

**Title:** Clausewitz and Alliances: The Defensive Ally Difference

**Speaker:** Olivia A. Garard

**Date:** 9 June 2022

**Time:** 1200-1315

**Where:** Strasser Dining Room, H-114

**POC:** Pauline Shanks Kaurin, Ph.D.

### **Synopsis**

In *On War*, Carl von Clausewitz devotes the most attention to understanding the nature of the defensive form of warfare. Balancing the material, historical, and political aspects of war, Clausewitz weaves an analysis of the defense's inherent potential strength. The ultimate means of support for the defense, Clausewitz argues, are allies. He goes so far to distinguish defensive allies from ordinary allies, which an attacker might also have. But identifying what, in particular, makes defensive allies so potent is wanting in his analysis. In an attempt to fill the gap, I contend that a philosophical account of friendship clarifies Clausewitz's distinction between ordinary and defensive allies. What does it mean to conceive of an alliance as a kind of friendship—or to see an ally as a friend?

### **Bio**

Olivia A. Garard served as an active duty officer in the US Marine Corps from 2014 to 2020 and holds a master's degree in liberal arts from St. John's College, a master's degree in war studies from King's College London, and an undergraduate degree in philosophy from Princeton University. She recently published her first book, *An Annotated Guide to Tactics: Carl von Clausewitz's Theory of the Combat* (Marine Corps University Press, 2021), and tweets at @teaandtactics.