

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS ORAL HISTORY

The Society for History in the Federal Government held its 2005 Annual Meeting from March 17 to 19 at the Harvey W. Wiley Federal Building in College Park, Md., in coordination with the annual meeting of Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region (OHMAR). SHFG members and OHMAR attendees were entitled to attend sessions for either group under this special arrangement. In addition, SHFG and OHMAR sponsored joint workshops on the last day of the conference, featuring such topics as an introduction to the methods, practices, and standards of oral history; “The Long View: A Conceptual Overview of How the Federal Government Archived, Interpreted, and Disseminated its History in the 19th and 20th Centuries;” “Audio Frontiers: From Analogue to Digital;” and “Strategic Audio Preservation.”

Regular SHFG sessions are summarized below, along with two OHMAR sessions that concentrated on federal history. These sessions covered a variety of issues, but several of them focused specifically on oral history projects.

### FIRST PANEL ROUND

#### PANEL 1: CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES

This session offered two unrelated presentations. Marilyn Norcini of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Anthropology discussed research into the cultural contexts of constitution formation, in this case, among the Santa Clara Pueblo tribe in New Mexico in the 1930s. Mandated to form a tribal constitution by the Wheeler Howard Act of 1934, the tribe built upon its Spanish traditions of civil organization, its theocratic divisions, and the need to achieve popular majority among its traditional religious and secular factions. Capt. Albert E. Theberge, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Corps (Ret.), provided an overview of the agency’s evolution over 200 years, and its mission and past efforts to record geographic and environmental data. The agency has



*Incoming SHFG President Donald P. Steury at the podium, during the 2005 Annual Meeting*

1.5 million records, and has recently accelerated its attempts to preserve historical materials.

#### PANEL 2: SPORTS ORAL HISTORY

Oral histories provide an important avenue for filling in information missing from other sources. Jackie Reisert Esposito focused on how oral histories have added to our knowledge of the early development of sports medicine. John Vernon, of the National Archives, explored the value of testimony from the military trial of the young Jackie Robinson. The Robinson trial records throw light on the patterns of racial discrimination in the post-World War II years.

#### PANEL 3: (PANEL DISCUSSION) CIA RECORDS AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES, COLLEGE PARK—WHAT’S THERE, WHAT’S NOT, AND WHY

William Burr of the National Security Agency provided an overview of the records of the Central Intelligence

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## President's Corner

*Suzanne White Junod*

Dear Colleagues:

This will be my last communication with you from the President's Corner, as we welcome Don Steury as the Society's incoming President. I look forward to working with Don and the new Council over the summer as they take over leadership of the Society. This has been an excellent year for the Society overall, and a great deal of the credit must go to this year's SHFG Council for all of their hard work, candor, and probity. However, I must say that it was the unique chemistry of the group, with its refreshing sense of humor, which lightened the workload and made the year such a memorable one.

In this issue, we will conclude our excellent series of articles on how 9/11 affected federal history programs, with articles about its impact on the Joint History Office, the U.S. Special Operation Command's History Office and Operational Archives, the Naval Historical Center, and the Air Force History Program. I also want to thank our *Federalist* editors, John Roberts, John Lonnquest, Ben Guterman, and Betty Koed, for their outstanding work on this publication, which we have already come to enjoy again so much. Past issues will soon appear on the SHFG website, under "Archives." This issue also features highlights of our annual conference, which we held in a new location this year, and also cites the Society's 2005 award winners. The Society has expressed its appreciation to the Food and Drug Administration for its generous gift to SHFG—hosting the 2005 annual meeting, at no charge to the Society.

By now, you should have received your 2005 membership renewal form in the mail, along with the ballot for this year's SHFG nominees for office. If you haven't already returned your membership renewal, please try to do so as soon as you can. And don't forget to go online after August 1 ([www.shfg.org](http://www.shfg.org)) to register for this year's Hewlett Lecture on October 19, 2005, at La Colline restaurant. Our lecturer will be the newly confirmed Archivist of the United States, Dr. Allen Weinstein.

Finally, I must say that my perception this year has been that history in the federal government seems to be doing well—even in these difficult times, with political tensions (at least here in Washington) seemingly at an all-time high. The launching of the new National History Center, an initiative of the American Historical Association, as a non-profit organization and public trust dedicated to the study and teaching of history, represents just one effort to defuse some of these political tensions by providing lawmakers, policymakers, and their staffs, with solid historical briefings on such important current issues as the creation and evolution of Social Security. The National Coalition for History, under the leadership of SHFG member Bruce Craig, has chosen to retain its independence as a voice solely for history here in Washington. We still need more active participation, however, by historians employed by

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### ***THE FEDERALIST***

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## PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION OF FEDERAL HISTORIANS: PROPOSALS FOR PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES AND SHFG

*By Laura Croghan Kamoie*

Students from across the country choose a university in Washington, D.C., because it is the home of the federal government and they hope to land a federal job. This is especially true of students at American University, where a large proportion of the student body specializes in international service or public affairs with an eye toward working for the government. It should come as no surprise, then, that student interest in the federal government is equally strong among undergraduate and graduate history students. Three factors attract students to AU who are interested in federal history: a faculty that has been active outside of academia, a long track record of job and internship placements in federal positions, and a relatively new public history program that trains students in the rigors of

the historian's craft and the methodologies of and approaches to doing history with and for the public. As the main professional organization of federal historians, the Society for History in the Federal Government serves as an important resource for students hoping to build federal history careers. Given SHFG's expertise and resources, and our student interest and efforts to train competitive job candidates, there are a number of opportunities for cooperation and collaboration between history programs like ours, the SHFG, and federal historians in general.

Student interest in federal history tends to fall into one of several categories. Many of our students are interested in 20th-century U.S. political, military, diplomatic, and policy history. These are strengths within our department's faculty, and we therefore attract students nationwide who wish to study in these areas. Some of these students consider themselves public historians while others do not. One of my advisees is interested in space and nuclear programs and policies and hopes to work for NASA or the State Department. Another student is completing a dissertation on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Wildlife Refuge System. A third works as an archivist for a Senate committee. A fourth just knows he is interested "in doing some type of policy history work" because "public policy historians can play a role in shaping today's policies and public historians who work in federal branches and museums can help to 'bridge the gap' between the study of history and the American public." These students are representative of the kind of student interest in federal history, and particularly political and policy history, that characterizes our program.

Other students are interested in a variety of historical eras and fields, but have in common an interest in conducting and presenting historical research to broader publics. These students tend to pursue their studies in our public history program and are often especially hopeful about careers with the Smithsonian, National Archives, Library of Congress, or the National Park Service. They understand the importance of being willing to have a generalist approach to history, since curators, interpreters, and consultants, for example, often find themselves working on a variety of topics and projects throughout their careers. These students also share an interest in and a concern about the federal government's role in preserving the history of the U.S. Here, they are thinking mainly about the government's vast records management functions.

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and for the government. If each of us would make a concerted effort to reach out to new members of our profession who already work for the federal government, I have no doubt that we could increase membership in the Society substantially in the next year. I also call your attention to the article in this issue encouraging us to work with local universities to develop internships and partnerships that will expose young historians to federal history. We should all make an effort, and the Society will make a concerted effort, to encourage history students to become members.

I note with pleasure that even our large historical organizations, including the American Historical Association, are taking an interest in public history. I was particularly inspired by the session I chaired at the American Historical Association meeting in Seattle. Co-sponsored by the AHA Task Force on Public History, it was not only an excellent session, but it attracted good attendance (especially for a morning session). Richard McCulley (from NARA), Don Ritchie (from the Senate History Office), Beth Boland (from the National Register of Historic Places), and Scott Roley (from the Truman Presidential Library and Museum), all gave thoughtful, important talks on the place that history occupies in the characterization of their offices and their institutions. As my final word, therefore, I encourage all of us, as federal historians, to consider becoming more active in our commitments to federal history – as members, as advocates, and as pioneers in established organizations as well as up-and-coming institutions.

*Suzanne White Junod is Historian for the Food and Drug Administration, and President of SHFG.*

Therefore, many students pursue some level of archival training. Such students obtain this experience through class projects and internships.

Students have some questions about careers in federal history. They wonder how to make themselves competitive and qualified for federal historical jobs. Besides solid historical training, students wonder what specific skills they need for federal work. Students need to know how to find federal historical job postings and more about the practical aspects of what historians do in federal jobs. These are clearly areas where the SHFG can serve as an important resource. For example, the SHFG could consider adding a session to its annual meeting specifically aimed at students and others interested in federal history careers. Alternatively, the SHFG could complement its training seminars for new federal historians with workshops for students that would raise awareness of federal history programs and provide some introductory training in various skill sets important to federal historians.

While our program has built relationships with individual federal historians to mentor our students, I believe we would benefit greatly from a more formal relationship with the SHFG—a relationship that would benefit the SHFG and its members in return. For example, many students believe, rightly I think, that internships with federal agencies would improve their marketability, but do not know how to find internship opportunities outside of the formalized programs of the Smithsonian, for example. Though some offices may be precluded from hiring interns due to security clearance issues, others would likely benefit from the assistance of knowledgeable and enthusiastic student interns. Our students can make valuable contributions to federal history offices in such areas as conducting archival research and oral histories, writing legislative histories, organizing archival collections, and creating finding aids, developing web pages, arranging public programs, and communicating with the public. The SHFG could provide a valuable service facilitating federal history internships, by working with agencies to think about how to incorporate interns, and serving as a clearinghouse for posting internship announcements. Additionally, our program is currently pursuing more formalized relationships with a variety of organizations for internships. In such arrangements, the internship site provides (hopefully regular) funding for a student intern, has the opportunity to name the internship ("The Colonel John Doe Internship in Policy History"), and receives highly qualified interns who will make substantive contributions to the work of their office.

The SHFG could also serve as a liaison between our program and the federal historical community in another way. Our students would be better prepared for federal history work through increased interactions with federal historians, particularly in the classroom. We have made some important strides in this area. I regularly invite federal historians to serve as guest speakers in my public history courses, and we occasionally have someone teach a course on an adjunct basis. There are many more opportunities for this kind of interaction. The SHFG could play an important role in helping to link up federal historians who might like to teach occasional university courses with programs like ours that would benefit from their expertise. Similarly, the SHFG could organize a speakers' bureau of federal historians willing to speak on the career-related aspects or content of their work.

The SHFG currently provides an important service in publishing its directory of federal historical agencies and their staffs. The Society might consider creating an online version of this directory, which would facilitate students' awareness of the scope of the federal historical community and their ability to contact those offices about internships or research projects.

Finally, some federal historians might be interested in continuing education, either through workshops, summer institutes, or pursuit of a graduate degree in history. This is an area where American University's history department could offer important resources to the federal historical community. Many students attend our program part-time, for example. In addition, our strong faculty offers courses and summer institutes in a number of areas likely to be of interest to federal historians. In the past, we have pursued more formalized relationships with federal agencies to offer advanced coursework to their employees. In such an arrangement, the employees benefit from reduced costs and the university benefits from a steady stream of qualified and committed applicants. We would be happy to entertain these kinds of discussions with any interested federal office. For more information on our programs, go to [www.american.edu/history](http://www.american.edu/history).

There are a number of ways, then, that the SHFG and graduate programs like the one at American University could collaborate and cooperate in a manner that would be beneficial to both. I look forward to exploring some of the ideas laid out here and working with the Society to brainstorm other possibilities.

*Professor Laura Croghan Komoie is with the U.S. Naval Academy, and formerly was coordinator of the Public History Program at American University.*



## ALLEN WEINSTEIN BECOMES NINTH ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES

Dr. Allen Weinstein was sworn in as the ninth Archivist of the United States by Senator Richard Lugar at the U.S. Capitol on February 16. Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg administered the oath to Dr. Weinstein again on March 7, in a ceremonial swearing-in at the National Archives. In his remarks at the two events, Dr. Weinstein emphasized the importance of continuing the tradition of non-political and professional attention to the work of the National Archives. He promised close cooperation with Congress and with other government agencies, and announced that he would continue efforts to manage electronic records and retrieval, address security and preservation concerns, and broaden attention to civic and democratic education. He also affirmed his commitment to researchers' needs and the needs of NARA's regional branches and presidential libraries, and called for restoration of funds recently cut from the budget of the National Publications and Records Commission. The full text of his remarks are available on NARA's website, [www.archives.com](http://www.archives.com).

Dr. Weinstein was a senior advisor at IFES (International Foundation for Election Systems). He was founder, President, and CEO of The Center for Democracy, a non-partisan, non-profit organization that fostered initiatives in democratic transitions abroad (1985–2003). His numerous honors include the United Nations Peace Medal; The Council of Europe's Silver Medal (1990 and 1996); and awards from the Presidents of Nicaragua and Romania for his efforts on behalf of democratization in those countries.

He has held two Senior Fulbright Lectureships, served as a Fellow of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the American Council of Learned Societies, and was a Commonwealth Fund Lecturer at the University of London. He was University Professor and Professor of History at Boston University, 1985–89; University Professor at Georgetown University, 1981–84; and, from 1981 to 1983, Executive Editor of *The Washington Quarterly* at Georgetown's Center for Strategic and International Studies. From 1966 to 1981 he was Professor of History at Smith College and Chairman of its American Studies Program.

Dr. Weinstein's publications include *The Story of America*, 2002; *The Haunted Wood: Soviet Espionage in America—The Stalin Era*, 1999; *Perjury: The Hiss-Chambers Case*, 1997 (rev. ed.); *Freedom and Crisis: An American History*; and *Prelude to Populism: Origins of the Silver Issue*, plus eight edited collections.

## *Annual Meeting, continued from page 1*

Agency (RG 263) maintained at Archives II in College Park, MD. The collection contains 800,000 aerial photographs, about one million pages of textual records from both before and after World War II, and over nine million pages of electronic records contained in the CIA Records Search Tool (CREST). The CREST database is composed of CIA and NGA records that have been declassified in whole or in part under the automatic declassification review procedures. CREST was created in 2000, and additional records are added annually upon declassification. James David, of the National Air and Space Museum, also discussed the CREST collection. He noted that the collection includes thousands of pages of Congressional records and transcripts of hearings, much of which duplicates information available elsewhere. David noted that the CREST records would have been improved had the material been reviewed by the CIA's history staff prior to being digitized.

## SECOND PANEL ROUND

### PANEL 4: (PANEL DISCUSSION): ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Josephus Nelson of the Library of Congress (LOC) provided an overview of the oral history interviews he has carried out to document the history of the library and its staff. His interviews revealed a host of fascinating insights into the evolution of the LOC, including the expanding role of women and people of color and the changes wrought by the introduction of new technologies. Jureta Herksher, Digital Reference Specialist at the LOC, described the library's ongoing efforts to make more of its holdings available online. While noting the many advantages in making the library's collection accessible over the internet, she also noted one notable drawback: that placing materials online reduces contact between the library's knowledgeable staff and the patrons they serve. Ms. Herksher also noted another new product of our increasingly digital age – the introduction of webliography, or the blending of bibliography and web links to produce a new and potentially rich information source for a new generation of library patrons. Sarah Rouse, of the Veterans History Project, provided an overview of her well-known project. From its beginning in October of 2002, the project has grown to include 12,527 audio and video recordings, 65% of which are interviews with World War II veterans. The project contains other material, including 1,883 memoirs and 223 diaries.

### PANEL 5: WAR, MEMORY, AND COMMEMORATION

The popularity of memory studies lies in their sharp focus on nationalism and the role of rituals for national and institutional identities. Nicholas J. Dujmovic offered some important insights into the kinds of rituals and commemorations at the CIA, as well as their purposes and limits. Some ceremonies came from the operations side, whose members wanted to remember fallen comrades. Jeffrey Herf explored the different manifestations and bases for remembrances about the Holocaust in West and East Germany after World War II. Whereas the East remembered the fallen heroes and antifascism, the West moved toward exploring the truth and assuming guilt for the horror of Nazism. The results emerged through their commemorations. Kelly Smith explored the political aspects of altered national holidays in recent Russian history. The divisions over the content and style of celebrations of the November revolution and Victory Day provide stark lessons about the political struggles between communist identities and post-Soviet models of government.

### THIRD PANEL ROUND

#### PANEL 6: THE HEALTH SCIENCES IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The history of federal health sciences offers a rich variety of perspectives for research, as evidenced by this panel. Alexandra M. Lord reviewed the tenure of the Public Health Service hospitals, which were closed around 1982. The rush to remove public support from such care eliminated some of the benefits of the hospitals, such as their role as training rounds for medical staff. Sheena M. Morison examined the role of the Negro Health Movement, 1926–1950. Early activities centered on disease control in rural areas and then developed into curative approaches in cooperation with government. John P. Swann discussed the evolution of research at the FDA. Whereas in 1909 the experts worked primarily in headquarters, by 1980

there were many specialized field offices. FDA researchers often faced the requirement to testify and provide evidence but struggled to gain time to conduct testing and research as well.

#### PANEL 7: HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

The NOAA panel featured papers by three presenters: Bernie Chovitz, “A Memoir of Irene Fischer,” John Cloud, “History for the Future in NOAA,” and Albert E. Theberge, “The History of the NOAA History Program.”



*Josephus Nelson discusses oral history projects of the Library of Congress.*



*PHS Historian Alexandra M. Lord, at the session on Health Sciences in the Federal Government.*

#### PANEL 8: (OHMAR) NEWS FROM THE FRONT —COMBAT DOCUMENTATION IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

A panel of five speakers provided an overview of the military’s efforts to collect oral history interviews and documents relating to the ongoing Global War on Terror (GWOT). Fred Allison, of the Marine Corps history program, discussed the Marines’ approach to collecting the history of its current operations. Lieut. Col. Nate Lowrey, USMCR, discussed the role of reservists in collecting oral history interviews, and also described the Corps’ evolving efforts to evaluate the quality of its oral history program. Stephen Lofgren gave the audience an overview of the history program of the Center of Military History, and described the key role played by the Army’s reserve Military History Detachments in documenting Army operations in the field. David Winkler, of the Naval Historical Center, furnished another glimpse of GWOT – the Special Operation Command’s wide-ranging oral history and data collection efforts. Common themes in all three presentations included the key role played by reservists in conducting oral history interviews and collecting documents; the challenge of ensuring that deployed historians are adequately trained to perform their missions; and the difficulty that military history offices are experiencing in

storing, indexing, and sharing the torrent of oral history material and digital documents that are streaming in from the field.

#### **OHMAR SESSION: SHFG PANEL – ORAL HISTORY AT NASA**

Dr. Steven J. Dick, Chief Historian of the National Aviation and Space Administration, moderated a panel discussion on multiple oral history projects sponsored by the NASA Headquarters History Division and the Johnson Space Center (JSC). Participants included Sandra L. Johnson, JSC Oral Historian; Dr. Jennifer M. Ross-Nazzal, JSC Historian; and Rebecca Wright, JSC History Coordinator.



*John Lonquest chairs “News from the Front: Combat Documentation in Iraq and Afghanistan.”*



*Harvey W. Wiley Federal Building, site of 2005 SHFG Annual Meeting.*



## SHFG HONORS RECENT SCHOLARSHIP IN FEDERAL HISTORY

On March 17, SHFG held an Awards Luncheon, as part of its 2005 Annual Meeting. This year's honorees were:

### HENRY ADAMS PRIZE

Dennis Ross, *The Missing Peace: The Inside Story of the Fight for Middle East Peace* (New York: Farrar Straus, 2004)

### GEORGE PENDLETON PRIZE

John Ferren, *Salt of the Earth, Conscience of the Court: The Story of Justice Wiley Rutledge* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2004)

Timothy Davis, Todd A. Croteau, & Christopher Marston, editors, *America's National Park Roads and Parkways: Drawings from the Historic American Engineering Record* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004)

### JAMES MADISON PRIZE

Justin Hart, "Making Democracy Safe for the World: Race, Propaganda, and the Transformation of U.S. Foreign Policy during World War II," *Pacific Historical Review* (February 2004)

### CHARLES THOMSON AWARD (*No award was given*)

### THOMAS JEFFERSON PRIZE (*Documentary Edition*)

Charlene B. Bickford, Kenneth R. Bowling, William C. Di Giacomantonio, & Helen E. Veit, editors, *Documentary History of the First Federal Congress of the United States: Correspondence: Vol. 15, March–May 1789; Vol. 16, June–August, 1789; Vol. 17, September–November 1789* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004)

### PRIZE COMMENDATION

Holly Schulman, editor, *Dolley Madison Digital Collection* (Charlottesville: Rotunda Press & University of Virginia Press, 2004)

### JOHN WESLEY POWELL PRIZE (*Historical Display*)

Museum Programs, National Archives & Records Administration, Archives I: "The Public Vaults," 2004

National Air & Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, "The Wright Brothers and the Invention of the Aerial Age," 2004



Marilyn Parr presents Pendleton Prize to Timothy Davis, Todd Croteau, and Christopher Marston.



Marilyn Parr presents Pendleton Prize to John Ferren.



Henry Gwiazda presents Powell Prize to Marvin Pinkert, Chris Rudy Smith, Mike Kurtz (NARA).



Bruce Bustard presents Powell Prize to Barbara Brennan (Smithsonian).



## USSOCOM'S RESPONSE TO 9/11

### THE UNITED STATES SPECIAL OPERATION COMMAND'S OPERATIONAL ARCHIVE AND THE WAR ON TERRORISM

*by Gaea Levy*

The War on Terrorism (WOT) has presented military archivists with many opportunities and challenges. U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) plays a leading role in the WOT. The USSOCOM history and research office has been building an operational archive since 1987, albeit rather chaotically until a full-time archivist arrived on the scene in November 1996. Our operational archive serves multiple functions—as the largest research repository for joint special operations forces (SOF) operations; as the basis for researching and writing historical studies; as an information source for the SOF community; and as an information source for SOF warfighters. Both the historical studies and the operational archive are used by the SOF community for planning, training, developing doctrine, professional development, and other uses.

The “information age” has set up an ideal environment for historians and archivists. The archives for Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), and the WOT are predominantly digital, which facilitates the collection and transfer of large amounts of data. Since the special operations task forces (TFs) use digital means to store their data, we are able to save practically all the data produced by SOF involved in the War on Terrorism. Since 9/11, the size of our operational archive has tripled. The massive influx of data is not our only challenge, however, as the information age has also brought with it many problems and solutions—some good, some not so good. This article will discuss some of the problems and solutions that we have encountered.

The deployed historian's equipment has evolved significantly since 9/11. In October 2001, the first deployed historians took laptops with CD burners and removable hard drives. Each of the hard drives had administrative privileges so that the historians could download any software needed in the field. Because the austere conditions at the deployed locations wreaked havoc on every laptop, we started using “ruggedized” laptops in 2004.

Of course, recorders are probably the single most important piece of equipment that a historian carries. In October 2001, the historian took two tape recorders and 100 blank tapes; resupply was a logistical nightmare. For example, one of our historians went forward with his TF Commander for what they thought was going to be “an out and back”

*See “Levy” continued on page 10*

### THE UNITED STATES SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND'S HISTORY OFFICE AND THE WAR ON TERRORISM

*by John W. Partin*

The War on Terrorism (WOT) has had a profound effect on the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) and its history office. The events of 9/11 and the subsequent WOT did not change the mission of the history office, but they have dramatically increased our responsibilities and workload in discharging our mission. Ever since the command's 1987 establishment, our mission has remained constant: we focus on documenting Special Operations Forces' (SOF) involvement in major operations and contingencies worldwide.

The SOF community has a “history” of using history for planning, training, professional development, and developing new force structure and other requirements. The USSOCOM components and subordinate units have their own history programs and use the products of those offices. To cite one WOT example, the U.S. Army Special Operations Command history office published *Weapon of Choice*, which details Army SOF in Afghanistan. The USSOCOM history office works closely with those historians at subordinate commands who focus on documenting SOF operations.

Because the USSOCOM History Office has covered joint SOF operations for more than 17 years, many current SOF commanders have encountered deployed historians during operations in Panama, the Arabian Peninsula, Somalia, Haiti, the Balkans, and South America. The practitioners of SOF history also benefit from the fact that our community is a relatively small one, where special operations personnel often rotate among headquarters USSOCOM and subordinate units. Finally, we have assiduously worked to make our research data and historical studies available to SOF personnel worldwide.

It was not surprising that in September 2001, the Commander of the Special Operations Command, Central (SOCCENT) requested our office to document its planning and operations in Afghanistan and elsewhere. The entire history office supported SOCCENT during the fall of 2001—most notably, the first historian was deployed to a special operations task force in October. Since then, we have continued supporting SOCCENT and have had a near continuous deployment of historians into the Central Command area of operations. We have also deployed historians to two other Theater Special Operations Commands (TSOCs) to cover WOT operations, and these historians have worked very closely with their counterparts at those

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day trip. The operation did not unfold as expected, and they wound up staying for nearly a week. He had only brought with him a small supply of blank tapes, and even a smaller supply of clean clothes. He had to use every inch of tape to capture the great oral history interviews with the troops shortly after they returned from a critical operation; fortunately, another SOF historian followed the sounds of the guns and was able to loan him some tapes. Our historian also had the pleasure of washing his clothes in a sink with the TF Commander late one evening. Another problem with the tape recorders we discovered, was they broke in the austere conditions of Southwest Asia.

In 2002, we switched to digital recorders. There are numerous advantages to this technology; we no longer have to deal with audiotapes; the recorders have no moving parts, so they are much sturdier; and they are smaller and lighter, which is always beneficial to the deployed historian. The recorders have 250mb memory sticks, which hold up to 90 hours of interviews. The historians download the interview files to their laptops and then e-mail them back to Headquarters (HQ) USSOCOM. This clears the memory stick and gives us almost immediate access to the interviews. The recorders can also be used to download data files from SOF operators. This solution would have been ideal in the previously mentioned situation—although the digital recorder could not have helped him with a fresh change of clothes.

We have gone through different hardware and portable media to allow historians to download large amounts of data. We started with recordable CDs, but they were time consuming, not extraordinarily stable, and did not provide enough space to save all the data available. Based on advice from the USSOCOM computer experts, we next sent 80gb DLT tapes with our historians. Unfortunately, when the historians returned with the full tapes, it was impossible to access them. Over a year later, a national forensics laboratory was able to download most of the data, but some was lost. A short time later, one of our deployed historians found the optimal solution—using an external hard drive to download servers. Now we send 250gb external hard drives with the historians. We have had good luck with these so far. We also supply the historians with 256mb USB thumb drives, allowing them to download data from computers.

Over the years, the historians have deployed with different digital cameras. The smaller ones always seem to break. The larger, sturdier cameras are slow, and the historians complain about having to carry such a big camera. Most recently, we sent our historians out with a digital video camera with night shot capability.

We are currently storing our digital archives on a 10-terabyte server that is backed up daily. The computer powers-that-be decided they better get us our own “really” big server, because we kept crashing smaller ones. As we migrated our collections between servers, their comments changed from “you will never fill this up” to “Please try not to fill this for three to five years.” We grant all members of the history office “read” access. To make materials available to researchers within the command, we copy the data to a special collaborative folder and “read” access is granted to each individual requesting information.

To make data accessible to the SOF community globally, we built a classified web site. This web site was developed as a short-term solution in 1998. The site is organized by operation, type of mission, or special subject matter. Since 9/11 our site has had over 70,000 hits. The web site enables us to push information to the warfighters quickly. For example, in April 2003 we built a page on counterinsurgency in response to a deployed commander’s request for everything we could find on the topic. This web page is labor intensive, as we have to create links for each document. Because our web server no longer has a search engine, each document has to be listed in a table for the user to browse. Both of these factors limit us to putting only key documents on the site. We have almost 2,000 documents on the page now, but our large operational archive demanded a much better search engine.

HQ USSOCOM has an intelligence collaborative site that uses Retrievalware to search large amounts of data. We have given them access to our collection. After indexing the collection, the search engine gives us a capability that we did not have before. Once all the “bugs” are worked out, our collection will be searchable within the headquarters. Access from outside of the headquarters is still being worked out.

We also use a file transfer protocol (ftp) site to disseminate information to the SOF community. We can load large amounts of information to the FTP site, and our customer can download the data and save it to a local server. Deployed historians have also used FTP sites to transfer large files back to HQ USSOCOM.

Our bottom line is to make SOF history relevant to the SOF community. In order to do this we have to collect operational data wherever and whenever possible and make it available in a useable format to the SOF community.

*Ms. Gaea Levy is the Archivist of the United States Special Operation Command.*

*Pratin, continued from page 9*

two geographic combatant commands. Access to deployed SOF has not been a problem as the USSOCOM commanders fully support our goals of deploying historians to document SOF operations.

The TSOCs—which are sub-unified commands within each geographic combatant command—are the SOF warfighters and our primary portals to getting historians deployed to document SOF combat operations. We have worked with the TSOC and USSOCOM personnel offices to get historian billets on the manning documents for deploying special operations task forces. Once we establish billets on these manning documents, the personnel and reserve offices will use those billet line numbers to bring reservists on active duty. To meet the higher “operational tempo” of the War on Terrorism, we have had to put forth considerable effort to *find*, train, equip, and then deploy reserve historians from all four Services and active duty Army augmentees. The key word in this process is *find*, and we have exhausted our known supply of reserve historians—to quote the colonel in charge of our reserve component office, “We are not scraping the bottom of the barrel looking for reserve historians, we are under the barrel.” One could also say we are “over the barrel.”

The history office also has five reserve billets, which we use to bring reservists on active duty to deploy and to work on studies and vignettes when not deployed. Of course, reserve personnel rules sometimes limit the amount of time that they are available, which is a disadvantage in the protracted WOT. We have also used “term” and “temp” government personnel, and contractors (for archival support and writing studies). But again, these are short-term fixes that do not meet our long-term challenges. By far, our biggest challenge to date has been finding the “right” people both to deploy and to research and write studies based on the research materials brought back from the theaters.

We have devoted endless hours trying to find the right person to bring on active duty. The USSOCOM personnel and reserve component offices have greatly assisted us in getting reservists on active duty; fortunately, we have had some very good historians deployed for us. But, when relying on the “available” person rather than the “right” person, we have encountered problems. Thankfully, those have been a decided minority. What has been most surprising, and disappointing, to me is how difficult it has been to find historians who are capable of writing first-rate and accurate narrative history. This fact is compounded by our inability to increase the number of permanent GS positions, which makes it hard to attract and retain good people.

By deploying historians to special operations task forces, we are able to document operations as they happen or soon

thereafter. The key is getting historians out to groups, battalions, and team locations, and the USSOCOM Commanders have long understood the necessity of having historians deployed. The current commander has known our program since 1989, and he supports even more aggressive coverage of the operations. Of course, we don’t have ubiquitous coverage, and as time passes some operations take on added significance; so we do follow on visits to units, either overseas or here in the States.

Our ultimate goal is to research and write operational studies. We use classified web sites to coordinate drafts of the studies, to elicit comments from special operations personnel, and then to publish and distribute the completed studies on these web sites. Our deployed historians also report operator’s reactions to the studies – ranging from “we use them as models for planning” to “the study doesn’t record the whole story.” SOF personnel have been very conscientious about commenting about our studies, and further information and comments are incorporated into later editions.

As we all know, researching and writing histories takes time; so to get information out to the SOF community before the studies are finished and distributed, we used our classified web page to disseminate our studies and such documents as plans, reports, and “lessons learned” to the field. This site has been critical to getting information down to planners and operators. Our historians put links to our classified web page on servers at deployed special operations task force headquarters so that current special operators can benefit from what their predecessors learned. The accompanying article by Ms. Gaea Levy describes our Operational Archive in more detail.

Because our studies are read and used by the SOF community, we have a very deliberate process to produce a final study. One or more historians in the office will research and write a manuscript. Different people will check the narrative against the sources in the footnotes to ensure that the narrative is fully supported by the sources. The manuscript is also reviewed a number of times for readability. Quite astonishingly, we have uncovered shoddy scholarship all too often. One study had to be completely redone because the author falsified the narrative – it read well but it was more fiction than fact.

One area that I have not mentioned is the increased paperwork caused by our higher operations tempo. Suffice it to say, we spend perhaps one-half of our time getting the support needed to document SOF’s involvement in the War on Terrorism, but enough said about that. All in all, we have had great access to deployed SOF, have had good luck getting reserve historians on active duty, but have been too slow to produce operational histories.

*John W. Partin, Ph.D., is the Historian of the United States Special Operations Command.*



## THE JOINT HISTORY OFFICE: 9/11 AND AFTER

*By Brig. Gen. David A. Armstrong (Ret.)*

The attacks on the morning of September 11, had both immediate and long-lasting impacts on the Joint History Office (JHO), its staff, and the Joint History Program. Like most Americans, staff members saw the early television pictures of the smoke rising from the World Trade Center towers. Having turned off the TV to brief visiting Polish military historians, we were startled when, half an hour later, a loud “whump” and a strong shaking announced the crash of American Airlines Flight 77 into the outer face of the Pentagon wedge where the JHO was located. We evacuated and secured the office in less than a minute; the Poles and their escort disappeared. Fortunately, the staff was unharmed, but the office and its contents were not so lucky.

Because the office was within the perimeter of the FBI crime scene covering the damaged section of the Pentagon, we were unable to return for a considerable period. During that time, water used to put out the stubborn fire in the Pentagon’s roof flooded the JHO spaces. Exploring the office by flashlight, we surveyed an expanse of water-soaked carpet littered with documents, books and crumbled acoustic tile, all coated with mildew and mold. Over the ensuing two weeks, the staff, aged over fifty, wearing disposable haz-mat suits and gloves, loaded tons of water-soaked, classified files into boxes and moved them to an improvised storage room fitted with dehumidifiers. Files and documents reduced to pulp were discarded. After several months of drying, the staff reorganized the remaining paper files for contract scanning onto CD-ROMs. The contractors’ work transferred 50 years of official histories and files to 32 easily stored discs. Meanwhile, office members dispersed to desks and computers in four different locations in the Joint Staff area where they would work until returning to a refurbished office in late February 2002.

While traumatic for the JHO, its experience in the aftermath of 9/11 may be instructive for the wider historical community. The first lesson was the survivability and flexibility of work done on a computer. Office computers were part of a large, closed LAN whose servers were not touched by the attack. Historians who composed directly on the computer were able to resume work upon getting access to a workstation. Others, who persisted in drafting on yellow legal tablets, had more difficulty. The experience also underscored the utility of storing documents digitally rather than in more vulnerable paper files, and the need to back up electronic media on disc or CD-ROM.

The benefits of proper storage of paper documents were also made clear in the cleanup after 9/11. Most of the JHO collection had recently been placed in sturdy cardboard archival containers. With the exception of containers located under or near an expansion joint that funneled water into the office, these boxes did an excellent job of protecting documents, largely limiting damage to that caused by the high humidity in the flooded space. Files stored in lockable, steel filing cabinets were better protected yet, even when located directly under the expansion joint. During reconstruction, the climate-controlled office vault was outfitted with a new, “dense pack” shelving system rigged to close automatically in case of fire. Equipped with rubber gaskets, the system provides office files with increased protection against water damage from the sprinkler system or other sources.

Another casualty of the 9/11 attack was the Pentagon Library, which is operated by the Army. Located near the JHO, the Library and its extensive holdings escaped major damage from the crash and fire but were exposed to water damage. Dried out and moved to temporary quarters in Crystal City, the Library’s excellent general research collection, law library, and unique collection of Army manuals and regulations were essentially unavailable for research. Only after a lengthy and unrelenting effort by the Army Staff Librarian, Ms. Anne Parham, supported by the JHO staff, and with the critical intervention of Dr. Alfred Goldberg, OSD Historian, were the funds needed to return the Library to the Pentagon made available. Currently located in temporary quarters, the collection eventually will be moved to renovated space in what used to be the Pentagon Officer’s Athletic Center.

Once in temporary quarters, part of the JHO staff shifted from writing histories to collecting materials and conducting interviews that documented the activities of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, and the Joint Staff in developing policies and plans for the Global War On Terror (GWOT). Two historians, Ronald Cole and Wayne Dzwonchuk, worked hard at collecting the evanescent electronic documents that recorded the work of the staff on the GWOT. Both historians eventually returned to classified writing projects, but their work was carried on by two retired Army reservists, Colonel Jeff Freeman and Colonel Charles Heller, who volunteered to return to active duty to work in the JHO. The overall effort has assembled a well-organized collection of classified materials covering the GWOT. Since work on the Joint Staff is



network-based, the preservation of electronic documents, particularly Power Point briefings, has been important.

The 9/11 attack and the ensuing moves seriously disrupted the JHO publication program. Nevertheless, JHO editor Ms. Penny Norman completed preparation of *The Joint Chiefs of Staff and the War in Vietnam, 1969-1970*, the first volume in a new series on the Vietnam War, which was printed in 2002. As they were written shortly after the events that they describe, the five volumes of the Vietnam series are being revised prior to publication. Working with Major Jerry Brooks, another Army reservist assigned to the office, Ms. Norman produced a CD-ROM edition of JHO publications in 2002. In 2003, the office created a CD-ROM that reproduced the original version of the official minutes of the Inter-Allied Conferences during World War II. Based on a declassified set of the minutes held by the JHO, the CD is equipped with a word-search program. Revised by Dr. Walter Poole, *The History of the Unified Command Plan, 1946-1999* was printed in 2004. Federal government historians can obtain these or other JHO products by E-mailing requests to [david.armstrong@js.pentagon.mil](mailto:david.armstrong@js.pentagon.mil), by calling Ms. Norman at (703) 692-5032, or by FAX to Ms. Norman at (703) 614-6243.

Central to the Joint History Program is the support and staff supervision of the nine combatant command history offices. The surge in military operations as part of the GWOT placed heavy demands upon these small offices, particularly in providing historical coverage for joint headquarters operating in Afghanistan and later Iraq. While the Service historical programs cover unit operations as well as the Service component headquarters controlling them, the combatant commands are responsible for recording the activities of subordinate joint headquarters. The rapid tempo of military operations in the months following 9/11 placed especially heavy collection requirements on the historical offices of the US Special Operations Command and the US Central Command. To provide coverage of the multiple joint headquarters that were deployed, the combatant commands relied upon Service historians, almost all of whom were reservists. The response was enthusiastic, and historians were soon covering the activities of joint special operations task forces operating in Afghanistan. Colonel Richard Stewart, USAR, a senior historian with the Army Center of Military History, and Major Dave Crist, USMCR, were two of the men who volunteered for early service in Afghanistan. Major Crist would later serve as the historian for the Naval Special Warfare Task Group that operated in the Persian Gulf during the opening phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). While the Service history offices provide the coverage for current unit opera-

tions in Iraq and Afghanistan, Reserve Component historians continue to support the combatant commands as needed.

During the major combat phase of OIF, there were as many as 22 historians covering the various joint headquarters controlling that operation and other operations in Europe and the Pacific. The documents and interviews collected by these historians are held in the combatant commands' classified storage facilities. The ready availability of Reserve Component historians was in part due to personal contacts made during annual training conferences sponsored by the JHO. Dr. Hans Pawlisch and Dr. Mickey Schubert of the JHO monitored the availability of Reserve Component historians and coordinated their assignment to the combatant commands. A key part of the overall historical effort, their work was made easier by the fact that a year earlier they had successfully completed a three-year effort to insert provisions for the assignment of historians in the procedures governing the staffing and deployment of joint headquarters.

Amidst the increased activity of post-9/11 operations, significant changes were made in the JHO staff. Two senior staff members, Dr. Lorna Jaffe, who supervised the production of *The Chairmanship of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, 1949-1999*, and Dr. Mickey Schubert, Chief of the Joint Operational History branch and Deputy Director, retired. Dr. Graham Cosmas, who had earlier replaced Dr. Poole as the Chief of the Joint Staff History branch, assumed the Deputy Director's position. Dr. Pawlisch became Chief of the Joint Operational History branch and Dr. Dave Crist was hired to fill the vacancy in that branch. Dr. Steve Rearden contracted to work on a third volume in *The JCS and National Policy* series, and Dr. Jack Shulimson agreed to rewrite a volume in the Vietnam series. A commercial firm, Triumph Technologies, contracted to write a classified account of Joint Staff activities in the 18 months following the 9/11 attacks.

The attack on the Pentagon on 9/11 had an immediate impact on the Joint History Office, but its most enduring results will be the products of the long-term efforts to document and record the activities of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Joint Staff and the combatant commands in prosecuting the Global War On Terror.

*Brig. Gen. David A. Armstrong (Ret.) is Director of the Joint History Office, Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.*

## BUSY DAYS FOR THE AIR FORCE HISTORY PROGRAM

*By C. Richard Anderegg*

At the moment of this writing, the Air Force (AF) history program has five historians deployed in support of expeditionary forces in southwest Asia. Such has been the case for two years, and now that the most recent rotation is underway, it will be the case for at least another 120 days, and then another rotation almost certainly will follow that. Our historians are champs at collecting information, and they are even better at it now that we have produced a deployment guide on a single CD that holds regulations, guidelines, and even a standard filing system. Well, you might wonder, and understandably so, what the devil a CD has to do with anything. And the answer would be...everything. It's just one more indicator of how AF historians have adapted to continuous deployments in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. In other words we have deployed a lot since 9/11, we are starting to get good at it, and we think we are going to have plenty of opportunity to get even better at it.

Another indicator is a trip I took last autumn to visit Eagle Flag at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey. Eagle Flag is a mobility air force exercise designed to train teams in how to open an air force "base" from scratch—well, not scratch, since the exercise starts with at least a runway—but not much else. The Eagle Flag that I visited was the fifth in the past 12 months, and we had sent a historian to each as a participant. For this one we had sent two—one as a participant and one as an evaluator. After a small bit of searching, I rendezvoused with them and found it interesting that the participant already had three real deployments under his belt! Eagle Flag is not our only point of interest for exercising, as we are taking a close look at Silver Flag as another way of seasoning our historians.

Pretty exciting, and sometimes heady, stuff this war business. Unfortunately, though, there is always a downside, and one problem is that most of these deployments are coming from single-person offices at the wing level. For the 120 days they are deployed (plus a suitable rest period when they get home) no one is collecting and producing the home base history. On occasion we are able to backfill with a reservist, but usually we just have to accept the delay in producing the home history.

Without question the biggest impact has been the decision by the Air Force to convert our 114 military historian slots to civil service. This decision was driven, in part, by the need to provide more uniformed manpower to stressed

career fields such as our security forces (which you may recall as security police or air police). Operations in Afghanistan and Iraq have put a tremendous load on the cops and other career fields, so our military historian positions have been moved and we are in the process of back-filling them with civilian historians—at the rate of 38 a year over the next three years. Nearly all of these positions are at the base level, and interestingly enough will all be deployable positions—"emergency essential" in the lingo. So each new civilian historian will receive the same mobility training as military members: first aid, buddy care, chemical weapons protection, etc. Most important, they will take their place in the rotational schedule and deploy in sequence or with their unit. Deployment of civilians from other career fields into combat areas is not a new concept; the AF has been doing it regularly since 9/11, and it has happened in most past conflicts—really, you can look it up. History ain't for wimps!

A significant problem across our program and that the events of 9/11 exacerbated is the deluge of data. For example, the Air War Over Serbia (AWOS) team published an 800+ page one-year report. The AWOS database that supported the report was more than 100 gigabytes. So far the database we have collected for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom is more than two terabytes, and their book is only 600 pages—we are going in the wrong direction! Most of you understand the difficulties in navigating large databases, but we in the AF have not figured out a good way to get the data into the base—too much duplication and no discipline about what is saved drives us all nuts. We are working on the problem, but I do not see a clear solution...yet.

Nonetheless, we are determined to make the transition to digitized histories. The AF produces an annual history that is started at the base level and accumulated upward throughout our major commands. The largest of these was 52 inches thick in 2001; today it all goes on two CDs that are superb for a researcher. Every reference is hot-linked so that one only need click on the reference, either in the text or footnote, and the requested original document pops up.

Despite the plethora of data we are also seeing the effects of the other edge of the sword, one that most of you have seen as well, the incredible shrinking history source! All too often our historians, fighting hard in the "catch-up mode," discover that tons of the information they seek have been deleted by zealous information managers, which of course leads to the even bigger problem of the "perishability" of the information. Since everyone in the AF seems to do everything electronically, the historian has to be Johnny-on-the-spot to get the information before it becomes irretrievable.

The last year especially has been very active for AF historians. We are simultaneously deploying in support of combat operations in southwest Asia, and we are deploying even more historians to document humanitarian efforts following the tsunami disaster. Meanwhile we are starting the conversion to an all-civilian program. Throw in the digital inundation and retrieval issues and one can see we have an interesting 2005 ahead. Just remember, it ain't history until we say it is.

*C. Richard Anderegg is the Historian of the United States Air Force.*

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## REFLECTIONS FROM THE U.S. NAVAL HISTORICAL CENTER ON THE 9/11 ATTACK

by Gary E. Weir

On 11 September 2001 I stood with many of my colleagues from the U.S. Naval Historical Center (NHC) on the uppermost level of a Washington Navy Yard parking lot watching the smoke from the Pentagon rising into the air. We shall never forget the moment or the image. Early the following morning I asked all of my staff historians to gather for a short "brainstorming" session with a single purpose. I wanted to know how our Center might support the Fleet and the Navy at large at this critical juncture. We prepared a proposal for the Director of Navy History outlining the creation of an oral history team that would immediately take measures to interview as many survivors as possible to provide, not only a very immediate and compelling record of the event, but also evidence that would assist any investigation and analysis of the attack. In just a few days we were at work.

Even before the mobilization of our supporting reserve unit, Navy Combat Documentation Detachment 206 [Det. 206], NHC historians worked with the Crisis Action Team at the Navy Annex to learn the proper methods of working with people traumatized by the attack, proceeding shortly thereafter with our interviews. After collecting scores of very valuable oral histories employing a method that would permit any scholar or analyst to compare testimonies effectively in evaluating this evidence, the newly mobilized personnel of Det. 206 joined our effort. After continuing the process for a number of weeks, the military and civil service interview opportunities became the responsibility of Det 206, while NHC historians undertook the task of interviewing the civilian responders. We did additional oral histories with police, fire, and medical personnel, the USAR groups, FEMA officials, FBI investigators, and others. In the end, the NHL conducted 242 oral histories with attack survivors and those who responded. When combined with initiatives

by other service history offices, the 9/11 attack documentation includes over 1200 oral histories as well as artifact and documentary evidence. This makes 9/11 at the Pentagon one of the best-documented events in American history.

While the 9/11 attacks did not alter our world forever, it certainly changed the way we do business. First and foremost, the NHC developed a much closer professional and personal relationship with our reserve detachment. A standard operating procedure much more fluid and natural to both groups emerged from weeks of working closely together in an intense environment. Our reservists came away with a much better understanding of what one needs to do history and we realized as never before the talent and determination they brought to the equation. A permanent liaison committee now exists to preserve the relationship forged by the terrorist attack and served us well during Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), especially with oral histories and document and artifact collection.

We also worked closely with a small task force created by then Vice Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Fallon to create a new Command History Instruction which now included a digital "War Diary" that would provide our historians with near real-time information on deployed forces and priceless immediate reflections by commanders ashore and at sea. With this system now in play, the task has shifted to convincing the deployed forces of the value of their war diary, the best way to prepare it, and the importance of timely submission. The Center plans to place an article penned by our Contemporary History Branch on the Command Histories and the War Dairies in the Navy's unofficial professional journal, the U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, to explain to those preparing these sources their importance, historical significance, and immediate use.

We also sought new applications for the historical knowledge generated by the Center that would more immediately speak to the Navy's daily wartime challenges. Addressing terrorism will be our primary task for some years to come. Therefore, we now more regularly generate educational materials and briefing experiences that provide the naval community at every level with an informed view of the national policies, people, and events that have placed the United States Navy in the Near East.

These products take varied forms. In many cases we have provided point papers for the Navy Staff on selected issues. In another circumstance, members of our staff served as historical analysts on the Pentagon's POW-Detainee Task Force. Our Contemporary History Branch has just completed the Defense Department's history of the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon for the History Office of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and well-received historical briefings for Navy flag officers continue to emerge



from that effort. Over a year ago we completed a classified historical reference work that resides on-line within the Navy's classified network for policymakers and planners. This project, entitled the *OEF Handbook*, focuses on the conflict in Afghanistan with a conflict narrative, a very detained chronology, and tables of significant statistics on people, conditions, and platforms. The OIF Handbook is in preparation. We have also just completed an educational exhibit for the new headquarters building of the Navy Component, Central Command (NAVCENT) in Bahrain. This 16-panel exhibit employs Center skills from historical analysis, to contributions from our Photo Section and Curator shop, to selections from our art gallery collection, to original art and design executed by our *Naval Aviation News* magazine staff. Most of the panels measure four by six feet and will provide coalition and regional VIPs as well as NAVCENT staff with an informed perspective on the U.S. Navy's presence in the NAVCENT area of responsibility.

Shortly after President George W. Bush created the bipartisan 9/11 Commission, people with the commission who were interviewed by my team very early after the event informed the commissioners of the invaluable cache of sources available at the Naval Historical Center. Thus, in the midst of preparing the official history of the 9/11 attack, our Contemporary History Branch historians and our archivists were asked by the OSD General Counsel to supply our primary sources to the 9/11 Commission to help them understand the attack and the circumstances surrounding it. The Congress is now considering major reforms in the way we protect the country as a result of the remarkably

complete picture they were able to compose, in no small part, from our sources. The NHC received a commendation for this project from the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Stephen Cambone, countersigned by Secretary of the Navy Gordon England.

While our mission and purpose have not changed, since 9/11 we have adapted our efforts more closely to the requirements of a wartime Navy and continue to do so at this writing. In the process we have managed to avoid surrendering those historical services we know our sailors need for the long run to shape their understanding of both the Navy's heritage and its demanding current mission.

*Gary E. Weir, Ph.D., is Head of the Contemporary History Branch of the U.S. Naval Historical Center.*

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# MAKING HISTORY

## AIR FORCE HISTORY AND MUSEUMS PROGRAM

The History and Museums Program's most recent publications include *Airpower Advantage: Planning the Gulf War Air Campaign, 1989–1991*, by Diane T. Putney; *The Limitless Sky: Air Force Science and Technology Contributions to the Nation*, edited by Alexander H. Levis; *Locating Air Force Bases: History's Legacy*, edited by Frederick J. Shaw; and *Generations of Chevrons: A History of the Enlisted Force*, edited by Janet R. Bednarek.

## MARINE CORPS HISTORY AND MUSEUMS DIVISION

The History and Museums Division has published *On Mamba Station, U.S. Marines in West Africa, 1990-2003* (2004), by Majors James G. Antal and R. John Vanden Berghe. It focuses on Operations Sharp Edge, Assured Response, Quick Response, and Noble Obelisk, as well as Joint Task Force Liberia – noncombatant Marine evacuation efforts from Liberia, the Central African Republic, and Sierra Leone. The volume is the fourth in the series *U.S. Marines in Humanitarian Operations*. The previous three volumes review operations in Northern Iraq (1991), Bangladesh (1991), and the Caribbean (1991-1996).

## NAGARA

The National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators will hold their annual meeting on July 20–23, 2005, in Richmond, VA, at the Omni Richmond Hotel. Some of the session topics are E-Government, Local Government Records, Digital Archives, Grants and Funding, and Exhibits. Visit the NAGARA web site, [www.nagara.org](http://www.nagara.org) for more information.

## NASA

The NASA History Division and the National Air and Space Museum Dept. of History held a joint conference on March 15–16, 2005, titled "Critical Issues in the History of Spaceflight" at the Udvar-Hazy Center in Washington, DC.

NASA announces three new publications. The first, *Centennial of Flight Web Site*, is a DVD-ROM that reproduces the extensive web site (<http://www.centennialof-flight.gov>) commemorating the Dec. 17, 2003, centennial of the Wright brothers' first flight. It contains photos, videos, essays, and information features. The second, *Taming Liquid Hydrogen*, is a CD-ROM companion to the book of the same title by Virginia Dawson and Mark

Bowles. It includes oral history interviews, videos, still images, and primary source documents. The third is *Aeronautics and Space Report of the President: Fiscal Year 2002 Activities and Aeronautics and Space Report of the President: Fiscal Year 2003 Activities*. It is a mandated report on the government's annual aerospace activities from 14 federal departments and agencies. Included are appendices containing budget figures and key policy documents. The History Division web site at <http://history.nasa.gov> has several new additions, including a complete listing of history series publications.

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES

On Feb. 16, NARA opened a state-of-the-art records center in Ellenwood, GA. The center had been co-located at East Point, GA, with the agency's Southeast regional archives facility. That facility will soon reopen in Morrow, GA. The new records center will offer improved security and better protection of the records from such dangers as fire, theft, pests, water, and natural disasters. It will house federal records from such agencies as the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of the Treasury, the U.S. Attorney Offices, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Energy, the Bureau of Housing and Urban Development, and the Federal courts. It is located at 4712 Southpark Blvd., Ellenwood, GA 30294-3595, Tel: 404-736-2820. The new regional archives at Morrow will be dedicated on July 15.

NARA opened its new Pacific Region Federal Records Center in Riverside County, CA, on March 29. The 183,000-square-foot facility can accommodate approximately 850,000 cubic feet of Federal records. It will employ over 30 staff members and will process a projected 750,000 reference requests per year. The facility will store and service records from over 100 federal agencies and courts located in the Pacific Region (Arizona, southern California, and Clark County, Nevada). Significant holdings include federal records created by regional U.S. District/Bankruptcy Courts, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the U.S. Navy. The site is located at 23123 Cajalco Road, Perris, CA 92570-7298, Tel: 951-956-2000.

Approximately 9,700 pages of George H.W. Bush Presidential Records previously withheld under the Presidential Records Act restrictions for appointments to federal office and/or confidential advice are now open for research. These openings include records from the White House office of Records Management Subject Files and Staff Member Office Files. The George Bush Library, 979-691-4041.

A new exhibition, “Americans in Paris”, will run from May 27 through September 5, 2005, in the Lawrence F. O’Brien Gallery. The featured treaties, films, letters, and photographs document the presence of Americans in Paris through two centuries for business, pleasure, diplomacy, scientific and cultural pursuits, and war. Included are a letter from Benjamin Franklin, the Treaty of Alliance with France during the Revolution, materials relating to the Paris exhibition of 1878, silent film footage of World War I, a newsreel of Lindbergh’s flight, and documents from the Paris Peace Accords, which were attended by Henry Kissinger. A series of speakers and films related to the topic were scheduled through May, including Adam Gopnik discussing his book *Americans in Paris: A Literary Anthology*, and presentation of the 1951 film “An American in Paris” with Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron.

*Inventory of the Naval Records Collection of the Office of Naval Records and Library* (Inventory 18), compiled by Geraldine N. Philips and Rebecca Livingston, has just been published. This inventory describes records from Record Group 45 dating from the Revolutionary War to World War II. The Office of Naval Records and Library collected most of the official files created by the Office of the Secretary of the Navy before 1897 as well as significant historical records created by the bureaus, boards, stations, and offices of the Navy Department before World War II.

Recent microfilm publications include *Records of the Field Offices for the State of North Carolina, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865–1872* (78 rolls), and *Index to Quartermaster Claims, 1839–1894* (1 roll). NARA’s microfilm locator is at [http://www.archives.gov/research\\_room/alic/research\\_tools/search\\_microfilm\\_catalog.html](http://www.archives.gov/research_room/alic/research_tools/search_microfilm_catalog.html)

On April 21, the National Archives, the National Constitution Center, and the Aspen Institute cosponsored an evening of “Constitutional Conversation” at the McGowan Theater that included NBC News correspondent Tim Russert as moderator and Supreme Court Associate Justice Sandra Day O’Connor as the special guest speaker.

The exhibition “Teaching with Documents,” shown in the Lawrence O’Brien Gallery, ended May 1. It featured original federal records and demonstrated how educators can use such primary sources as learning tools. Among the documents were President Thomas Jefferson’s message to Congress concerning the Louisiana Purchase, January 16, 1804; The cancelled U.S. Treasury check payable to the Russian Foreign Minister to the United States in the amount of \$7.2 million, for the purchase of Alaska on August 1, 1868; and a letter from Secretary of War Henry

Stimson to President Harry S Truman, dated April 24, 1945, requesting an urgent meeting to discuss the Manhattan Project.

On January 28, 2005, NARA received the Staff Monograph on the Four Flights and Civil Aviation Security. This declassified and redacted version is the third monograph released by the 9/11 Commission to the public. The full text of the other two monographs, as well as other information about the commission, can be found at the Commission’s web site at <http://www.9-11commission.gov>.

The spring issue of *Prologue*, the agency’s journal, is available. It features illustrated articles by Jill Norgren (“Belva Lockwood: Blazing the Trail for Women in Law”), Jefferson Moak (“The Frozen Sucker War”), and Rebecca Bales (“Winema and the Modoc War: One Woman’s Struggle for Peace”).

#### NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PUBLIC HISTORY

The Council’s 2006 Annual Meeting will be a joint meeting with the Organization of American Historians, and will be held at the Hilton Washington, in Washington, DC, April 19–22, 2006. The program theme Our America/Nuestra América invites participants to explore the many meanings of “America” for people living in North America and beyond.

#### NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

The Siemens 1-A Electron Microscope is now on display in the lobby of the Natcher Conference Center, Building 45, on the campus of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. The display is one of several to be placed around the campus to showcase scientific instruments used by NIH scientists in the second half of the 20th century. This microscope was used to detect and



*This microscope was used to detect and characterize the Norwalk, Hepatitis A, and Rotavirus viruses by Dr. Albert Kapikian, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, enabling the development of diagnostic tools.*

characterize the Norwalk, Hepatitis A, and Rotavirus viruses by Dr. Albert Kapikian, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, enabling the development of diagnostic tools. Before this research the cause of most diarrheal illness was unknown.

A Varian A-60 NMR (Nuclear Magnetic Resonance) used at NIH in the 1960s is now on display in the lobby of Building 1.

#### **NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE**

“Cancer in the Twentieth Century,” a workshop sponsored by the National Library of Medicine, The Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine (University of Manchester), and the Society for the Social History of Medicine, was held at the National Library of Medicine on November 15–17, 2004. Organized by David Cantor, it featured 19 pre-circulated papers, now being prepared for publication. Participants came from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, and France. The workshop’s purpose was to prepare teaching resources in the history of cancer suitable for use in university curricula.

The National Genealogical Society of Arlington, Virginia, donated to NLM the American Medical Association Card File of Deceased Physicians. The NGS obtained the collection from the American Medical Association in 1994 but could no longer maintain the materials in its new quarters. The 275-linear-foot collection contains biographical information for about 350,000 19th- and 20th-century physicians in the United States and Canada—not just AMA members.

Recent historical presentations include lectures by Luke Demaitre (University of Virginia) on April 20 titled “Searching for Premodern Medicine in European Archives: New Light from Leprosy,” and by Jeffrey S. Reznick (National Museum of Health and Medicine, Washington, DC) titled “From Grievous Damage to Serene Convalescence: Hospital Magazine and Experiences of Recovery among British Servicemen during the Great War.” Contact Phil Teigen for more information on the lecture series (pteigen@nih.gov).

#### **NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY**

The Museum’s new exhibitions include “Whatever Happened to Polio?” a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the invention of the polio vaccine. This multimedia exhibition tells the story of polio, primarily from the perspective of the patient; the vaccine development that ended polio in the U.S.; and the story of survivors and the changes they have made in American society. The exhibition also explores the changes in American

medicine in the 20th century and the impact a disease can have on society as a whole. A second exhibition, “From Selma to Montgomery: The 40th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act,” examines the five-day march that began on March 21, 1965, from Selma to Montgomery, AL, to bring national attention to the continuing struggle to register African Americans to vote. A special showcase displays several items, including clothing worn by Selma marchers, a voter registration manual, and photographs.

For more information, visit the museum’s web site at <http://americanhistory.si.edu>

#### **NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN**

The Museum has published its first scholarly edition titled *Native American Dance: Ceremonies and Social Traditions* (copublished by NMAI and Fulcrum Publishing). It is a collection of essays by several Native American authorities on dance.

#### **NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) maintains a photo archive of more than 20,000 public domain images that include photographs dating from the late 19th century and images from the 1600s on its history page at <http://www.history.noaa.gov/>. The site presents several other exhibits, including a gallery of historic film clips of the service and biographical sketches of people who worked for NOAA and its ancestor agencies.

#### **NATIONAL PRESERVATION INSTITUTE**

The Institute’s 2005 schedule of seminars is available. The Institute is a nonprofit organization that provides training and education for those in both the public and private sectors involved in the management, preservation, and stewardship of our cultural heritage. The range of seminars includes such topics as “Native American Cultural Property Law,” “Archeological Curation, Conservation, and Collections Management,” and “Identification and Evaluation of Mid-20th-Century Buildings.” Contact: 703-765-0100, [info@npi.org](mailto:info@npi.org); web site [www.npi.org](http://www.npi.org).

#### **SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS**

The SAA will hold its annual meeting in New Orleans, LA, August 15–21, 2005. For more information, see <http://www.archivists.org/conference/index.asp>.

**STATE DEPARTMENT**

On February 25 the State Department released *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1969–1976, Volume V, United Nations, 1969–1972*. The volume documents the record of the policy of the first administration of President Richard Nixon towards the United Nations, including a variety of issues related to the membership, management, funding, and operation of the organization. It covers the areas of Expansion of UN Headquarters; High Level Meetings–Miscellaneous Issues; the Committee of 24; U.S. Position Papers and Assessments of General Assembly Sessions; Special Meetings of the Security Council; UN Finances and Reduction of the U.S. Assessment; Secretary General Succession; Appointment of UN Development Program Administrator; Appointments of Senior UN Personnel; and Chinese Representation in the United Nations. The press release

notes that the volume cannot cover “all the points at which U.S. policy and United Nations issues intersected,” but it concentrates on “policy related to UN internal affairs and questions specific to the United Nations.” The text of the volume, the summary, and this press release are available on the Office of the Historian web site at <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/frus/nixon/v>.

**WOODROW WILSON HOUSE**

A new exhibition, “The Misses Wilson: Daughters of the President,” runs through September 18. It examines the lives of President Wilson’s talented daughters, Margaret, Jessie, and Eleanor, using newspaper articles, photographs, paintings, sculpture, recordings, school-books, and other personal effects. View highlights and details at [www.woodrowwilsonhouse.org](http://www.woodrowwilsonhouse.org).

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