

MATTHEW P. DEARING

College of International Security Affairs
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CURRENT POSITION

Assistant Professor & Director of the South and Central Asia Security Studies Program, College of International Security Affairs (CISA), National Defense University (July 2014 - present)

PAST POSITIONS

Content Manager, Tesla Government (Oct 2013 - Aug 2014)

Social Scientist, GG-14, US Army (Feb 2012 - July 2013)

Research Associate, Naval Postgraduate School (2007- 2012)

Executive Protection Specialist, Gavin de Becker & Associates (2001 – 2007)

Infantry Sergeant, US Marine Corps (1997 - 2001)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Security Studies, 2015. Department of National Security Affairs, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA.

- Dissertation: “The Dogs of War: Paramilitary Groups and State Formation in Afghanistan.”

M.A. Cum Laude Regional Security Studies, 2009. Department of National Security Affairs, Naval Postgraduate School.

- MA Thesis: “Agency and Structure as Determinants of Female Suicide Terrorism: A Comparative Study of Three Conflict Regions.”

B.A. International Political Economy, 2006. The University of California Berkeley.

PUBLICATIONS

Book Manuscript

Predators or Protectors? Paramilitary Groups and State Formation in Afghanistan, in draft.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

“Turning Gangsters into Allies: The American Way of War in Northern Afghanistan,” *Small Wars & Insurgencies* 29, no.3 (2018), accepted draft.

“Spies in the Maize: Control and Discipline in the Malawi Young Pioneers,” in draft.

“A double-edged sword: the people’s uprising in Ghazni, Afghanistan,” *Small Wars and Insurgencies* 28, no.3 (2017): 576-608. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09592318.2017.1307611>

“Entry Point: Accessing Indigenous Perspectives During Complex Operations,” (with James Jeffreys and Justin Depue) *Special Operations Journal* 1, no.1 (2015): 7-18.
<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/23296151.2015.1017996>

“Robber Barons Rising: The Potential for Resource Conflict in Ghazni, Afghanistan,” (with Cynthia Braden) *Stability: International Journal of Security and Development*, 3, no.1 (2014): 1-14.
<https://www.stabilityjournal.org/articles/10.5334/sta.dg/>

“Like Red Tulips at Springtime: Understanding the Absence of Female Suicide Terrorism in Afghanistan,” *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 33, no.12 (2010):
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/1057610X.2010.523861>

“Understanding Female Suicide Terrorism in Sri Lanka through a Constructivist Lens,” *Strategic Insights*, 9, no.1, 2010.

Policy Articles and Op-Eds

“[Why America First is Also Kabul First](#),” *The National Interest*, 3 August 2017.

“[Should to Shoulder No More in Afghanistan?](#)” *War on the Rocks*, 1 March 2017.

“[Kandahar’s Enforcers Fight Evil with Brutality](#),” *Foreign Policy*, February 2016.

“[Research Returns from War](#),” *Foreign Policy*, July 2015.

“[Nation Building is Dirty Business](#),” *Foreign Policy*, March 2015.

“[Capture the Flag in Afghanistan](#),” *Foreign Policy*, January 2015.

“[Malawi on Edge as the ‘Warm Heart’ Mourns the Head of State](#),” *Small Wars Journal*, 6 April 2012.

“[Formalizing the Informal: Historical Lessons on Local Defense in Counterinsurgency](#),” *Small Wars Journal*, 7:10, 2011.

“[Female Suicide Bombers – The New Threat in Afghanistan](#),” *Small Wars Journal*, 23 July 2010.

“Mobilizing Afghan Militias: Civil Defense Forces vs. Tribal Militias,” *Middle East Times*, 16 Feb. 2009.

TEACHING

Courses taught and directed at the College of International Security Affairs (CISA) at the National Defense University:

- Politics, Security and History of South Asia (CISA6730) – Director (2015-17)
- Frontline of Global War: South Asia since 1979 (CISA6917) – Director (2014-15)
- Conflict and Cooperation in Africa (CISA6743) – Director (2017)
- Research Methods (CISA6744) – Instructor (2014-15)
- Thesis Advising (CISA6741) – *advised over 20 student theses projects* (2014-17)
- Strategic Leadership Foundations (CISA6000) – Instructor (2015)
- Policy Analysis and Critical Thinking (CISA6744) – Instructor (2015-17)
- The Art and Science of Statecraft (CISA6733) – Instructor (2015-16)

Selected Course Highlights:

Politics, Security and History of South Asia is a survey of the people, states, and conflict dynamics in the South Asia region, with an emphasis on state formation, state viability, and the roots of security issues in Afghanistan and Pakistan. It integrates the disciplines of history, political science, and security studies into a coherent approach to prepare students to serve as South Asia area experts, who can critically examine the security challenges of the region and apply the concepts of this course in an academic, policy, intelligence, or military setting. The course is organized in three parts: Part I focuses on state-society relations in pre-modern South Asia; Part II focuses on state formation and resistance in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India; and Part III addresses state building challenges in the twenty-first century in South Asia.

Policy Analysis and Critical Thinking introduces students to the techniques researchers use to answer questions in the fields of international relations, security studies, and policy analysis. Research techniques include how to critically read published research; collect and analyze qualitative and quantitative data; communicate research results; distinguish between empirical, ideological, theoretical, and ethical questions; formulate research questions; and construct an academic argument.

Statecraft is a core course about national security policymaking and diplomacy, approaching these through the lenses of international relations theory, historical case studies, and practice. Statecraft refers to how states define their interests and use national power to manage their affairs. It is both an “art” and a “science”—it combines careful judgment and creative solutions with well-established theories and principles of interaction and engagement—and this course aims to give students the tools to be effective analysts and practitioners of statecraft in today’s complex national security environment.

Conflict and Cooperation in Africa is a survey of how states, societies, and institutions manage war and peace on the African continent. The two-credit elective consists of thematic and regional case studies, where each class serves as a deep dive into the issues affecting conflict and cooperation specific to the region of focus that day. Seminar discussion focuses on the history, politics, and

environmental factors affecting security in the past and present. Themes address state and human security by cutting across geopolitics, resource and identity driven conflicts, climate change, patterns of governance, and demographic displacement. Students will gain a better understanding of the fundamental issues driving conflict on the African continent and identify sources of cooperation.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

United States Institute of Peace, Invited Panelist on Extractives, Economic Development and Conflict in Afghanistan. July 2017.

Foreign Policy Association, Great Decisions series: “Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan” at Women’s Club of Raleigh, sponsored by Triangle Institute for Security Studies. March 2017.

CISA Faculty Colloquium, guest speaker on “Spies in the Maize: Control and Discipline in the Malawi Young Pioneers,” November 2016.

National Intelligence Council, invited panelist on Militias in Afghanistan, State Department, Washington, DC. May 2016.

The Young Professionals in International Affairs, guest lecturer on “Afghanistan Redux: The Lessons of State Building and War,” Washington, DC. December 2015.

Security Symposium, San Francisco State University, keynote presentation, “Here to Stay: The Resilience and Rationale of Armed Non-State Actors,” April 2014.

Department of National Security Affairs, Naval Postgraduate School, guest lecturer on “Lessons Learned in Afghanistan,” July 2013.

San Francisco State University, guest lecturer on “Human Terrain and Ethnographic Intelligence in Afghanistan,” October 2013.

International Security Assistance Force-Afghanistan, guest speaker on “The Political Economy of War in Ghazni, Afghanistan,” Kabul, October 2012.

1st Marine Division, guest lecturer on “Counterinsurgency in Afghanistan,” Camp Pendleton, CA. 2011.

Navy Seabees, guest lecturer on “Insurgency and Counterinsurgency in Afghanistan,” Biloxi, MS. 2010.

U.S. Special Operations Command, guest lecturer at Village Stability Operations Academic Week “Local Defense in Afghanistan,” Tampa, 2010.

Regional Security Education Program, guest lecturer on “Regional Security in South Asia,” USS Truman, 2009.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS/ PRESENTATIONS

“Turning Gangsters into Allies: The American Way of War in Northern Afghanistan,” paper presented on panel: *Pirates, Criminals, and Security* at International Studies Association ISSS-ISAC, American University, October 2017.

“Spies in the Maize: Control and Discipline in the Malawi Young Pioneers,” paper presented on panel: *Peace and Revolutions* at International Studies Association ISSS-ISAC, University of Notre Dame. November 2016.

“A Model for Stability? The Musahiban Dynasty in Afghanistan,” paper presented at Mid-west Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2014.

“Entry Point: Accessing Indigenous Perspectives During Complex Operations,” (with James Jeffreys and Justin Depue) paper presented on panel: *IR Theory and the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan* at International Studies Association ISSS-ISAC, George Washington University. October 2013.

“Towards a Conceptual Framework of Paramilitary Groups,” (with Sandra Leavitt) paper presented at the 53rd International Studies Association, San Diego, 2011.

DISCUSSANT / CHAIR, PANELS AND ROUNDTABLES

Discussant on *Counterinsurgency* at International Studies Association ISSS-ISAC, American University, October 2017.

Chair on *Service Cultures and Personnel Challenges in the US Military*, National Defense University, May 2017.

Chair on *Persistent and Emerging Challenges in Afghanistan*, South and Central Asia Program, May 2017.

Discussant on *Nationalism – A Return to the Future?* JSOMA Research Symposium, May 2017.

Discussant on *Enhancing Provincial Council's Oversight and Advisory Capacity in Afghanistan* at Near East South Asia Center roundtable, May 2017.

Chair for *Afghanistan Vice President Dostum Delegation*, South and Central Asia Program, National Defense University, March 2017.

Chair *Resolute Support Afghanistan Capstone*, National Defense University, March 2017.

Discussant on *Insurgency throughout the World* at International Studies Association ISSS-ISAC, University of Notre Dame. November 2016.

Discussant on *Counterinsurgency and Foreign Internal Defense* JSOMA Research Symposium, May 2016.

FIELDWORK, ARCHIVAL RESEARCH, & OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENTS

2017—H.K. Banda Archive, African Studies Center, University of Indiana

2006, 2016—Malawi, The National Archives of Malawi

2008, 2010, 2012-13—Afghanistan

2000-2001—Belarus, Romania, Ukraine, Switzerland

1998-2000—Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, and GRANTS

2017—Minerva Research Defense Grant, \$20,000 - *The Malawi Young Pioneers and the Militarization of National Development*

2016—College of International Security Affairs summer field study travel award

2016—Program on Irregular Warfare, National Defense University, travel grant

2013—Commanders Award for Civilian Service

2012—NATO Service Medal

2012—Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

2011—National Security Institute Doctoral Studies Fellowship, Naval Postgraduate School.

2011—Institute of National Security Studies, research grant

2011—Marine Corps Intelligence Activity, research grant

2009—Louis D. Liskin Award for Excellence in Regional Security Studies

2005—Alumni Leadership Scholarship, University of California Berkeley

2001—Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal

NDU COMMITTEE WORK

NDU Women, Peace and Security Essay Committee, May 2017

CISA Faculty Committee to Revise Promotion Policies, Aug 2017 – present

RELEVANT WORK HISTORY

Director, South and Central Asia Security Studies Program (SCAP), July 2016 – Present

As Director, I manage and develop the professional military education of up to 40 Afghanistan-Pakistan Hands each year. In 2010, the Joint Staff directed the College of International Security Affairs (CISA) to execute a South and Central Asia Program (SCAP) to provide a high-level strategic and professional military education for select members of the APH. Our students are US military officers (O2-O5), State Department officers, and DoD civilians. Students gain expertise in the South and Central Asia region through rigorous coursework, cultural and leadership practicum, and thesis research. I ensure students are delivered the highest quality graduate education available while taking advantage of the unique opportunities of the DC region to include expert speakers, agency visits, and engagement with real world policy problems.

Content Manager, Tesla Government; Falls Church, VA Oct 2013 – Aug 2014

Tesla projects support foreign affairs and national security communities. As Content Manager, I collected, assessed, and synthesized high volumes of data for publication on wiki platforms focused on regional security and development. Data was derived from open source platforms and partners in the field and streamlined to consumers through a highly collaborative content management system. I conducted outreach with clients and consumers to ensure information was timely, relevant, and accessible. I used a variety of mapping, social media, and information technology tools to achieve data sharing superiority.

Social Scientist (GG-14), U.S. Army; Afghanistan Feb 2012 – July 2013

I developed, lead, and conducted social science research projects focused on commander's critical information requirements in Afghanistan. I advised coalition forces, State Department, and other government organizations regarding local drivers of conflict and the human terrain at strategic, operational, and tactical levels. I worked within the J2 of the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force Afghanistan, designing collection and analysis protocols for complex multi-method research projects, serving as lead social scientist on a ten-man team. I developed over fifteen research designs focused on Eastern Afghanistan to include a qualitative analysis of Afghan soldiers' perceptions of the causes and conditions behind the 'insider threat'; a comparative analysis of anti-insurgent uprisings / movements; and conflict analysis of the resource extractive industry. My research entailed multi-method approaches, utilizing quantitative and qualitative collection and analytic techniques such as structuralism, process tracing, statistical analysis, structured focused comparison, and large-n and small-n studies. I used a variety of collection tools and instruments in the field to include focus groups, depth interviews, and rapid ethnography.

Research Associate, Naval Postgraduate School; Monterey CA 2007 - 2012

I performed government-sponsored research on Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and other US national security issues for the Department of National Security Affairs. I developed a number of research methodologies and protocols to standardize data collection and analysis consistent with sponsor needs and time lines in the Department of Defense. Research included short and long-term projects, RFIs, data collection and collation into user-friendly platforms, socio-cultural analyses, drivers of conflict, insurgent networks, and organizational analyses. In addition to managing and performing research in Monterey, I conducted over 12 weeks of combined field research in Afghanistan for projects on information operations, local governance, and state institutions. Fieldwork consisted of semi-structured interviews of local officials and civilians, participant observation at local meetings, one-on-one interviews with political leaders, and combat patrols with US Special Operations and conventional forces.

Sergeant, United States Marine Corps 1997 - 2001

Four years honorable service as a Rifleman (0311) and Marine Security Guard (8151) at US embassies in Minsk and Kinshasa.