

CHRIS ALLBRITTON

chris@christopherallbritton.com

Washington, DC

305.741.9886

COMMUNICATIONS PROFESSIONAL

I am an innovative and experienced Communications Professional with a proven record of leadership in dynamic situations under tight deadlines, managing projects, and developing and implementing strategic communication and media plans. I have strong writing, editing, research, photography, and social media skills with a flair for presenting complex ideas simply. My work has appeared in many major domestic and foreign publications, and I have a passion for humanitarian and socially progressive causes.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Editing/Writing
- Social Media
- Media Relations
- Research/Reporting
- Public Relations
- Team Leadership
- Thought Leadership
- Public Policy
- Strategic Planning
- Communication Planning
- Public Speaking
- Media Training

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

MERCY CORPS, Media Relations Manager

2017–2019

- Manage team of seven staffers and two consultants across three countries and five cities, setting work priorities, clearing and editing others' communications products, and managing my own global lead portfolios of Iraq, Palestine (West Bank/Gaza), Pakistan, Bangladesh/Myanmar, North Korea, and Climate Change.
- Maintain and expand key media relationships by building on 25 years of experience as a foreign correspondent, including with *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, and *Wall Street Journal*.
- Review all press releases and statements for consistent voice, editorial excellence, and alignment with Mercy Corps' strategic goals and objectives.
- Work closely with policy and research, digital marketing, content, program and country teams, and executive teams to develop messaging and plan media outreach related to Mercy Corps' global advocacy agenda.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Led global emergency communications efforts for Fuego Volcano in Guatemala and Hurricanes Florence and Michael in the United States, generating dozens of media hits for the organizations and our responses.
- Reorganized the Global Media Relations team around newsroom beats, focusing on regional coverage and a select number of thematic beats, with the goal of streamlining the promotion of Mercy Corps' work.
- Developed and implemented plans for content gathering trips to Kenya and Colombia, focusing on climate change, violence prevention, and refugees, all of which later was used online for social media and fundraising materials.

CENTER FOR CIVILIANS IN CONFLICT, Communications Manager

2016–2017

- Advised organizational leadership and program directors to set and implement strategic communication priorities that raised CIVIC's profile, expanded its thought leadership position, and promoted awareness of CIVIC's issue across traditional and digital media, targeting both international and national audiences.
- Collaborated with development on communications/fundraising strategies to expand and diversify revenue streams.
- Ensured editorial quality of briefs and reports, newsletters, web content, social media, and other online communications, across CIVIC's programs.
- Managed editorial budgets and schedules.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Generated 157 pieces of positive coverage for CIVIC since April 2016, reaching an estimated 5.38 million readers and generating more than 126,000 social media shares, an increase of 220 percent during my tenure.
- Developed and implemented 2016-18 strategic plan for the organization's overall communications efforts to support its advocacy and program goals.
- Managed a major website redesign.

THE DAILY BEAST, Senior Editor

2014–2015

- Developed and implemented coverage strategy for weekend edition of the Daily Beast for Web, mobile, social media, and newsletters.
- Created quality editorial and visual digital content, applying best practices for search engine optimization and maintaining a consistent voice and tone.
- Recruited and managed new writers and regular columnists.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Helped grow monthly traffic from 13 million unique visitors a month to nearly 21 million.

THOMSON REUTERS, Pakistan Bureau Chief

2009–2012

- Led a strong international team of Pakistani, British, and American journalists and developed a network of 15–20 stringers across the country.
- Repeatedly broke stories in a highly competitive and deadline-driven environment while juggling multiple projects.
- Set daily editorial priorities and identified key news hooks.
- Designed and managed budgets, coverage priorities, and content development in editorial and visual media.
- Coordinated with other bureaus on global stories, working across language, cultural, and geographic divides.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Directed a team of reporters and photographers to Abbottabad when Osama bin Laden was killed, landing a global scoop on the US military's stealth helicopters.
- Broke exclusive story on Pakistani cooperation in the US drone campaign, interviewed Prime Minister Yousaf Gillani, and wrote special report on mining operations in Baluchistan.

TIME MAGAZINE, Freelance correspondent for Iraq, Lebanon and Pakistan

2004–2009

- Picked up after demonstrated success of Back-to-Iraq, the first blogger contracted by a national magazine.
- Extensive experience covering conflict, local politics and US national security/strategy.
- Comfortable and knowledgeable about US, and other military cultures and procedures.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Broke first story on Sunni Awakening during the 2005 river campaign in Huseybah, Iraq.
- Reported from inside Imam Ali shrine in Najaf during 2004 offensive against Mahdi Army.
- Video feature on US “jazz diplomacy” in Pakistan in 2009

INTERNATIONAL EDITOR/NATIONAL WRITER, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1997–1999

- Involved in shaping and editing the agency's global coverage of stories such as the Algerian Civil War and the death of Princess Diana.
- After promotion to National Writer, covered and coordinated newly emerging cultural impact of the Internet, technology and how it related to national and international news.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Wrote some of the earliest stories on hacker culture, wearable computing and the globalization of internet tech hubs for a featured called “Silicon Planet,” which appeared in dozens of US newspapers.

JOURNALIST & COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

1997–Present

- Foreign correspondent and editor for the *Boston Globe*, *New York*, *TIME*, Reuters, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Intercept*, *New York Daily News*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *Newsweek*.
- Operated independently and with *TIME* in Iraq from 2002–2006 after raising more than \$20,000 to cover the war.
- Experienced photographer and photo editor, having shot and edited photos for both Reuters and *Newsweek*.
- Thrives under long hours in difficult environments, such as Israel/Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Pakistan, Djibouti, Thailand, New Zealand, Colombia, Nigeria, Kenya and Washington, DC.
- Comfortable in all media, including text, photography, radio, video, and social. Appeared in stand-ups for NBC, Fox News, Al Jazeera and others.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Founded Back-to-Iraq.com in 2002, demonstrating viability of crowdfunding for independent conflict journalism..Grew audience from zero to 50,000 unique daily readers through media outreach and promotion.
- Subject matter expert (on camera) for Oscar-nominated documentary, “No End in Sight.”
- Developed series of features on US naval operations during the global war on terror, reporting from Gulf of Aden, the Northern Persian Gulf, and the Arabian Sea.

EDUCATION & AWARDS

- John S. Knight Journalism Fellowship Award, Stanford University, 2008 – 2009
- Masters of Science, Journalism, Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, 1997
- Bachelor of Arts, Journalism, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, 1993