

# Nathan K. Finney, PhD

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## Education

## Degree

### Duke University, Durham, NC (8/2019-5/2022)

### PhD (History), 2022

- Dissertation, “‘All War Arrangements are but Schools in Patience’: The North Carolina Council of Defense and the Associational State, 1917-1919” explores the creation, structure, activities, and impact of a key institution in the mobilization of the United States for the First World War. Analysis of the North Carolina Council of Defense provides insight into the nature of American governance during wartime.
- Served on the History Department Colloquium Committee (2021-2022), as a Graduate Advisor for *Historia Nova*, Duke University’s undergraduate history journal (2021-2022), and the History Department Representative to the Duke University Graduate & Professional Student Government General Assembly (2021-2022). Active member of the American Grand Strategy Program. Judge for the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources National History Day (2021).

### Duke University, Durham, NC (8/2019-5/2021)

### MA (History), 2021

- Served on the Graduate Student Association Executive Board as the Secretary (2019-2020), on the History Department Colloquium Committee (2019-2020), as a convener for the Duke History Methods Lab (2020-2021), and as a Graduate Advisor for *Historia Nova*, Duke University’s undergraduate history journal (2020-2021). Active member of the American Grand Strategy Program.

### Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (6/2012-5/2013)

### MA (Public Administration), 2013

- Member of the Belfer Center Cyber Security Seminar hosted by Joseph Nye; Member of the Political Islam Seminar hosted by Ayaan Hirsi Ali; Panel Manager for the "Future of Afghanistan" Conference held by the 21st Century Diplomacy Project run by Amb. R. Nicholas Burns; News Editor, *The Citizen*.

### University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS (8/2007-11/2010)

### MA (Public Administration), 2010

- Inducted into Pi Alpha Alpha, the national honor society formed to recognize and promote excellence in the study and practice of public affairs and administration.

### University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ (8/1998-5/2002)

### BA (Anthropology), 2002

- Concentration in Archaeology; President of the Archaeology Association for 2 years.

## Professional Experience

### Special Assistant to the Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Camp Smith, HI (Apr 2023-Present)

- Assists the 4-star Admiral to describe the command’s vision and strategy, develop critical milestones, assess progress, and execute key strategic initiatives. Partners with senior leaders to coordinate, synchronize, and align actions across a staff of more than 1,200 people and five subordinate service component commands. Prepares for and supports commander engagements to advance strategic initiatives with senior U.S. government officials members of Congress, and foreign military and political leaders.

- Branch Chief for Strategy, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Camp Smith, HI** (Sep 2022-Apr 2023)
- Lead combatant command efforts in the development of the theater strategy, combatant command campaign plan, and other efforts to translate national strategy for the Indo-Pacific region. Serve as a strategist and policy development adviser on the combatant command staff.
- Member of the Editorial Advisory Board, *Journal for Military History*** (Mar 2023-Present)
- Provide editorial support to *JMH*, the premier quarterly journal that includes scholarly articles and book reviews on topics in military history and war and society from all chronological periods and geographical areas.
- Managing Editor, *British Journal for Military History*** (Feb 2022-Present)
- Provide editorial support to *BJMH*, an open access, peer-reviewed journal focused on publishing international military history scholarship.
- Graduate Student Representative, Society for Military History** (May 2021-Mar 2023)
- The first elected Graduate Student Representative, acting as a channel of communication between Society leadership and its almost 400 student members. Serves as a voting member of the Society Council, an *ex officio* member of the Membership and Conduct Complaint Committees, and on the *ad hoc* committee on the future of the SMH Annual Meeting Conference.
- Goodpaster Scholar, Army Strategic Policy and Planning Program** (Jun 2019-Sep 2022)
- This selective program develops high-performing field-grade officers as strategic thinkers through a combination of practical experience, senior-level professional military education, and a doctoral degree from a university in a field of study related to strategy to produce broadly networked future senior officers with strategic acumen, credentials, and skills.
- Strategic Planner, War Plans, Fort Shafter, HI** (Jan 2018-Jun 2019)
- Lead China planner for the US Army's most important Army Service Component Command. Conducts design and planning activities, including running a cross-functional team of dozens of people across the command and nested within the Department of Defense Pacific Command's joint planning processes.
- Visiting Fellow, Australian Strategic Policy Institute, Canberra, Australia** (Jun 2017-Jan 2018)
- Hand selected to represent the US Army in Canberra, Australia. Helped plan and participated in ASPI events, conducted original research, and developed relationships with leaders in the Australian Department of Defence, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Parliament.
- Director, Commander's Action Group, Fort Shafter, HI** (Jun 2016-Jun 2017)
- Established and led a high functioning team supporting GEN Bob Brown in the US Army's most important theater. Wrote the commander's priorities, the command's strategic guidance, and supported dozens of strategic engagements around the world.
- Strategic Planner, Commander's Initiatives Group, Fort Leavenworth, KS** (Sep 2015-Jun 2016)
- Lead planner for the Commander, Combined Arms Center, LTG Bob Brown, in the Human Dimension and Talent Management portfolios, as well as establishing the writing team to determine a future operational concept for the Army.
- Strategist, Army Transition Team, Washington, DC** (Jun 2015-Sep 2015)
- Served as a member of the Strategy Assessment Cell for the transition from GEN Odierno to GEN Milley. Conducted an in-depth assessment of the Army, provided recommended courses of action for change in the Army, and established a vision for the Chief of Staff of the Army.

**Planner**, Army War Plans, Army Staff, Pentagon, Washington, DC (Aug 2013-Jun 2015)

- Served as the Europe desk officer, supporting the Army Staff, US Army Europe, European Command, Joint Staff, and Office of the Secretary of Defense in planning, posture, and budgetary issues. In these duties, supported the increase of Army forces in Europe and the planning for operations to reduce Russian aggression in Eastern Europe and the Baltic States.

**Speechwriter for the Commanding General**, Fort Leavenworth, KS (Feb 2011-Jun 2012)

- Based on performance in Afghanistan, was selected by Lieutenant General Caslen to research, analyze, coordinate, and prepare speeches, congressional testimony, presentations, written publications, and personal correspondence. Also edit and assist other senior leaders within the command in the development of their speeches and written documents to ensure consistency of the command's message. Awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for excellence in the performance of duties.

**Speechwriter for the Commanding General**, Kabul, Afghanistan (Feb 2010-Feb 2011)

- Was hand-selected to fill this nominative position by Lieutenant General Caldwell to research, analyze, coordinate and prepare speeches, congressional testimony, presentations, and written publications for his job at NATO Training Mission Afghanistan. Also edited and assisted senior leaders within the command with the same products, facilitated communication among the Combined and Joint Staff, and was responsible for part of the overall strategic communication and outreach effort of the command.

**Joint and Multinational Doctrine Author**, Fort Leavenworth, KS (Nov 2008-Feb 2010)

- Responsible for the development and publication of Joint, Multinational, and interagency doctrine. Authored the Army Field Manual 3-07.1, Security Force Assistance, the Joint Publication 3-07, Stability Operations, and the NATO Allied Publication 3.2.1.1, Stability Activities. All three manuals led to fundamental changes in operations around the world, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Armor Officer**, Fort Riley, Iraq, and Fort Leavenworth (Jan 2003-Nov 2008)

- Served as a platoon leader, company executive officer, battalion training officer, and battalion adjutant. Served a tour in Iraq from 2005-2006 in Diyala Province. Also served with the Human Terrain Team from 2007-2008.

## Research and Fellowship Experience

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Society for Military History-National WWII Museum Summer Seminar in Military History	Summer 2023
Applied History Lab, Global Research Institute, College of William & Mary (Affiliate)	2022-Present
Hawaii Futures Center, University of Hawaii-Mānoa (Affiliate)	2022-Present
Johns-Hopkins SAIS National Security Scholars and Practitioners Program	Summer 2022
Columbia Univ. Summer Workshop on the Analysis of Military Ops and Strategy	Summer 2021
Fellow, Goodpaster Scholar Program	2019-2022
American Academy for Strategic Education Net Assessment and Competitive Strategy Course	Summer 2019
German Marshall Fund Young Strategist Forum on Asia	Summer 2019
Johns-Hopkins SAIS Summer Seminar on China	Summer 2018
Non-Resident Fellow, Australian Strategic Policy Institute	2018-2019
Visiting Fellow, Australian Strategic Policy Institute, Canberra, Australia	2017-2018
Non-Resident Fellow, Modern War Institute	2016-2017

## Select Military Awards

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2021 Order of Saint Gabriel – Gold, U.S. Army Strategist Association  
2016 Order of Saint Gabriel, U.S. Military Strategist Association  
2011 Order of Saint George – Bronze, U.S. Cavalry and Armor Association  
2011 Defense Meritorious Service Medal, U.S. Department of Defense  
2006 Bronze Star Medal, U.S. Army  
2005 Combat Action Badge, U.S. Army

## Scholarly and Professional Associations

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Council on Foreign Relations (Member)	2023-Present
American Grand Strategy Program (Member)	2019-Present
Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era (Member)	2019-Present
Society for Army Historical Research (Member)	2019-Present
Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society (Member)	2019-Present
International Society for First World War Studies (Member)	2016-Present
Society for Military History (Member; Graduate Student Representative, 2021-2023)	2016-Present
Organization of American Historians (Member)	2016-Present
American Historical Association (Member)	2016-Present
Council on Foreign Relations (Term Member)	2015-2020
Military Strategy Journal (Member of the Editorial Advisory Board)	2014-Present

## Service

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Society for Military History (Member of the Editorial Advisory Board)	2023-Present
Society for Military History (Regional Coordinator for the Pacific)	2023-Present
Committee on the Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy (Executive Committee)	2022-2023
Society for Military History (Graduate Student Representative)	2021-2023
<i>Historia Nova</i> , Duke University's undergraduate history journal (Graduate Advisor)	2021-2022
Duke History Department Colloquium Committee (Member)	2021-2022
North Carolina National History Day (Judge)	2021
Duke History Department Methods Lab (Convener)	2020-2021
Duke History Department Colloquium Committee (Member)	2019-2020
Duke History Department Graduate Student Association Executive Board (Secretary)	2019-2020
Military Writers Guild (Founding Executive Board Member)	2015-2017
<i>The Strategy Bridge</i> (Founder and Executive Director)	2013-2018
Project on International Peace & Security, College of William & Mary (Founder and Managing Director, Military Fellowship, 2013-2016; Senior Mentor 2021-present)	2013-Present
Defense Entrepreneurs Forum (Founding Board Member)	2012-2015

## Select Publications

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### Books and Book Chapters

- [\*Redefining the Modern Military: The Intersection of Profession and Ethics\*](#), editor and author, United States Naval Institute Press, October 2018.
- [\*On Strategy: A Primer\*](#), editor and author, U.S. Army Press, July 2020.
- “The Profession of Arms,” in Katherine Carroll and William B. Hickman, eds., [\*Understanding the U.S. Military\*](#) (New York: Routledge, 2022).

## Articles and Reports

- "[Developing Foreign Security Forces in the Era of Persistent Conflict](#)," *Army Magazine*, January 2010.
- "[A Culture of Inclusion: Defense, Diplomacy, and Development as a Modern American Foreign Policy](#)," *Small Wars Journal*, 26 September 2010.
- "[Building Police Capacity in Afghanistan: The Challenges of a Multilateral Approach](#)," *PRISM*, Volume 2, Number 1, November 2010.
- "[Security, Capacity, and Literacy](#)," *Military Review*, January/February 2011.
- "[Building the Security Force that Won't Leave](#)," *Joint Forces Quarterly*, July 2011.
- "[Developing a Sustainable Security Force](#)," *Canadian Military Journal*, July 2011.
- "[Helping the Afghans Help Themselves](#)," *Proceedings*, July 2011.
- "[The Army Ethic, Public Trust, and the Profession of Arms](#)," *Military Review*, September 2011.
- "[Air-Sea Battle as a Military Contribution to Strategy Development](#)," *Infinity Journal*, 31 October 2012.
- "[Preventing Mass Atrocities in Sub-Saharan Africa through Strategic Engagement](#)," *Military Review*, 1 November 2012.
- "[Values and National Security: The Value of an Education in Power](#)," *Diplomatic Courier*, 19 January 2013.
- "[Using the Threat of Violence to Contain Syria: An External Approach](#)," *Infinity Journal*, Volume 3, Issue No. 3, Summer 2013, pages 13-16.
- "[Why the Defense Entrepreneurs Forum Matters: Peripheral Networks & Innovation](#)," *War on the Rocks*, 21 October 2013.
- "[Out of Balance: Rebalancing Access and Overcoming Denial](#)," *The Journal of Military Operations*, 20 January 2014.
- "[On 'US Options in Syria'](#)," *Parameters*, January 2014.
- "[Relativity and Negotiation: Core Elements of a General Theory of Strategy](#)," *Infinity Journal*, The Strategy Bridge Special Edition, March 2014, pages 22-25.
- "[An Attack Comes Home: A Reflection](#)," *The Citizen*, 28 April 2014.
- "[The Defense Entrepreneurs Forum: Developing a Culture of Innovation](#)," *Military Review*, July-August 2014, pages 44-49.
- "[The Long Gray Online](#)," *Cicero Magazine*, 25 November 2014.
- "[After Regime Change: Dunsinane as a Window into War and Warfare](#)," *Asides*, February 2015.
- "[2026: Operation Iranian Freedom](#)," *The Strategy Bridge*, August 2015.
- "[Land Power: More than Simply the Element of Decision](#)," *Infinity Journal*, Volume 5, Issue 1, Fall 2015, pages 30-32.
- "[Consequences of Fear: Callousness](#)," *Consequence Magazine*, March 2016.
- "[The Myth of Russian Aggression and NATO Expansion](#)," *The Strategy Bridge*, December 2016.
- "[A High-Tech Call to Arms: Mobilizing the Masses in the Twenty-First Century](#)," The Modern War Institute, 3 February 2017.
- "[Fresh thinking to deal with 'not quite wars' \(part 1\)](#)," *The Strategist*, 20 July 2017.
- "[Fresh thinking to deal with 'not quite wars' \(part 2\)](#)," *The Strategist*, 14 September 2017.
- "[Integration in warfare](#)," *The Strategist*, 11 September 2017.

- "[AI wanted on ground to protect and attack](#)," *The Australian*, 1 December 2017; also found at the [Australian Strategic Policy Institute](#).
- "[Preventing a Glass Cannon: Increasing Flexibility and Stamina in the Australian Army](#)," *Centre of Gravity report*, Australian National University, July 2020.
- "['Building a great organization for war': The Associational State and Woman's War Work in North Carolina, 1917-1919](#)," *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*, Volume 22, Issue 2, April 2023 , pages 114–142.

## Book Reviews

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- "Drift: The Unmooring of American Military Power," *Military Review* 92 (2012): 92.
- "War, Welfare, & Democracy: Rethinking America's Quest for the End of History," *Military Review* 43 (2013): 145.
- "From A to B: How Logistics Fuels American Power and Prosperity," *Military Review* 93 (2013): 76.
- "Kevlar Legions: The Transformation of the U.S. Army, 1989-2005," *Military Review* 93 (2013): 88.
- "Cybersecurity and Cyberwar: What Everyone Needs to Know," *Parameters* 44 (2014): 149-151.
- "The Boxer Rebellion and the Great Game in China," *Military Review* 94 (2014): 83.
- "The Accidental Admiral: A Sailor Takes Command at NATO," *Parameters* 45 (2015): 147.
- "The Future of Strategy," *Parameters* 46 (2016): 121.
- "1916: A Global History," *Military Review* 96 (2016): 144.
- "The Allure of Battle: A History of How Wars Have Been Won and Lost," *Parameters* 48 (2018): 93-95
- "Sons of Freedom: The Forgotten American Soldiers Who Defeated Germany in World War I," *Parameters* 49 (2019): 109.
- "First to Fight: The U.S. Marines in World War I," *Journal of Military History*, Vol. 83, No. 1 (2019): 260.
- "The Senkaku Paradox: Risking Great Power War Over Small Stakes," *Army* (Aug 2019).
- "The Fighters: Americans in Combat in Afghanistan and Iraq," *Parameters* 50:1 (Spring 2020): 116-118.
- "Bombs Without Boots: The Limits of Airpower," *Parameters* 50:2 (Summer 2020): 143-145.
- "The Day After: Why America Wins the War but Loses the Peace," *Army* (Mar 2020).
- "Military Strategy: A Global History," *Army* (Sep 2020).
- "Death at the Edges of Empire: Fallen Soldiers, Cultural Memory, and the Making of an American Nation, 1863-1921," *Journal of Military History*, Vol. 85, No. 1 (2021): 217-219.
- "Assessing the State of European Security," *Army* (Jul 2021).
- "The Other Face of Battle," *Journal of Military History*, Vol. 86 Issue 1 (Jan 2022): 241-243.
- "The path to war: how the First World War created modern America," *First World War Studies*, 12(3): 297–298.
- "The Girls Next Door," *First World War Studies* 13(1) 2022: 92-93.
- "[John J. Pershing and the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I, 1917-1919, Volume I, April 7 – September 30, 1917](#)," *Parameters*, May 2023.
- "[The Peacemaker: Ronald Reagan, the Cold War, and the World on the Brink](#)," *Army* (Jun 2023).

- "The Wounded World: W.E.B. Du Bois and the First World War," *First World War Studies* (awaiting publication).

## Presentations, Podcasts, and Courses

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- "[Is Disruptive Thinking Applicable to the Military?](#)" Defense Entrepreneurs Forum, University of Chicago, October 2013 (video at 35 minutes).
- "Leadership Development for Junior and Mid-Grade Leaders," Twitter Military Leader Exchange, San Francisco, October 2015.
- "[On the \(mis\)use of history](#)," The Pen and the Sword Podcast, 4 April 2016.
- "[Digital Learning and Leadership in the Army](#)," Annual Meeting of the Association of the US Army, Washington, DC, October 2016.
- "Grassroots Innovation in the National Security Domain," US Military Academy Center for the Advancement of Leader Development & Organizational Learning, West Point, NY, November 2016.
- "Writing in the Profession of Arms," Defense Entrepreneurs Forum - Australia, December 2016.
- "Storytelling from the Front Line," Modern War Institute, United States Military Academy at West Point, 13 February 2017.
- "Perception and Reality in Future Conflict," Young Australians in Foreign Affairs, Future21 Conference, 8 September 2017.
- "[In Conversation with the Deputy Chief of Army](#)," Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 12 October 2017.
- "Perception and Reality in Future Conflict," Australian Defence Force Academy, 19 October 2017.
- [On the Future of War](#), The Dead Prussian Podcast, 13 December 2017.
- [Ethics, Professionalism, Education & the Military Professional](#), Midrats Podcast, 12 August 2018.
- [Military Professionalism in the Modern Age](#), Dole Institute of Politics, 9 October 2018.
- [Redefining the Modern Military: The Intersection of Profession and Ethics](#), New Books Network, 31 October 2018.
- [Pritzker Military Presents: Redefining the Modern Military: The Intersection of Profession](#), Pritzker Military Museum and Library, Chicago, IL, 6 November 2018.
- *The Profession of Arms: Continuity and Change*, Australian Defence College, 4 March 2019.
- [Redefining the Modern American Military](#), National WWI Museum and Memorial, 13 July 2019.
- Commentator for Michael Fasulo's paper, "Struggling with Satan: Limited War, ICBM Vulnerability, and the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks" at the Triangle Institute for Security Studies New Faces Conference, October 2019.
- [Writing #OnStrategy](#), Military Writers Guild, 20 June 2020.
- [The Military Online...and in Public View](#), TYFYS Podcast, Center for Strategic and International Studies, 21 August 2020.
- *Strategy and Military History*, Guest Lecture, HIST 116 – Military History, College of Charleston, Professor Adam Domby, 1 September 2020.
- *Strategy*, Guest Lecture, National Security Management Course, Department of National Security Studies, The Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, Professor Steven Grundman, 22 Oct 2020.



- Commentator for Elizabeth Grasmeyer's paper, "Brothers in Arms: Foreign Legions, National Armies, and Re-examining Citizenship and Military Service" at the Triangle Institute for Security Studies New Faces Conference, 23 Oct 2020.
- *Tactics, Operations, Strategy, and Grand Strategy*, Guest Lecture, PPS 320/PS 328/HIST 322 – Statecraft & Strategy, Duke University, Professor Simon Miles, 26 Jan 2021.
- *Military Innovation, Strategy, and China*, Guest Lecture, GOVT 404-4 – Strategy and Winning War, College of William & Mary, Professor Dennis Alcides Velazco Smith, 17 Feb 2021.
- *The Military Profession*, Guest Lecture, PSCI 2230 – The United States Military, Vanderbilt University, Professor Katherine Blue Carroll, 7 Apr 2021.
- "The Associational State and Woman's War Work in North Carolina, 1917-1919," presentation at the Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Society for the History of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era Lightning Round, 15 Apr 2021.
- "The Associational State and Woman's War Work in North Carolina, 1917-1919," presentation at Military Frontiers Graduate Student Symposium: An Interdisciplinary Conversation on National Security, Ohio State University, 16 Apr 2021.
- "Negotiated Settlement: The Council of Defense System and State Mobilization for the First World War," *Revolutionary Foundations: The Building of National Capabilities for Industrial War* panel, Society for Military History Annual Conference, 20-23 May 2021.
- Commentator, *Ethos of War: Cultural Forces and the Transformation of American Warfighting, 1945-2007* panel, Society for Military History Annual Conference, 20-23 May 2021.
- *The United States and the First World War*, Guest Lecture, HIST 390 – America and the World, 1898 to the Present, Duke University, Professor Susan Colbourn, 7 Sep 2021.
- Presenter, "["To Render Effective Service': The Council of Defense System, North Carolina, and Military Manpower for the First World War."](#) Triangle Institute for Security Studies New Faces Conference, 18 Sep 2021.
- "All War Arrangements are but Schools in Patience": The North Carolina Council of Defense and the Associational State, 1916-1919," *Shining Light in the Dark Corners: Exploring Understudied Areas of the First World War* panel, Society for Military History Annual Conference, 27 April-1 May 2022.
- "'The Official War Emergency Organization in Your State': North Carolina and Mobilization in the First World War," Book Workshop, Southern Historical Association, 19 Jan 2023.
- "[Operational and Strategic Art](#)," The Operational Arch Podcast, School for Advanced Military Studies.