



# USCMH

# Newsletter

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON MILITARY HISTORY

## foreword

The USCMH is affiliated with the International Commission of Military History and takes part in its projects and programs, including contributions to its publication program (mainly the International Bibliography of Military History) and participating in the annual international meetings..

## in this issue

Annual Meeting.....	1
Report on the Potsdam Congress	2
Presidential Reflections.....	3
Your Commission adopts the Military Classics Seminar.....	4
2007 ICMH Congress news.....	5
Report on the 2006 SMH meeting.....	5
Updated Officers and Trustees.....	6
New Members! .....	7

## Annual Meeting

**Saturday, October 28**, is the date for the annual meeting. It will be held at the Mount Vernon Inn, located adjacent to President George Washington's historic Mount Vernon. We will begin at 11:30 and conclude at 2:00 pm. For directions, go to the web site:

[www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org). Parking is free. The restaurant is next to the gift shop. If you will be attending, please select your meal. There are two entrées: Homemade Salmon Corncakes or London Broil, both with two fresh garden vegetables. Meals are accompanied by a tossed green salad, a slice of pie with coffee, tea, milk or soft drink. A cash bar is available. The price is \$16 which includes tax and gratuity.

Reservations can be made in one of two ways: email Pat Harahan, [pat.harahan@dtra.mil](mailto:pat.harahan@dtra.mil) or call him at 703-569-9684. Payment by check or cash will be accepted by the treasurer at the door. The deadline for reservations is October 20th.

**Tom Ricks** will be the speaker. He is the senior military correspondent for the Washington Post and author of the recent book, *Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq*. A political-military analysis, it examines the United States decision to go to war, the planning and operations during the invasion and war, the absence of any serious postwar planning, and the consequential conduct of the war by U.S. military forces. An experienced war correspondent, Ricks has reported on U.S. military operations in Kuwait, Somalia, Haiti, Korea, Bosnia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Afghanistan, and Iraq. He is the author of *Making the Corps* and *A Soldier's Duty*.

## **32nd International Military History Congress, Potsdam, Germany August 20-25, 2006**

Pat Harahan, Secretary-general USCMH

A large USCMH delegation participated in the International Congress of Military History (ICMH) in Potsdam, Germany in late August. Led by President John Lynn, and ICMH Vice-president Allan Millett, the U.S. delegation consisted of forty academic and public military historians, museum curators and accompanying persons. The Congress was organized by the Deutsche Kommission für Militärgeschichte under the direction of Colonel Dr. Hans Ehlert, Director of the Militärgeschichtliches Forschungsamt (German Military History Institute). Dr. Franz Josef Jung, Minister of Defense, served as the patron for the Congress. Minister Jung addressed the opening session, strongly endorsing the German Military History Institute's effort to research, write, and publish serious, comprehensive military history for the German Bundeswehr and the German public.

The theme of the Congress was "Nation-state, Nationalism, and the Military." Military historians from thirty-seven nations presented papers, participated in roundtables, and joined together for the opening and final sessions. Last year the international governing board invited five new nations to join: Cameroon, Cyprus, Jordan, Senegal, and the United Arab Emirates. All accepted, and this year military historians from these nations attended this congress, with many presenting papers on the military experiences in their nations. In addition, another new nation was invited to join this year. The Tunisian Commission of Military History, sponsored by the Minister of Defense, accepted and indicated that it will participate in future congresses. A total of 270 delegates participated in the ICMH Congress in Potsdam this year.

Four members of the U.S. Commission presented papers:

Geoffery P. Megargee, "Sociopathic Nationalism: The German Military and the Nazi Camp System"

James K. Hogue, "Disintegration and Reintegration: Confederate Soldiers and the United States Army, 1865-1898"

Joseph P. Harahan, "After the Soviet Union's Collapse: Emerging nations and the Use of National Armies as Symbols of Sovereignty"

Bianka J. Adams, "TRUST: Guarding the Freedom of Trieste in Front of the "Iron Curtain"

The presentations of these scholars will be published in the conference proceedings, scheduled for release in a year. If you would like a copy of one or more of the papers, contact the individual or the USCMH Secretary-general. A copy will be sent to you, electronically.

For the Congress, Pat Harahan organized and led a book roundtable on the topic "Developing Collaborative National and International Military History Projects." Ed Marolda spoke on the U.S. Navy History Center. John Lynn chaired a session, and Allan Millett participated in all of the ICMH Board meetings and the final General Assembly. Given all this activity, the U.S. Commission was well represented at this international congress.

At Potsdam, the President of the Spanish Commission on Military History announced the publication of the 2006 ACTA from the ICMH Congress held in Madrid, Spain. The theme of the volume is "Naval and Land Power in the Age of Trafalgar." The US Commission sponsored five historians at this congress, and their published papers are contained in this volume.

One of the features of these large international congresses is the opportunity to travel to military and cultural sites in the host nation. In Germany, there were opportunities for touring Potsdam and Berlin. Potsdam is the capitol of the federal state of Brandenburg. One evening, following the scholarly sessions, all of

the Congress participants were hosted at a reception held on a boat that traversed a beautiful lake, the Templiner See. The boat trip and reception were hosted by the Minister President of Brandenburg.

Another day, all of the participants traveled by bus to visit the Zitadelle Spandau, a fortress dating back to the 11th century which had been extensively expanded by Elector Joachim II during the Renaissance. Today, the fort is restored and is used as a cultural center. This fortress visit was followed by a trip to see Fredrick the Great's summer residence, Sanssouci Palace. This incredibly beautiful palace is on the United Nation's list of World Heritage sites. Then, late in the afternoon the group went to see Cecilienhof Palace, site of the 1945 Potsdam Conference, attended by Churchill, Stalin, and Truman.

One afternoon, the German commission organized a special treat for Congress participants: a visit and tour of the new German parliament building, the Reichstag. The President of the Otto von Bismark Foundation hosted the visit and reception. With 600 parliamentarians meeting in the building, the new German Reichstag serves as the legislative center for the Federal Republic of Germany. It is an impressive capitol building and the view of Berlin from the top of the glass dome and roof top observation terraces is spectacular.

On the final evening, the German Commission of Military History and other sponsors hosted a banquet at a restaurant near Sanssouci Palace. The evening was filled with good fellowship, excellent wine, and elegant food. The long march to the main course was accompanied by a series of speeches and toasts that included compliments and praise for the nation, its military, cultural sites, and the congress' leaders, organizers, staff, guests, historians, and camp followers. No one was left out. That was appropriate because, in the opinion of the American delegation, the 32<sup>nd</sup> International Military History Congress in Potsdam, Germany was excellent.

## **Presidential Reflections**

Vielen Dank to our German friends; the ICMH congress in Potsdam was informative, stimulating, and enjoyable. One of the initiatives taken at this meeting was the creation of a committee to consider ways of improving the serious historical work, what the Europeans would call the "scientific" work, of the ICMH. This might involve new guidance for conference papers, better ways of involving more young scholars, effective means of securing outside funding for ICMH projects, etc. The Board also charged the committee with exploring strategies to make the ICMH better known across the globe. The committee consists of five members: Ioannis Loucas (chair), Jean Avenal, Winfried Heinemann, Ciro Paoletti, and myself. During the next several months, the committee will confer via email, and we will meet again face-to-face in the spring of 2007. At that time we will prepare a report to present to the board of the ICMH in South Africa.

Each member of the committee has been charged with a particular task. Mine is to pursue the initiative that I have discussed in the USCMH for the past three years: the creation of a web-based electronic library of military history and security studies. This would require us to identify the ever-mounting number of books and other sources available free on the web, intelligently catalogue these resources, and create a single site that would link this body of publications together. If completed, this site could aid researchers, students, and historical services world-wide. This project would ultimately cost money, so it would have to be linked with fund-raising. I will have more to say about this at our annual meeting.

Onward!

John Lynn

USCMH President

## US Commission Adopts Military Classics Seminar

Randy Papadopoulos, USCMH Trustee

As a new initiative, for the next two years the USCMH will be hosting the Washington DC-based Military Classics Seminar. Founded in 1958, this seminar is a dinner-and-speaker series held on the third Tuesday of the month at the Fort Myer Officers' Club, in northern Virginia. Scheduled between September and November, and January to June, each of the Military Classics Seminars opens with a reception at 5:30 pm, followed by dinner at 6:30 and the book presentation at 7:30. The cost for the evening is \$28.00, including the dinner and gratuity. A list of books for the 2006-2007 season follows:

**19 September 2006.** Isley, Jeter A., & Philip A. Crowl. *The U. S. Marines and Amphibious War.*

Speaker: Benis M. Frank, Retired Historian, U.S. Marine Corps

**17 October 2006.** Mahan, Alfred T., *Life of Nelson: The Embodiment of the Sea Power of Great Britain.*

Speaker: Michael Palmer, East Carolina University

**21 November 2006** Pogue, Forrest C. , *Pogue's War: Diaries of a WWII Combat Historian.*

Speaker: Stanley L. Falk, Military Historian (retired), US Army, U.S. Air Force

**16 January 2007** Gaff, Alan D., *Bayonets in the Wilderness: Anthony Wayne's Legion in the Old Northwest.*

Speaker: David W. Hogan, Senior Historian, U.S. Army Center of Military History

**20 February 2007** Wiley, Bell I., *The Life of Johnny Reb: The Common Soldier of the Confederacy & The Life of Billy Yank: The Common Soldier of the Union.*

Speaker: Edwin C. Bearss, Chief Historian (retired), U.S. National Park Service

**20 March 2007** Gordon, Michael R. & Bernard E. Trainor, *Cobra II: The Inside Story of the Invasion and Occupation of Iraq.*

Speaker: Mark D. Mandeles, Historian and Systems Analyst, The J. de Bloch Group

**17 April 2007** Dual: Bird, Wilkinson Dent, *A Chapter of Misfortunes: The Battles of Ctesiphon and of Dujailah, and the British Campaign in Mesopotamia, 1915-1916,* and Charles V. Townshend, *My Campaign in Mesopotamia.*

Speaker: Dina R. Khoury, Historian, George Washington University

**15 May 2007** Coffman, Edward M., *The Regulars: The American Army, 1898-1941.*

Speaker: Timothy K. Nenninger, Military Historian and Senior Archivist, National Archives

**19 June 2007** Stallings, Laurence. *The Doughboys.*

Speaker: Sanders Marble, Historian, Office of Medical History, U. S. Army

If you are interested in being added to the invitation list for these events, please contact Randy Papadopoulos at (202)433-3934 or by e-mail at [randy.papadopoulos@navy.mil](mailto:randy.papadopoulos@navy.mil).

## News and Information



The National Museum of American History closed on September 6, 2006 to begin the construction phase of an exciting project to renovate the museum. The museum will reopen in the summer of

2008 with a light-filled atrium, a grand stairway, state of the art gallery for the Star Spangled Banner, and many new visitor amenities. Check out the plan on the museum website: [www.americanhistory.si.edu](http://www.americanhistory.si.edu)



John Lynn, professor of History, University of Illinois and president of the USCMH, is working with the Moroccan Commission of Military History on the creation of a maritime museum in Casablanca. The Utah National Guard, which is the state guard paired with Morocco, and Headquarters, National Guard Bureau, are working with the Morocco Commission. Lynn is serving on the coordinating committee.



Allan R. Millett, past president of the USCMH, published *The War for Korea, 1945-1950: A House Burning*. The history is in the Modern War Studies Series, University of Kansas Press, 2006. It is the first volume of a comprehensive history of the Korean War.



Margaret Vining, curator of military history and diplomacy at the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, and USCMH member, has been awarded research leave in 2007 to pursue her work on a biography of Sophonisba Preston Breckinridge (1866-1948). One important aspect of Vining's work is a study of the extensive interaction between academia and the military during World War I.



Hans Pawlisch, senior historian, History Office, Joint Chiefs of Staff, US Department of Defense, participated in the 7th International Symposium on Sun Tzu's Art of War, sponsored by the China Research Society in Hangzhou, China. The conference, held from May 29 – June 1, 2006, had three major themes: Sun Tzu's thoughts, relations among major powers, and the peaceful development of China.



Jeffrey J. Clarke was named Director of the U.S. Army Center of Military History in May 2006. Dr. Clarke has served as a USCMH Trustee.



Janice E. McKenney, historian (retired), US Army Center of Military History, has completed a manuscript, which will be published by the Center as *The Organizational History of the Field Artillery, 1775-2003*.



Robin Highham and Stephen John Harris have edited a new book, *Why Air Forces Fail: The Anatomy of Defeat* with the University of Kentucky. The book contains eleven historical essays on the failure of nations to construct, develop, and use air forces in the twentieth century. Professor Highham serves as the USCMH representative to the ICMH Military Archives Committee.



Pat Harahan, historian, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, received a Fellowship at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, Smithsonian Institution, for 2005-2006. While at the center he worked on a book, "With Courage and Persistence ... the United States, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine and the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, 1992-2004." Dr. Harahan is currently USCMH Secretary-general.

If you have news, please submit it by 2 January to Sanders Marble at [uscmh\\_newsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:uscmh_newsletter@yahoo.com)



## **2007 ICMH Congress to be held in Cape Town, South Africa**

The South African Military History Commission and the Faculty of Military Science of the University of Stellenbosch University has invited all members of the national military history commission to the 2007 ICMH Congress. It will be held in Cape Town, South Africa from August 12-17, 2007. The theme of the congress is "Regions, Regional Organizations, and Military Power." We encourage USCMH members who are interested in presenting a paper, organizing a panel, or attending the meeting, to examine the information on the theme, hotels, city, and schedule on 2007 ICMH Congress website, [info@cihm2007.ac.za](mailto:info@cihm2007.ac.za)

For USCMH members wishing to propose a paper topic, the process is to develop an abstract, include a brief vita or resume, and submit it to Dr. Hans Pawlisch, Vice-president, USCMH. The next USCMH Newsletter, January 2007, will have additional information on this major, international military history conference. Dr. Pawlisch e-mil address is [HansPawlisch@msn.com](mailto:HansPawlisch@msn.com)

## **Society for Military History Meeting, May 18-21, 2006, Manhattan, Kansas**

By Bianka Adams, USCMH Member

This year, the Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas, hosted the Society for Military History annual meeting. Casting a wide net with its theme "The Construction, Reconstruction, and Consumption of Military History," the Society again brought together several hundred military historians from all four corners of the United States and from abroad. Conference participants had a choice of fifty-six panels with presentations topics ranging from Ancient Biological Warfare all the way to Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. While most would agree that Manhattan, Kansas is located off the beaten path, making traveling there more challenging than flying to the other Manhattan, they would also concede that the chance to see the forts, museums, and research libraries in the "neighborhood" made up for the inconvenience. On Friday afternoon, attendees were invited to visit Fort Riley, Kansas, to tour the U.S. Cavalry Museum, the U.S. Cavalry Association Research Library, and the Close Combined Arms Training Center. On Saturday, attendees had an option to shuttle to the conference's second venue for sessions at the Eisenhower Presidential Center at Abilene. On the whole, the meeting was, as always, a great opportunity to learn about the latest research across the field and catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

## **Current Officers and Trustees**

Due to several changes in the past year, here is the current list of officers (both elected and appointed) and trustees.

President: Dr. John A. Lynn, email: [johnlynn@uiuc.edu](mailto:johnlynn@uiuc.edu)

Vice-President: Dr. Hans Pawlisch, email: [HansPawlisch@msn.com](mailto:HansPawlisch@msn.com)

Secretary-General: Dr. Pat Harahan, email: [pat.harahan@dtra.mil](mailto:pat.harahan@dtra.mil) or [harahan@verizon.net](mailto:harahan@verizon.net)

Treasurer: Dr. Geoffrey Megargee, email: [gpmega@yahoo.com](mailto:gpmega@yahoo.com)

Secretary: Janice E. McKenney, email: [janicee.mckenney@worldnet.att.net](mailto:janicee.mckenney@worldnet.att.net)

Newsletter Editor: Dr. Sanders Marble, email: [uscmh\\_newsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:uscmh_newsletter@yahoo.com)

### **Board of Trustees:**

BG David Armstrong, email: [david.armstrong@js.pentagon.mil](mailto:david.armstrong@js.pentagon.mil)

BG (ret) John S. Brown, email: [John.S.Brown@hqda.army.mil](mailto:John.S.Brown@hqda.army.mil)

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Janice E. McKenney

Dr. Geoffrey Megargee  
Dr. Randy Papadopoulos, email: randy.papadopoulos@navy.mil  
Willard Snyder, email: wbs11@kc.rr.com

Representative to the Bibliography Committee:

Dr. James K. Hogue, email: jhogue@email.uncc.edu

Representative to ICMH Archives Committee:

Dr. Robin Higham, email: marolync@flintheills.com

## **New Members!**

Saving the best for last, the Commission is delighted to welcome the following new members:

Swarnjit Singh Sidhu, India

Daniel Sebby, California

Richard Nelson, Illinois

Brit McCarley, Virginia

Robert S. Voyles, Utah

Russell A. Hart, Hawaii

Robert S. Rush, Washington DC

Vincent C. Breslin, Arizona

Robert S. Stubbs, Hawaii

Jamel Ostwald, Connecticut

Blake Witaker, Texas

Thomas Dowling, Virginia

Malcolm Muir, Jr. Virginia

Matthew Seelinger, Virginia