Dear *Security Studies* Editorial Team,

Please find attached my manuscript “Allies as Armaments: Explaining the Specialization of State Military Capabilities” for consideration in the *Security Studies*. This paper identifies the importance of an under-explained phenomenon – why national militaries differ in their composition – and puts forward a novel theory about the political economy of alliances that advances our understanding of the consequences of international cooperation for how states provide for their security. *Security Studies* has published important research on burden-sharing and military innovation, making it an appropriate outlet for the conversations to which I hope this paper contributes.

The data used to create the dependent variable has been conditionally accepted as a Research Note at International Studies Quarterly as of May 30, 2023 and is in the proofing stage. That Research Note does not include any portion of this manuscript's literature review, theory, or empirical results. A pre-print of the Research Note under review can be found at <https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3930390>*.*

This paper has not been presented in whole at any conference or workshop. Some of the results and related papers have been presented at APSA, ISA, and ISSS with the following discussants/chairs:

* Justin Canfil (Belfer Center)
* Fiona Cunningham (UPenn)
* Michael Horowitz (UPenn)
* Sarah Kreps (Cornell)
* Erik Lin-Greenberg (MIT)
* Michaela Mattes (Berkeley)
* Jennifer Spindel (New Hampshire)

Other scholars who have provided feedback on earlier drafts are mentioned in the acknowledgments. Cognizant of the tension between double blind peer review and ensuring qualified reviewers read the manuscript, the author trusts the editorial board's judgment about whether any of the aforementioned scholars or those in the acknowledgments should be included in the reviewer pool. The author is also an incoming faculty member at Vanderbilt University, which may be relevant concerning potential reviewer conflict of interest.

Scholars who have not, to the author’s knowledge, seen or provided feedback on previous versions of this paper and who are experts on the subject include:

* Jordan Becker (West Point Academy)
* Brian Blankenship (University of Miami)
* Matthew Fuhrmann (Texas A&M)
* Alexander Lanoszka (University of Waterloo)

Thank you for your consideration,

J Andres Gannon