

# MICHAEL PATRICK O'HARA

COMMANDER, UNITED STATES NAVY

U.S. Naval War College  
Department of Strategy and Policy  
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## EDUCATION

2016	Ph.D., Columbia University: Political Science Fields of Study: International Relations and Comparative Politics	New York, NY
2014	M.Phil., Columbia University: Political Science	New York, NY
2012	M.A., Columbia University: Political Science	New York, NY
2010	M.A., with Highest Distinction, United States Naval War College: National Security and Strategic Studies	Newport, RI
2003	M.A., University of Rhode Island: English	Kingston, RI
1995	B.S., with Merit, United States Naval Academy: English	Annapolis, MD

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

U.S. Naval War College (Permanent Military Professor)		Newport, RI
2015-Pres	Strategy and Policy (SLC)	
2014-Pres	Strategy and War (ILC)	
Columbia University (Teaching Fellow)		New York, NY
2013	War, Peace and Strategy (POLS W4895x), Dr. Richard Betts	
2013	Introduction to International Relations (POLS V1601y), Dr. Robert Jervis	
2012	War, Peace and Strategy (POLS W4895x), Dr. Richard Betts	
U.S. Naval Academy (Volunteer Writing Tutor)		Annapolis, MD
2005-2007	Midshipman Writing Center	
U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School (Instructor)		Newport, RI
2001-2004	College Literature and Composition I/II	

## RESEARCH

### Dissertation

My dissertation examines diplomatic and operational activity under the Freedom of Navigation program from 1958-2013 and explores three theoretical explanations for the variation in diplomatic protests and operational assertions in disputes. It assembles an original dataset of 7,400 observations of every coastal state in the world, each maritime claim, and the diplomatic and operational conduct of the United States when disputes exist. A large-*n* statistical analysis motivates qualitative case studies on the implementation of U.S. policy with respect to specific coastal states. This research nests within a broader literature on hegemonic stability, coercive diplomacy, and international signaling and diplomatic communication.

Advisors: Dr. Robert Jervis (Chair); Dr. Richard Betts (Sponsor); Dr. Tonya Putnam; Dr. Stuart Gottlieb; and Dr. Austin Long.

## APPOINTMENTS

2015-2016 National Security Fellow, Watson Institute for International & Public Affairs, Brown University

## RESEARCH (continued)

### Working Papers

“Conditions of Cooperation and Conflict Over Maritime Boundaries” with Christodoulos Kaoutzanis  
“Sinking Costs or Sinking Ships: Chinese Foreign Policy and the Problem of Threat Perception in Maritime Disputes”  
“Pushing Boundaries: Pursuing State Strategy through Excessive Maritime Claims”  
“Policy at Sea: Evaluation of US Freedom of Navigation Operations, 1991-2011”  
“Shifting Tides of Compliance: Examining *Jus in Bello* in Naval Warfare”  
“Responding to the Call: When States Fight Somali Piracy”

## OTHER RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

On-going Spatial Reasoning and Military Decision Making, with Dr. Jonathan Bendor and Maj. Shawn Lonergan, US Army  
2011 Research Assistant, Maritime Strategy Working Group, U.S. Naval War College  
2009-2010 Halsey Group, U.S. Naval War College

## PEDAGOGY

2016 College and University Educators Workshop New York, NY  
Council on Foreign Relations  
2013 Teagle Summer Institute: Preparing Doctoral Students for 21st-Century Teaching New York, NY  
Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences  
2012 Fundamentals of College and University Teaching Seminar New York, NY  
Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

## OPERATIONAL MILITARY EXPERIENCE

2010-2011 United States Naval War College Newport, RI  
*Deputy Chair (Acting), Warfare, Analysis, and Research Department*  
2007-2009 Carrier Air Wing SEVEN, USS Dwight D Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group North Arabian Sea  
2005-2007 Office of Naval Intelligence, National Maritime Intelligence Center Suitland, MD  
2005 Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan, U.S. Central Command Kabul, Afghanistan  
1998-2001 Sea Control Squadron TWO TWO (VS-22) Arabian Gulf  
USS Enterprise Carrier Strike Group, USS Harry S Truman Strike Group Mediterranean Sea

## HONORS AND AWARDS

2010 Honor Graduate, College of Naval Command and Staff, U.S. Naval War College  
2010 Recipient, Permanent Military Professor Fellowship, U.S. Navy  
2009 Meritorious Service Medal (2009) and various Personal Awards and Unit Citations, U.S. Navy  
1995 McCormick Leadership Award, U.S. Naval Academy  
1994, 1995 Varsity Letter, Heavyweight Crew, U.S. Naval Academy  
1993-1995 Superintendent's List, U.S. Naval Academy

## CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

- 2016 "The Navy as a Political Instrument: Freedom of Navigation 1979-2013, Brown University (Watson Institute)
- 2015 (Invited Participant) Brown-Naval War College (C3S) Cyber Future Workshop, Newport, RI
- 2015 (Invited Participant) CFR Round-table Conference on Maritime Claims in the South China Sea, Council on Foreign Relations, New York, NY
- 2013 (Invited Participant) Johns Hopkins SAIS/Hertog Summer Study; San Diego, CA
- 2013 (Invited Participant) Summer Workshop on the Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy, Cornell University; Ithaca, NY
- 2012 (Moderator) "The Middle East: Now and the Future" with Dr. Rachel Bronson, Dr. Heidi Lane, and Dr. Marvin Zonis; U.S. Naval War College Foundation Dinner, Union League Club; Chicago, IL
- 2004 (Invited Paper) "Caught in the Crossfire: Advocating for Composition in a Military Institution," National Council of Teachers on College Composition and Communication; San Antonio, TX
- 2003 (Invited Paper) "War and the Warrior in Shakespeare's Comedies," British Graduate Student Conference; Stratford-upon-Avon, England

## LANGUAGES AND SOFTWARE TOOLS

Spanish (basic written translation)  
Stata, LaTeX, GIS, Zotero

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- 2013-2014 Columbia University Seminar on Defense and Security
- 2012-Pres U.S. Naval Institute
- 2011-Pres American Political Science Association
- 2010-Pres Naval War College Foundation Life Member

## SERVICE

- 2016- SLC Curriculum Development Team Member
- 2015- Blue and Gold Officer, U.S. Naval Academy Information Program
- 2015- Midshipman-Candidate Sponsor, Naval Academy Preparatory School
- 2015- SLC Curriculum Development Team Member
- 2014- Faculty advisor to Wargaming Department, game development for foreign naval officers
- 2010, 2011 Discussion Section Leader, Secretary of the Navy's Current Strategy Forum, Newport, RI
- 2009-2010 Co-Founder and Editor, *luce.nt/ A Journal of National Security Studies*, U.S. Naval War College
- 2002-2004 Chair, Honor and Character Development Program, U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School
- 2003, 2004 Coordinator, Summer Faculty Development, U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School
- 2001-2004 Head Coach, Cross Country (M & W), U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School
- 2001-2004 Assistant Coach, Indoor & Outdoor Track (M & W), U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School
- 1995 Teaching Assistant, Upward Bound Summer Youth Seminar at University of Chicago