



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.

In this issue

President's Column.....	1
USCMH Secretary General.....	3
VP Reports.....	7
General Collins Book Prize.....	8
Call for Papers.....	9
Officers, Trustees.....	12

President's Column

Richard Stewart
President, *USCMH*

Things continue to move along with your Commission as we get all revved up for the annual Congress of the ICMH in Beijing and, shortly thereafter, our annual luncheon meeting. I know it's a long trip, but the China Congress may be a once in a lifetime trip for you so you should consider attending. Register for the Congress and the after tour, if you wish, at their NEW website at: <http://icmh2015.chinatradeportal.com/>.

Other business continues to move along in anticipation of the Congress and our own annual meeting to be held on **14 November** (exact location to be sent to you shortly). We held a business meeting of the Board on 9 May and discussed the annual meeting, the Collins Prize, the Beijing Congress, our own plans for 2019 ICMH Congress in Baltimore, and the forthcoming elections for key officers of the Commission among other topics.

Speaking of elections, the following positions are up for election or re-election: 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 think about candidates and VOTE when the time comes. All members should consider running for one of these offices to help out our good work. Please contact the nominating committee, headed by Janice McKinney, and put your name forward. You'll be in good company and you'll help your Commission.

Continued on page 2...

As for the annual meeting, one of the things you can look forward to on the **14th of November** (mark your calendars!) will be a presentation by our newest Collins Prize winner: Professor Frank Jones of the Army War College. Professor Jones has written a great book on Robert Komer, the architect and first Director of CORDS (Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support—the centralized program for support to pacification efforts in South Vietnam) in Vietnam (1967-1973), and he will be talking about it as he receives the Collins Prize (and a check) at our meeting. Be there! **On the 14th. Of November. 2015.** (Any questions?) And, of course, many thanks again to Ed Marolda for heading up the Collins Prize committee and for Jeffrey Clarke and Kelly DeVries for helping out and reading all the entries! Next year, we welcome John Hosler as a new member of that committee taking Kelly's place. Thanks for volunteering John!

In the rest of this newsletter you'll see reports by the Vice President on the paper presentations planned for Beijing, by the Secretary General on our current membership status, and, soon, in a new feature, we hope to provide copies of USCMH papers presented at various ICMH fora. A newsletter is an important way of keeping touch with our members, but at the last Trustees' meeting we all agreed that it should become more than just an update letter and include some historical content. So be looking for articles, papers, and commentary in the future that will enrich the mind and not just remind our members of our next annual meeting! (Which, by the way, if I have failed to mention it, will be on **November the 14th!**)

So, in conclusion, I would like to re-emphasize the three issues that I have been focusing on for the past three years: 1) building the endowment for the future by contributing to your Commission, 2) bringing in new members (without new, young, members, our Commission will slowly fade!), and 3) committing yourself in advance to helping out in preparing for the planned 2019 Congress that we will be sponsoring in Baltimore. All of our 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 in Beijing soon! 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 31 December 2014 and into 2015, the membership status of the U.S. Commission on Military History stood at:

Category	Numbers, 2014	Numbers, 2013	Comment
Members in Good Standing	98	97	Dues paid
Life Members	3	3	Drs. Lundeborg, Higham, and Coffman
TOTAL	101	100	Net gain: One
NOTES: (1) Dr. Martin Gordon, a regular at our annual meetings and at the ICMH congresses, passed away in 2014. (2) During the past 12 months, the USCMH has welcomed eight new members, including one from Canada and another from the United Kingdom. (3) Stated candidly, although we have had new members join the USCMH, other members, for whatever the reason, have ceased their membership.			

USCMH Membership Mail Out, Spring 2015. This past spring, the Secretary-General sent a mail out to all members in good standing the annual dues renewal notice. This solicited the following:

- a. Reminder to send their dues renewal to the Secretary General.
- b. 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. An indication of each member's interest in attending the 2015 ICMH Congress in Beijing, China.
- d. Interest in a possible second USCMH event in addition to the annual November meeting.
- e. Research interests.

Results of the USCMH Membership Mail Out, as of June 2015.

Response	Numbers	Comment
Members who submitted 2015 membership renewals	71	This figure includes new members who have joined.
Life Members	3	No change from 2014.
TOTAL	72	NOTE: If a member has not responded to this mail out, please send to the Secretary-General at the USCMH Quantico address.
[Returned by USPS	4	Addresses no longer valid

For those members who have responded, thank you. For those who have simply postponed sending renewals to the Secretary General, please do so at your convenience. As previously noted, send these and the enclosed questionnaire to the Quantico address below. Thank you.

2015 ICMH at Beijing, China. The Chinese Commission on Military History is proceeding with its preparations for the September international congress. There have been some communications problems – and apparently, for whatever reason, sending e-mails using older versions of Outlook may not be received. Also, some visa issues. Dr. Hans Pawlisch has the most recent information on this.

With respect to possible USCMH attendance at Beijing, indications from USCMH members responding to the spring mail out and current as of June 2015 are:

Definitely attending: 16 (includes 3 spouses)

Considering attending: 6

Thus, if all who have indicated they will be attending can actually do so, the U.S. Commission on Military History will be very well represented.

2016 ICMH in Istanbul, Turkey. At the 2014 ICMH in Varna, Bulgaria, members of the Turkish Commission briefed on plans for the 2016 congress. A fine briefing with much to appeal to members of the USCMH, from the possible papers to accommodations (Hilton – at which my wife and I have stayed) to the historic and contemporary sites and attractions of Istanbul. As with past congresses, this should be an excellent one. USCMH members should begin planning now for next year. (NOTE: The briefing pertained to the official congress; no comments were made about the post-conference trip. Information will come on this in the future.) Proposals for papers for this congress should be sent to the USCMH Vice President – and it is not too soon to be communicating with Dr. Randy Papadopoulos reference any ideas you have which could lead to a formal proposal.

New Members. The U. S. Commission on Military History is a small but diverse organization. Reflective of this, the USCMH has members from Australia (1), Britain (1), Canada (1), Finland (1), and Germany (4).

As with any such entity, new blood, i.e., members, are necessary. As I have noted in previous communications, if you know potential members who are interested in military history, especially with an international perspective, please encourage them to contact me. I shall follow-up such contacts. In this regard, because of our eclectic character, consider serving and retired members of the armed forces and government employees; all are welcome – and members with diverse interests and experiences enhance our own professional understandings and insights.

Please emphasize that that the U.S. Commission is an open and diverse 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 members of other national commissions, ensures a unique opportunity for individual personal and professional growth as the broad field of military history is researched, presented, and interpreted from many different perspectives.

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. There is an international perspective to the work of and interest in military history beyond that of the U.S.
- d. 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.
- e. 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.
- f. For younger members in the profession, the possibility of a travel stipend to an annual congress.
- g. Several ideas are being discussed by the USCMH leaders on how the USCMH can bring more benefits to its membership. These include having a second annual event and including in our newsletters papers presented by our members at the annual ICMH congress.

Archival Notes: The National Archives (formerly the Public Record Office), Kew, England. As with any institution, the physical layout, procedures, and rules can change. Yours truly in April had to renew his reader's ticket. Members in a similar situation or planning on obtaining their initial one, please note the following:

- a. Applications can be completed on line within two weeks of arrival at Kew.

- b. If not done, even if holder of a previous reader's ticket, the entire process will commence as if a previous one has not been held.
- c. Hence, a longer wait will ensue.
- d. A review of archival procedures is required, a video. En excellent idea, no matter how experienced a researcher one is.
- e. Have identification ready; a current photograph also will be taken for your reader's ticket.
- f. For reproduction fees, money can be included on the ticket.
- g. In reality, this is all fairly easily done.

Certain areas of Kew are open for research without a reader's ticket. This includes the room where hard copies of the carious record groups exist, as well as many of the official lists published by various agencies of the British government, e.g., The Navy Lists, The Army Lists, etc. Some material is also available on microfilm. If a member has not been recently at Kew, note that there has been some reorganization in the physical arrangements but this is not a major issue.

The search rooms are well lighted and conducive to a favorable research experience. Also, please note that personnel in the purple smocks are attentive to how records are treated. Any indication of improper use, e.g., how bound volumes are open for work which violate procedures, polite but stern guidance on how they should be placed will be given to a researcher.

Photography is permitted, but no flash. Hence, ensure that the flash is off on cameras. Kew also does physical photocopying or copying to microfilm or cd, all for a price. A capability of using Kew cameras (fixed) to take photos of documents and sending to an e-mail address is also possible.

If in possession of a reader's ticket, documents can be ordered in advance of arrival at Kew. If this is not done, the time interval between ordering documents and their arrival in the search room can vary from 15 minutes to several hours. Documents are placed in a lettered-number locker which corresponds to a researcher's seat location.

From Central London, travel to Kew can take about an hour via tube. Driving is an option, but getting to and from Kew and its parking lot can be a challenge. Hence, coming by various combinations of rail should be considered as the primary option. Once at the station, a ten minutes walk to The National Archives will bring the researcher to his place of work. Security in the search rooms is tight; this means certain items are not permitted to be taken into them, such as coats, pens, brief cases, etc. Lockers, at no cost, are available for such items. Transparent plastic bags are available for cameras, computers, note cards and paper, and pencils. Individuals entering the secure search rooms are checked upon entering and on departure. Note that The National Archives has excellent dining and beverage facilities, ranging from a tea/coffee and cake area to a full range cafeteria. Equally important, the bookstore at Kew is superb – with its offerings ranging from The National Archives publications to recent academic and popular works to reprints of many historical items.

There is also a small museum. Finally, The National Archives has a nice park, to include ponds with ducks and other fowl, before the public entrance and on one side of the building; researchers should take time to enjoy this aspect of being at Kew before or after their research day; the waterfowl are indeed friendly.

November 2015 Annual Meeting. As plans are finalized for this event, to include the Collins prize recipient and his presentation, information will soon be forthcoming.

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 the Summer 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 the third week of June, best wishes for an enjoyable and safe summer and early autumn season.

Donald F. Bittner
Secretary General
U.S. Commission on Military History
P.O. Box 129
Quantico, VA 22134-0129
bittnerdf@verizon.net

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.

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

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

The U.S. Commission on Military History proudly announces the submission date for all books for consideration for the Brigadier General James L. Collins Book Prize in Military History. The prize entails a \$1,000 award to the author, irrespective of nationality, of the best book written in English on any field of military history published during 2014. The Book Prize Committee, comprised of USCMH members Dr. Edward J. Marolda, (Chair), Dr. Jeffrey Clarke, and Prof. John Hosler, will review the submitted books and select the winner. Topics in all periods and all aspects of military history (including naval and air warfare) will be considered.

One copy of books for consideration by the Collins Prize Committee must be submitted to each of the following addresses:

Dr. Edward J. Marolda
15570 Golf Club Drive
Montclair, VA 22015

Dr. Jeffrey Clarke
1011 North Van Dorn Street
Alexandria, VA 22304

Professor John Hosler
3417 Philips Drive
Pikesville, MD 21208

Copies must be postmarked no later than **30 December 2015**. Upon notification from the selection committee, the Collins Prize will be presented at the USCMH Annual General Meeting usually held in early November. For further information contact the Collins Prize Committee Chair at: edwardmarolda@yahoo.com

Conference Announcements

83rd Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History

The Society for Military History is pleased to call for papers for its 83rd Annual Meeting, hosted by the Canadian War Museum and the Canadian Museum of History.

“Geography as history” is one of the Canadian War Museum’s overarching themes, reflected throughout its permanent galleries in discussions of topography and its influence on battle, and the gradual conquest of distance by technology, population movement, and communications. Wars are now fought on and over the surface of the earth; on and under its adjacent oceans; in space; in the electromagnetic spectrum; and across the Internet. Traditional boundaries are regularly transgressed, imperfectly administered, and unevenly acknowledged. Moreover, fighting forces can blend with civilians in asymmetric warfare, blurring the lines between combatants and non-combatants. Borders and boundaries - geographic, political, or conceptual - remain important to the study of military history. For the 2016 SMH meeting, the program committee will consider paper and panel proposals on all aspects of military history, while especially encouraging submissions that reflect on this theme.

Panel proposals must include a panel title (along with the full names and institutional affiliations of each participant and the full title of each paper), a one-page abstract summarizing the theme of the panel, a one-page abstract for each paper proposed, and a one-page curriculum vitae for each panelist (including the chair and commentator), with email addresses and other contact information provided for all participants.)

Submissions of pre-organized panels are strongly encouraged and will be given preference in the selection process. Individual paper proposals are also welcome and must include a one-page abstract of the paper, one-page vita, and contact information, including email. If accepted, individual papers will be assigned by the program committee to an appropriate panel with a chair and commentator. **All submissions should be sent in a single PDF document which includes all elements (abstracts, CVs, and contact information). Submissions sent in different formats will not be accepted.**

Participants may present one paper, serve on a roundtable, or provide panel comments. They may not fill more than one of these roles during the conference, nor should they propose to do so to the Program Committee. Members who act as panel chairs for only one session may deliver a paper, serve on a roundtable, or offer comments in a different session. Members who serve as both the chair and commentator of a single session may not present in another session.

All proposals must be submitted electronically to the program committee by **October 1, 2015**. The address is: SMH2016@warmuseum.ca. All presenters, chairs, and commentators must be members of the Society for Military History by December 31, 2015.

The meeting will be held at the Ottawa Marriott Hotel in Ontario, Canada. It is located near the Canadian War Museum and Canada’s Parliament Hill.

Society of Civil War Historians

The Society of Civil War Historians will host its biennial conference at The Chattanooga Hotel, Chattanooga, Tennessee, from **June 2 through 4, 2016**. The SCWH welcomes panel proposals or individual papers on the Civil War era, broadly defined. The goal of the conference is to promote the integration of social, military, political, and other forms of history on the Civil War era among historians, graduate students, and professionals who interpret history in museums, national parks, archives, and other public facilities.

The deadline for receipt of proposals is **September 11, 2015**. Please complete a submission form (panel proposal: <http://richardcenter.psu.edu/conference-papers/panel-submissions-form>; single paper proposal: <http://richardcenter.psu.edu/conference-papers/single-paper-submission>) and upload a single PDF file. Proposals should include a title and abstract for the papers (approximately 250-300 words) and a short curriculum vitae from each participant. Panel submissions should have an overall title and statement about the thrust of the session.

For more information, see the Society's website at <http://scwh.la.psu.edu/>, or contact the Richards Center at (814) 863-0151. Final decisions on submissions will be made at the Southern Historical Association meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas, on November 11-14, 2015.

Medical History of the Vietnam War

On March 10-12, 2016, the Vietnam Center and Archive at Texas Tech University, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, and the Army Medical Department Center of History and Heritage will be co-sponsoring a conference on the medical history of the Vietnam War. This two-day conference will be hosted at the Doubletree Hotel, San Antonio, Texas.

Presentations on all facets of medicine and healthcare related to the Vietnam War are welcome to include historical understandings of military medicine as practiced by all participants and in all geographic regions, the repercussions of the war on the practice of medicine, medicine in various campaigns, medical care outside of Vietnam, effects on the home front, postwar medical issues, mental health issues, and related topics.

Conference organizers welcome both individual presentation proposals as well as pre-organized panel proposals that include two to three presentations. Conference sessions will follow the standard 90 minute format to include one hour for presentations and 30 minutes for questions and discussion. Presentations by veterans are especially encouraged as are presentations by graduate students. All of the conference organizers are partners with the Department of Defense's Vietnam War Commemoration. In keeping with that partnership, there will be a dignified event to thank veterans for their service.

Proposal submission deadline is October 31, 2015. Please send a 250 word abstract and separate two-page CV/resume to steve.maxner@ttu.edu. If submitting a panel proposal, please include separate abstracts for each proposed presentation and CVs/resumes for each speaker.

American Use of Strategic Landpower since 9/11

The U.S. Army War College seeks papers for a conference on “American Use of Strategic Landpower since 9/11” to be held at Carlisle Barracks, PA, from December 2-4, 2015.

In the decade following America’s involvement in the War in Vietnam, Colonel Harry Summers—a researcher in the War College’s Strategic Studies Institute—analyzed the Army’s performance in that conflict. His *On Strategy: The Vietnam War in Context* (1982) was a controversial landmark study of the use of military force, particularly landpower. In the spirit of *On Strategy*, the War College now seeks to examine the American use of landpower since the terror attacks of September 11, 2001 through multiple strategic perspectives.

The Army defines landpower as “the ability—by threat, force, or occupation—to gain, sustain and exploit control over land, resources, and people” (Army Doctrine Reference Publication 3-0). The employment of strategic landpower thus seeks to accomplish these tasks in pursuit of policy ends.

There are many possible paper topics associated with strategic landpower. They include: the evolving nature of war; strategic analysis of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom; perspectives of regional combatant commands and theater armies; landpower issues associated with the reserve components and institutional army; ground force modernization and transformation; civil-military relations; roles of the interagency and non-governmental organizations; and law and ethics of war. This is far from an exhaustive list, and the War College welcomes all serious proposals on relevant topics.

Details: Panels are preferred but individual papers will be considered for acceptance. Panel presentations will last 90 minutes and consist of 20-minute (each) presentations from three panelists, a 10-minute synthesis from the moderator/commentator, and a 15-minute question-and-answer period. By **15 August 2015**, submit an abstract (no more than 250 words) for a proposed panel or individual paper to Major Jason Warren, Ph.D., at jason.w.warren.mil@mail.mil. Panel abstracts must include an abbreviated curriculum vitae (no more than 3 pages) for all participants. The War College will announce the accepted panels and papers no later than **30 September**. Selected participants will submit their fully annotated final papers of 3,000-5000 words to the above email address one week prior to the conference. The War College will fund accepted panelists’ travel, lodging, and per diem.

Officers, Trustees, and Key Committee Members 2013-2015

President: Dr. Richard Stewart
Vice-President: Dr. Randy Papadopoulos
Secretary-General: Dr. Donald Bittner
Treasurer: Dr. Geoffrey Megargee
Recording Secretary: Jacien Carr
Newsletter Editor: Michael Doidge

Trustees:

Graham Cosmos
Bianka Adams
Richard DiNardo
Ann von Luttichau
James Hogue
Charles Neimeyer
Dale Floyd
Hans Pawlisch

Representative to ICMH Bibliographical Committee: Dr. Robin Rodriguez (nominated)
Representative to ICMH Archives Committee: Ms. Lynn Stewart
Representatives to ICMH Military Education Committee: Dr. Donald Bittner