



USCMH

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON MILITARY HISTORY

Newsletter

Foreword

The USCMH is affiliated with the International Commission of Military History and takes part in its international projects, including contributing to its publications, the International Bibliography of Military History, and participating in the annual international military history congresses.

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President's Column

Richard Stewart
President, *USCMH*

Things continue to move along with your Commission as we close out another year of activity. It has been a successful year with a small but well-run international Congress in Varna, Bulgaria, and we are all looking forward to an even more exciting year in 2015! After all, any year that includes a trip to China (put Beijing on your calendar!) has got to count as an exciting year!

We held our annual general membership meeting on 15 November this year in Bethesda, Maryland, at a very nice restaurant, the Brasserie Monte Carlo. Major kudos to our Vice President, Randy Papadopoulos, for arranging it all. At this meeting we not only shared a fine meal and excellent conversation (military history conversation, of course), but we also welcomed some new members and heard a great presentation from this year's Collins Prize winner, our own Dr. David Crist. He was awarded the prize for his work entitled *The Twilight War: The Secret History of America's Thirty-Year Conflict with Iran*. Many thanks, again, to Ed Marolda, Jeff Clarke, and Kelly DeVries for their work on the prize committee that selected this book. Thanks guys.

But before we held our general membership meeting and presentation by our guest speaker/prize winner, the officers and trustees met to discuss the state of the commission and set out the agenda for the next year.

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We regretfully accepted the resignation of Fred Borch as our recording secretary. Thanks for your service, Fred! We also heard a report from Hans Pawlisch about his continuing planning efforts for Baltimore in 2019 when we are planning that we will host the ICMH Congress. He is developing hotel choices, program options, raising issues of translation and funding, and truly providing us excellent advice and guidance. But this event will be a big financial and logistical challenge for the Commission and we will ALL have to pitch in with our time, effort, and, yes, money. Hans has done great work so far, but he will not be alone in this endeavor!

Speaking of Hans, we also decided, unanimously, to nominate Hans Pawlisch to the ICMH board. Hans has provided exceptional service to the U.S. Commission over the years including as President and now Trustee, and we felt that he would be an excellent representative of our Commission to the International Commission. Traditionally the Board of ICMH has had a U.S. member (we are one of the founding Commissions and the largest of the Commissions), so it is important for us to have a role in running the international piece.

Also, something to look forward to, we will be having elections in 2015 for President (vice me), Vice President (vice Randy Papadopoulos), and four trustees (vice Adams, who will not be running again, with von Luttichau, Pawlisch and DiNardo up for reelection). These are important offices in your Commission, so I hope you all think about candidates and VOTE when the time comes. And I hope that all members will work with the nominating committee, headed by Janice McKinney, to consider serving the Commission in an elected office. Why not put your name forward? You'll be in good company.

And don't forget to put Beijing on your calendar for next year's ICMH Congress (more details soon) and next year's annual meeting (location to be determined) on the 14th of November. These meetings are the high points of our Commission's activities and you don't want to miss them. As part of our meeting on the 15th, we even agreed to raise the travel grant for graduate students and young scholars (one time only!) up to \$2000 vice \$1500 so that we would have a better turn-out. Jesse Kaufmann represented us well at Varna talking about the WW I occupation of Poland by Germany and it would be great to get additional young scholars or students to go to Beijing to represent the Commission as well.

So, in conclusion, I would like to re-emphasize three important issues that should be in the minds of all commission members: the endowment for the future, bringing in new members, and the planned 2019 Congress that we will be sponsoring in Baltimore. All of these events require new members—new active members—willing to give of their time and money to grow the organization, fund our initiatives, and make the Congress work. Join me and resolve to bring at least one new member in this year! Secondly, if we are to have the financial wherewithal to continue to award travel grants to young scholars and graduate students and to award the Collins Prize to future scholars, we need to build up our endowment for the future. Consider giving to the Endowment fund (just send your checks to Geoff Megargee, our treasurer) *this year*. I will, and so should you. Even a small amount will go a long way to help the future of your Commission in its mission of promoting international military history connections. And it's even tax deductible!

Thanks for your support and I look forward to another great year and another great Congress next summer! And think Baltimore-2019! It will be here before you know it.

USCMH Secretary General

Donald Bittner
Secretary General, *USCMH*

USCMH Membership, Close of 2014. As of 1 December 2014, the membership status of the U.S. Commission on Military History stood at:

CATEGORY	NUMBERS	COMMENT
Members in Good Standing	98	Dues paid
Life Members	3	Drs. Lundeberg, Higham, and Coffman
TOTAL	101	Does not include one deceased member.

NOTES:

(1) USCMH lost one long supporting member who passed away in September: Dr. Martin Gordon, a regular at our annual meetings and at the ICMH congresses.

(2) There are a number of former members who, for whatever reason, have ceased their membership in the USCMH. If current members know any of these, please encourage them to rejoin via contacting the Secretary-General.

(3) This year, the USCMH has welcomed five new members, including one from Canada.

(4) Two others have joined the USCMH; since this was late in the 2014 calendar year, they will be counted as 2015 new members.

USCMH Membership Mail Out, Spring 2015. In the spring of 2015, the Secretary-General will send out membership renewals via the USPS to all members in good standing. This will include:

- (a) Membership renewals, to include dues. (***Aide memoire:*** As approved by the USCMH board of trustees in the spring of 2014, membership is now on an annual basis with annual dues of \$40.00 (\$30.00 for graduate students).
- (b) For each member, confirmation of his or her U.S. Postal Service mailing address and e-mail address. (**NOTE:** This information is not shared with outsiders of USCMH leadership; it is used for official purposes only. In reality, this means the Secretary-General and the editor of the USCMH newsletter.)
- (c) Research, writing, and teaching interests.
- (d) An indication of each member's interest in attending the 2015 ICMH Congress in Beijing, China.

(e) Interest in having a second USCMH event, possibly in the spring of each year, in addition to the annual meeting in November of each year.

(f) An appeal for support to the USCMH endowment fund.

2014 ICMH at Varna, Bulgaria. The Secretary-General was one of 14 members of the USCMH who attended the 2014 congress hosted by the Bulgarian Commission on Military History. As a result of the mail out of last spring, 20 of us indicated an interest in going to Bulgaria – and fourteen (including four spouses) did. Our Bulgarian colleagues hosted an excellent conference, to include a most interesting post conference tour into central Bulgaria. Four members of the USCMH delegation, plus three delegates from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), were on that most interesting, informative, and enjoyable trip – which focused on Bulgarian history, culture, and sites from ancient Thrace to the 19th century. The returns from last year's mail out indeed gave the USCMH leadership a sense of who might be attending. Hence, the inclusion of an indication for China in 2015 in that which will be coming.

2015 ICMH at Beijing, China. The Chinese Commission on Military History should have their website up and operating in January 2015. When the 2015 membership letter from the USCMH Secretary-General, i.e., me, arrives, you should be able to consult the website for details of next year's ICMH congress and be better informed to respond to possible intentions with regard to attending it.

Possible Second Event for USCMH Members. USCMH members will be surveyed on this. For example, an informal discussion has been made with one member about a luncheon and ensuing on site visit with commentary on the Civil War forts protecting Washington during the Civil War.

Imperial War Museum, London. Information has been received that due to reduced government funding and hence reduced operating budget, the Imperial War Museum, London, is considering closing its library and eliminating 80 positions. Information on this can be found at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-29966987>

There is an on-line petition opposing this action circulating reference this.

Membership, Old, New, and Perspective: 2015. As noted above, five (5) new members have joined the USCMH for 2014 and two (2) for 2015. The Secretary-General also has a communication from one former member who may be rejoining. Please note that the USCMH still has a need for new members if we are to continue to grow and evolve. I would ask current members to solicit interest in colleagues and, if someone responds, to contact me via the USPS or my e-mail address.

With regard to this, remember that the USCMH is an open one; hence, as is evident at the ICMH congresses, potential members can come from:

- Historians
- Librarians
- Archivists
- Museum and historic preservationists
- Military personnel (active, retired, veterans)
- General public interested in history or national security affairs

If you are conversing with a potential new member, please emphasize that the U.S. Commission is an open and eclectic one. The key is an interest in military history (or national security affairs), especially with regard to the

international aspects of the profession of arms and its related association with the diverse aspects of military history. Our members' interests and perspectives, coupled with those of members of other national commissions, ensure a unique opportunity for individual personal and professional growth.

Hence, USCMH membership consists of academic and government historians and members from other fields, e.g., librarians, archivists, etc.; active duty, reserve, and retired military personnel; other civilian government officials; and other individuals interested in our work and that of scholars from other lands. Please note that we have USCMH members from Australia (1), Canada (1), Finland (1), and Germany (5).

A basic question will arise in such discussions: "What benefit is the USCMH to me?" Amongst the possible responses are:

- (a) The USCMH is a small and personable organization.
- (b) Our members are responsive to each other.
- (c) The Commission has an open membership.
- (d) There is an international perspective to the work of and interest in military history beyond that of the U.S.
- (e) Annual international congresses hosted by a national commission recognized by the ICMH, the benefits of which span the spectrum from papers presented and colleagues met to the host countries and cities in which the congress is held annually.
- (f) The U.S. Commission has a number of presentation slots at each ICMH annual congress, thus an opportunity is available for USCMH members to present papers before international peers and receive responses to each presenter's scholarly work. We are also working on panels at other history conferences.
- (g) For younger members in the profession, the possibility of a travel stipend to an annual congress.
- (h) Several ideas are being discussed by the USCMH leaders on how the USCMH can bring more benefits to its membership. Hence the above notes about a possible second event for members.

Suggestions from the USCMH Membership. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS ON HOW THE USCMH CAN BETTER SERVE ITS MEMBERS OR EVENTS WE CAN DO, PLEASE SEND THEM TO ME. All suggestions will be carefully considered and discussed.

Thank You and Enjoy the Forthcoming Autumn and Winter Holidays. From all of the leadership of the USCMH, thank you for your continued interest in and support of the U.S. Commission on Military History. As we are now in late November (when this is being written), best wishes for an enjoyable and safe holiday season.

Donald F. Bittner
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Vice President Reports

Randy Papadopoulos
Vice President, USCMH

Annual Luncheon. This year's annual USCMH luncheon featured Dr. David Crist, of the Joint History Office, who delivered a presentation outlining U.S.-Iran relations since the 1970s. Derived from his book, *The Twilight War: The Secret History of America's Thirty-Year Conflict With Iran*, 2014 winner of the U.S. Commission on Military History Collins Book Prize, Dr. Crist presented a balanced view of the policy limits and outright mistakes of both nations' leaders. His remarks were enjoyed by the entire audience and prompted a spirited discussion afterwards.

Call for Papers. The United States Commission on Military History solicits paper proposals for the 2015 Congress of the International Commission of Military History (ICMH) at Beijing, China, to take place between 30 August and 4 September 2015. The general theme of the meeting will be "World War Two and the Development of Warfare in the 20th Century."

Papers for regular sessions will be selected by the U.S. Commission. In order to promote the participation of junior USCMH members, the U.S. Commission is offering a travel subvention this year of up to \$2,000. Those historians selected will present their papers before an international audience of military historians from around the world and their papers will be published as part of the conference proceedings.

Please deliver your paper proposal not later than 28 February 2015, including a two page draft proposal and a CV, then deliver them by email to Randy Papadopoulos, Vice President of the US Commission, at randy.papadopoulos@navy.mil.

Call for Graduate Student Papers. The United States Commission on Military History invites U.S. graduate students (those enrolled in graduate school but not yet awarded the Ph.D.) to submit papers for the 2015 congress of the International Commission of Military History (ICMH) to be held at Beijing, China between 30 August and 4 September 2015. The general theme of the meeting is "World War Two and the Development of Warfare in the 20th Century."

To promote participation by emerging scholars, this year the U.S. Commission will offer to a student member a travel subvention of up to \$2,000, and the Chinese Commission will offer lower registration and lodging rates. The successful candidate will submit an original piece of research, such as a seminar paper, before an audience of military historians from around the world and their papers will be published as part of the conference proceedings. Applicants are required to send a one page description of the project, a draft copy of the paper, and a CV by email not later than 28 February 2015 to Randy Papadopoulos, Vice President of the US Commission, at randy.papadopoulos@navy.mil.

Military Classics Seminar schedule. All events are held beginning at 5:30 pm at the Fort Myer Officers' Club.

January 20, 2015

Steven L. Rearden, *Council of War: A History of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, 1942–1991*. Washington, D.C.: Joint History Office, 2012.

Speaker: Walter S. Poole, OSD Historical Office

February 17, 2015

Rick Atkinson, *The Guns at Last Light: The War in Western Europe, 1944–1945, vol. 3 of The Liberation Trilogy*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2013.

Speaker: David W. Hogan, Jr., US Army Center of Military History

March 17, 2015

Richard Kohn, *Eagle and Sword: The Beginnings of the Military Establishment in America* New York: Free Press, 1985.

Speaker: Eliot Cohen, Robert E. Osgood Professor of Strategic Studies, The Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University

April 21, 2015

Edward N. Luttwak, *The Grand Strategy of the Roman Empire: From the First Century A.D. to the Third*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1976.

Speaker: Arthur M. Eckstein, Professor of History and Distinguished Scholar-Teacher, University of Maryland, College Park

May 19, 2015

Luigi Albertini, *The Origins of the War of 1914*. London, New York: Oxford University Press, 1952-57.

Speaker: Tom Julian, Independent Historian

June 16, 2015

Tracy Barrett Kittredge, *Naval Lessons of the Great War*. Garden City: Doubleday, Page & Co. 1921.

Speaker: Mark Mandeles, President, The J. de Bloch Group

XLI ICMH Congress to be held in Beijing, China

Pat Harahan

Vice President, *ICMH*

Major Wen Li, Chinese Commission of Military History

The Chinese Commission of Military History invites the member national commissions of ICMH to participate in the 41st Congress of Military History, which will be held from August 31st to September 4th next year in Beijing. All of the preparatory work is systematically going well. The main theme of the Congress will be: **WORLD WAR II AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF WARFARE IN THE 20th CENTURY**. The working languages for the event are English, French and Chinese. The arrangement of academic activities and visiting activities is being planned. The opening ceremony will be held in the morning on the first day, the second and fourth day will be conference day, and there is a trip to the Great Wall and military installation for all participants on the third day. Accompanying persons will visit the Summer Palace, the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven, and other sites. The Congress will be held in the XiangShanYiHe Hotel. The 41st Congress website is expected to go online at the end of this year or early in the New Year. It will be in two languages, Chinese and English and it will have information about the Congress, the hotel, and registration services.

Brigadier General James L. Collins Jr. Book Prize in Military History for 2015

The U.S. Commission on Military History announces the 2015 Brigadier General James L. Collins, Jr. Book Prize in Military History. The prize entails a \$1,000 award to the author of any nationality of the best book written in English on any field of military history published during 2013. The Book Prize Committee, chaired by Dr. Edward J. Marolda, will review the submitted books and select the winner to recommend to the USCMH Board of Trustees. Topics in all periods and all aspects of military history including naval and air warfare will be considered.

Books for consideration by the Collins Prize Committee must be submitted one to each panelist to:

USCMH Collins Prize c/o Dr. Edward J. Marolda, 15570 Golf Club Drive, Montclair, VA 22025

USCMH Collins Prize c/o Dr. Jeffrey Clarke, 1011 North Van Dorn Street, Alexandria, VA 22304

USCMH Collins Prize c/o Dr. Kelly DeVries, 1170 Crab Walk, Charleston, SC 29412

NOT LATER THAN 30 December 2014. Upon notification from the selection committee, the Collins Prize will be presented at the 2015 USCMH Annual General Meeting usually held in November. For further information contact the Collins Prize Committee Chair at: edwardmarolda@yahoo.com.

Conference Announcements

Violent Skies: The Air War Over Vietnam

A Symposium Proposed for October 2015

Four military service historical foundations—the Air Force Historical Foundation, the Army Historical Foundation, the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, and the Naval Historical Foundation—recognize that a half century has passed since the United States became militarily engaged in Southeast Asia, and hope to sponsor a series of conferences involving scholars and veterans, aimed at exploring aspects and consequences of what once was known as America's Longest War.

For the first conference in the series, since all military services employed their combat aircraft capabilities in that conflict, the leaders of the four nonprofit organizations agree that the air war over Southeast Asia offers a compelling joint topic for reflective examination and discussion. The intent is to host a symposium on this subject in the national capital region on Thursday and Friday, October 15 and 16, 2015, potentially extending into Saturday, October 17. Other stakeholder organizations will be approached to join as co-sponsors of this event.

The organizers of the symposium envision plenary and concurrent sessions to accommodate a wide variety of topics and issues. Panel participants will be allotted 20 minutes to present their research or discuss their experiences. A panel chair will be assigned to provide commentary and moderate discussion. Commenters from academia, veterans, Vietnamese émigrés, and scholars from the region may be invited to provide additional insights.

Panel/Paper proposals may employ both chronological and topical approaches:

- Examples of chronological subjects can include: U.S. air support in the early years; The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution and American escalation; the Rolling Thunder campaign; Tet and its aftermath; concluding combat operations to include aerial mining and Linebacker operations; and evacuation operations in 1975.
- Topical proposals could include political and military leadership and decision making; recognition of individual service and sacrifice; joint service coordination; organizational command infrastructures; the rules of engagement; aircraft and armament capabilities; close air support; air mobility; airlift and logistical support; search and rescue; aeromedical evacuation; air-to-air combat; air defense challenges; air interdiction efforts; the prisoner of war experience; media coverage and public opinion; basing at

sea and on land; training and advisory missions; air reconnaissance and intelligence operations; South Vietnamese/allied nation/other organizations (eg. CIA) air operations; ethical and legal considerations; and environmental impact.

Those proposing a symposium presentation shall submit a 250 to 400 word paper abstract and a curriculum vitae /or short autobiography to Dr. David F. Winkler of the Naval Historical Foundation (dwinkler@navyhistory.org) not later than **April 30, 2015**. Panel proposals will be welcomed with a panel objective statement added to the submission of paper abstracts and C.V./bios.

**Tenth Annual Symposium of the Social History of Military Technology
Annual Meeting of the International Congress of the History of Technology
Tel Aviv, Israel, 16–21 August 2015**

Proposals are sought for papers to be presented in the Tenth Annual Symposium of the Social History of Military Technology, scheduled as part of the program for the annual meeting of the International Congress of the History of Technology (ICOHTEC), Tel Aviv, Israel, 15–21 August 2015. The general theme selected for the 2015 ICOHTEC meeting is: History of High-Technologies and their Socio-Cultural Contexts. In submitting a proposal for the symposium, you are encouraged to address the ICOHTEC themes, but that is not required. For more information about the 2015 ICOHTEC conference as a whole, including subthemes, travel grants, and this year's co-organizer, a branch of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), see: <http://www.icohtec.org/annual-meeting-2015.html/>.

The history of military technology usually centers on weaponry, warships, fortifications, or other physical manifestations of warfare, emphasizing how they were made or how they worked. Historians have also tended to assume a strictly utilitarian and rational basis for military technological invention and innovation. However necessary they may be, such approaches largely ignore some very important questions. What are the contexts of social values, attitudes, and interests, non-military as well as military, that shape and support (or oppose) these technologies? What are the consequences of gender, race, class, and other aspects of the social order for the nature and use of military technology? Or, more generally: How do social and cultural environments within the military itself or in the larger society affect military technological change? And the indispensable corollary: How does changing military technology affect other aspects of society and culture? In brief, this symposium will address military technology as both agent and object of social change, taking a very broad view that encompasses not only the production, distribution, use, and replacement of weapons and weapon systems, but also communications, logistics, medicine, and other technologies of military relevance as well as sciences of military interest.

We seek papers about: (1) representations of weapons as well as weapons themselves, about ideas as well as hardware, about organization as well as materiel; (2) ways in which social class, race, gender, culture, economics, or other extra-military factors have influenced and been influenced by the invention, r&d, diffusion, or use of weapons or other military technologies; (3) the roles that military technologies play in shaping and reshaping the relationships of soldiers to other soldiers; soldiers to military, political, and social institutions; and military institutions to other social institutions, most notably political and economic; and/or (4) historiographical or museological topics that discuss how military technology has been analyzed, interpreted, and understood in other fields, other cultures, and other times. Pre-modern and non-Western topics are particularly welcome.

Although papers may be presented in English, French, German, Russian, or Spanish, ICOHTEC will not provide simultaneous translation. All proposals must be submitted in English and should include three elements:

- A short descriptive title.
- An abstract of at least 200 words but no more than 350. It should include (a) your name and email address, (b) a concise statement of the thesis, (c) a brief discussion of the sources, and (d) a summary of major conclusions. Please do not include notes or bibliography.
- A 1-page CV or résumé with your educational and professional employment histories, plus a list of significant publications and/or presentations. You may include other relevant information in the CV, as long as you do not exceed the 1-page limit. Be sure to specify your present institutional affiliation (or independent status).

Please keep in mind that conference presentations are not complete research papers. You will be allotted no more than 20 minutes to speak, and possibly as little as 16 minutes. Precise times available to speakers will be determined after the program is complete. All participants are encouraged to submit the full, annotated versions of their papers as articles to *Vulcan: The International Journal of the Social History of Military Technology*. Articles should be submitted to Editor-in-chief Bart Hacker at: hacker@si.edu.

Do not send your proposal to ICOHTEC. The symposium is being co-organized by Bart Hacker and Ciro Paoletti. Send your proposal to Bart Hacker at: hackerb@si.edu, no later than 25 January 2015, but earlier is better. He will assemble and submit the complete symposium.

Officers, Trustees, and Key Committee Members 2013-2015

President: Dr. Richard Stewart
Vice-President: Dr. Randy Papadopoulos
Secretary-General: Dr. Donald Bittner
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Representative to ICMH Bibliographical Committee: vacant
Representative to ICMH Archives Committee: Ms. Lynn Stewart
Representatives to ICMH Military Education Committee: Dr. Donald Bittner (nominated)