “The Rise and Reintegration of Militants in Nigeria: Boko Haram and the Niger Delta.” African Studies Association Annual Conference, Washington, DC. Chair.

October 2016. “Confronting the Janus Face: The Armed Forces and the Politics of Democratization in Africa.” Peace Scholar Research Workshop, U.S. Institute of Peace, Washington, DC. Participant and Panelist.

March 2016. Bridging the Gap New Era Foreign Policy Conference. American University, Washington, DC. Participant.

September 2015. “Inevitable or Preventable? A Contingent View of the Evolution of Boko Haram.” American Political Science Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA. Panelist. With Peter Lewis and Hilary Matfess.

April 2014. “Process Peace: A New Evaluation Framework for International Diplomacy.” Minefields for Mediation Workshop, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ. Participant. With Travis Sharp.

September 2010. “On the Use of Enumerative Surveys for Analytic Means.” Washington Statistical Society. With Fritz Scheuren.

LANGUAGES:

French (fluent), Arabic (proficient), Spanish (proficient).

FIELD EXPERIENCE:

Extended: Tunisia (Aug – Oct 2017), Nigeria, (Jun-Aug 2016), Morocco (Jun 2011 – Jul 2012), Mali (Feb – Aug 2007)

Fieldwork: Zambia, Cote D’Ivoire, Lesotho, Turkey, Qatar, Germany

Other: Peru, Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Israel, Germany, France

STATISTICAL SOFTWARE SKILLS:

Proficient with SPSS, STATA, R, and SAS.

REVIEWER SERVICE

Served as reviewer for: *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Strategic Studies*, *Journal of Global Security Studies*, *African Studies Review*, *Journal of Human Rights, Democratization*, *Global Health, Science and Policy*, *South African Journal of International Affairs*, *Terrorism and Political Violence*, *Ethnicity and Nationalism*

REFERENCES:

Available upon request.