



The FEDERALIST

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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SHFG
www.shfg.org

FEDERAL HISTORY 2.0: Rethinking Methods and Approaches in the Wake of a Pandemic

The past few years represent a true sea change for federal historians, archivists, curators, and preservationists. The aftermath of the COVID-19 epidemic dramatically altered how and where those engaged in federal history conduct their work. It required federal history professionals to come up with new and innovative ways to continue conducting research, producing histories, and doing all other aspects of their jobs. This year's SHFG conference will explore this transformation within federal history offices, libraries, archives, and museums. The 2023 SHFG conference will take place on June 1-2 at the National Archives in Washington.

For more information, visit the SHFG website or email the Program Committee at: shfg.primary@gmail.com

The Mansfield Fellowship Program: A Unique Professional Development Opportunity for Federal Employees

By Shannon Granville

At the start of July 2022, a group of 10 federal government employees arrived in Tokyo, Japan, to begin an intensive year of working with the Japanese government. The members of this group, the 26th class of the Mansfield Fellowship Program, had been selected by the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation, which administers the program with financial backing from the U.S. Department of State.

As one of the members of this new Fellowship class, I was about to embark on a once-in-a-lifetime professional development opportunity. My time in Japan has allowed me to not only forge connections with international colleagues, but also think more deeply about the meaning of my own career in the federal government and the role that history can play in government service.

The Mansfield Fellowship Program is named after the late Mike Mansfield, who served as U.S. Ambassador to Japan from 1977 to 1988 following more than 30 years of distinguished service in Congress as senator and representative from Montana. With the approval of their home agencies, Mansfield Fellows spend a full year in Japan, beginning with 2 months of intensive in-person Japanese language training followed by 10 months of placements in Japanese government agencies. Fellows come from across the U.S. government, and in any given year a Fellowship class may include active-duty service members and congressional staffers along with career federal employees.



The author poses with a replica of the current Japanese era name "Reiwa" at the Tsukuba Annex of the National Archives of Japan. The original "Reiwa" calligraphy, announced to the public on April 1, 2019, is on display at the main building of the National Archives of Japan in Tokyo.

Although applicants are not required to know Japanese or have extensive experience working in Japan before they apply, a key component of a successful application is being able to articulate how a prospective Fellow's work will support and strengthen U.S.-Japan relations in the future.

As the senior editor with the U.S. Army Center of Military History, I have a keen interest in how history is written, preserved, and used to formulate national identity. In my application to the Mansfield Fellowship Program, I stated that I wanted to learn

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The **FEDERALIST**

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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The Society is a national professional organization open to all who are interested in federal history programs. Annual membership is \$55, \$35 students, and \$100 for institutions and includes a subscription to *The Federalist*, *Federal History* journal, and other periodic publications. Contributors are encouraged to submit articles, news listings, and photographs to the editors.

Current and back issues are available to members at www.shfg.org.

Opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the positions of *The Federalist*, the SHFG, or the agencies or organizations where the authors are employed.

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President's Message

Joel Christenson

This year has flown by with exceptional speed. I had so many things I wanted to do during my time as the Society's President, and I'm happy to report that we've made progress on several tasks. The Oral History Working Group has been up and running since November, and we've had stimulating discussions about the challenges faced by oral history programs at NASA, U.S. Southern Command, and the Department of State. Members have agreed to revise and update the oral history guidelines that the Society adopted in 1985. We invite you to discuss this with us during the oral history panel at the Society's upcoming annual meeting on June 1st and 2nd at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC! The session, entitled "Best Practices for Oral History in the Federal Government: A Discussion," will occur during the second morning session on the second day of the conference.

This year the Society also launched an effort to write its own history. Staffed by dedicated members, the SHFG History Committee is combing through the Society's archival holdings (housed in American University's Archives and Special Collections) and conducting oral history interviews with founding and long-term members to chronicle the Society's rich, forty-plus year story. The History Committee is looking for volunteers to join in this effort. Can you help us conduct oral history interviews or participate in

crafting the history itself? We are looking to a 2024 publication date. Learn more by attending the "SHFG Administrative History Workshop" on the annual meeting's first morning.

Looking ahead to next year, we are planning to re-engage in one of SHFG's founding missions, the articulation of principles and professional standards for federal history programs. In this issue of *The Federalist* you will find the Society's current statement on professional standards, along with a call for members to share their views on the statement's adequacy. What might be missing? What seems out of date, and in need of updating? Please have a look, and share your thoughts. In the coming months, we will convene a group of members to update this document. We need your perspectives.

Sadly, I failed to move the ball down the field (so to speak) on a few tasks I set out to do when I became SHFG president. I wanted the Society to weigh-in with the Office of Personnel Management on the need to modernize the qualification standards for the 0170 (history) career series, which, to the chagrin of many members, complicate hiring and workforce planning. I plan to work on this effort during my service as Past President during the coming year.

When it's all said and done, we are a Society of volunteers—dedicated, hard-working, history-minded professionals with day jobs and busy lives. We participate, and give of ourselves, because whether it's programs, professional standards, or people, SHFG adds value to our working lives. Our annual meeting is the centerpiece, and I look forward to talking with each of you there.

Joel Christenson

christensonj@gmail.com

FEATURE YOUR PROJECT!

Want to spread the word about your work? *The Federalist* newsletter prints information about federal history projects and issues affecting federal history programs.

If you or your organization have news items related to federal history that you would like printed in *The Federalist*, or if you have a

press release, feature article, or profile you would like to contribute, email the editor at shfgfederalist@gmail.com.

The Federalist welcomes contributors with information highlighting news of the profession, or who are willing to describe their projects for the SHFG audience!

Editor's Note

The spring 2023 issue of *The Federalist* is finally here! Joel Christenson, SHFG president, provides a review of his year in office in the President's Message. As he points out, this issue includes SHFG's Professional Standards for History Programs. We invite you to become part of the process of updating this document.

This issue of *The Federalist* includes an interview with Ms Kara Blond, the National Archives' Director of the Office of Presidential Libraries. She addresses a wide range of issues, from NARA's budget to declassification.

As usual, this issue highlights the interesting work done by our members. Benjamin Guterman writes about interviews with history professionals have been important features in SHFG's publications since 2004. We have collected those interviews and made them available on H-FedHist. Shannon Granville explains her participation in the Mansfield Fellowship Program in Japan. Other SHFG members might be interested in applying for this fellowship. Josh Edmundson, Curator of Education, and Kasey Sease, Museum Historian, at the Drug Enforcement Agency Museum, remind us that the museum is worth a visit. Finally, this issue includes a few items worth reviewing related to Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

The Federalist also includes the calendar of upcoming conferences that might be of interest to SHFG members. The Making History feature offers announcements from key players in the federal history field including NARA, the National Museum for Forest Service History, the Center for Cryptologic History, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Recent Publications introduces new books from the National Park Service, NASA, the United States Naval Institute, the University of Chicago Press, the Center for Military History, and others.

Start planning to attend the SHFG annual conference at the National Archives in early June!

As you may recall, in April SHFG members were asked about ending the paper version of *The Federalist*. We raised the issue for economic and environmental reasons. About 75% of those who responded favored eliminating the paper version, and distributing the newsletter online or via email. Those who objected made a very good point that *The Federalist* might be best preserved for future researchers as a paper document. This is an important issue that the SHFG Executive Council will address. The newsletter is no longer behind a paywall at the SHFG website.

We need your help! Please send announcements of upcoming events, recent publications, or new programs to us at shfgfederalist@gmail.com. We also welcome your thoughts on short articles to include in *The Federalist*.

Federal History 2023

IS NOW AVAILABLE

The 2023 issue of *Federal History* is now available at <http://www.shfg.org/page-18388>. Print copies were sent to SHFG members.

Contents include:

Editor's Note

— Benjamin Guterman

Roger R. Trask Lecture

What Federal Historians Do

— Edward C. Keefer

ARTICLES

"The Policy Which Put Down the War Shall Settle the Result": Loyalty, Race, and the Reconstruction of Missouri

— Jeremy Neely

The Budget Bureau's Administrative Doctrine and the Creation of an Independent NASA, 1958

— William F. Finan III

The HBCU Revolution: Desegregation, Disintegration, Collaboration, and Jimmy Carter's 1980 Decision to Give Black Colleges Their Own White House Office

— Cheryl E. Mango

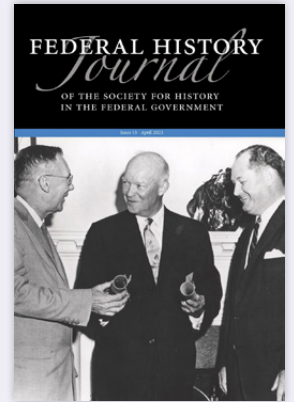
Robert Byrd and the Iraq War: A Case Study of Senatorial Power

— Lori Maguire

INTERVIEW

An Interview with Michael A. Olivas

— Benjamin Guterman



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Academic announcements

Book reviews • Job guide

Discussion logs

Principles and Standards for Our Profession

The Society for History in the Federal Government was founded in part to address the shared professional needs and organizational future of federal historians, archivists, curators, editors and others working in the field.

The statement below was drafted in part to identify our shared responsibilities, and to detail best practices and standards for the work done in historical offices. This includes principles and standards for collecting records, conducting research, writing studies, using oral evidence, advising policymakers, preserving non-verbal historical materials, and negotiating and administering contracts.

The Society is interested in updating this document and others, including the Historical Programs in the Federal Government guide, in order to reflect the current federal history landscape. If you would like to provide direct feedback on the document below, please send your thoughts and comments to shfg.primary@gmail.com. SHFG will be providing opportunities for members to help update these resources in the coming months.

Professional Standards for Federal History Programs

I. Principles and Standards for Federal Historical Programs

- a. This statement, drafted by a subcommittee of the Federal Historical Programs Committee, has been unanimously adopted by the Executive Council of the Society for History in the Federal Government.
- b. The Society urges all persons serving as historians in the federal government and all government officials administering historical programs to use this statement as a guide in their historical activities.

II. General Principles

- a. Federal historians with professional training and experience have a right to expect that they will be treated as professionals in their work.
- b. Federal historians have a responsibility to serve their scholarly profession and the public as well as the federal agencies for which they work. They should not be expected to bias their historical interpretations to accommodate current policy considerations.
- c. Historians also have a responsibility as federal employees to accept limitations on their right to publish material or to make public statements when such information has not been reviewed for classified content or for data exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

III. These principles have specific application as follows:

a. In Collecting Historical Records

- i. A primary function of federal historians is to collect historical evidence relating to the history of their agencies. Historical evidence includes documentary materials, oral history, artifacts, and historical sites.
- ii. Federal historians should assist personnel in the National Archives and Records Service to identify records of historical significance for eventual deposit in the National Archives. Until the National Archives can accept such materials, agency historians, archivists, and records managers should have the authority and resources to maintain control of these records as agency archives.

- iii. Federal historians should cooperate with their agency's records management personnel in drafting retention schedules that will assure permanent preservation of historical records.
- iv. Federal historians who retain records of archival quality in agency files have an obligation to make such records available to the public in accordance with the access standards of the National Archives.

b. In Conducting Historical Research

- i. Federal historians should have access to all pertinent records relating to their research for official purposes, and they should make every effort within time limits and other constraints to consult all available records. Primary sources should be used whenever possible. When, for legitimate reasons of security or policy, access to pertinent records is limited, the historians' supervisor should accordingly limit the declared scope of the study. Federal historians should then be free to evaluate for historical purposes all available evidence related to the study. This right does not extend to public release of such conclusions.
- ii. Federal historians should be encouraged to bring to the attention of their superiors any historical facts or conclusions which they believe may be pertinent to policies being formulated in the agency. The disposition of this information, however, remains within the discretion of the agency.
- iii. Federal records in the public domain or clearly eligible for public access should be available on an equal basis to all persons seeking access for reasonable purposes. Federal historians should enjoy no special privileges in access to such records. Federal historians should neither be required nor permitted to withhold such records or information about their existence from the public; the historians should use accepted procedures for announcing the availability of such records to the scholarly community.

c. In Writing Historical Studies

- i. Federal historians will be held accountable for the quality of their work by their professional colleagues

- as well as by agency officials. Accordingly, completed studies should bear the names of the authors.
- ii. When federal historians have been assigned the task of writing official histories to be published for public use, they have the right to expect that:
 1. They will have access to all records, including classified and privileged documents, pertinent to their assignment.
 2. They will be free to draw their own conclusions and interpretations reasonably supported by the evidence.
 3. They will be free to determine the scope, organization, format, and contents of the study.
 4. Their work will be reviewed by the agency for classified information and by the agency historians and technical experts to assure historical accuracy. When appropriate, independent historians should be invited to judge the quality of the work. The agency historian may also wish to invite managers of current programs to review the work.
 - iii. Agency officials and administrators of historical programs should so define the scope and time period to be covered by published histories so that the freedom of action defined above will not be impaired.
 - iv. The historians, for their part, will be expected to perform their research and writing in accordance with the highest standards of their profession. The standards include: balanced and fair interpretation of all the evidence available, careful analysis of the evidence, honest and forthright conclusions based on the evidence, clear and concise writing, accurate and clearly attributed quotations, and proper citation of all sources.
 - v. When federal historians have been assigned to prepare internal policy studies or reports:
 1. They have a right to clarify with their superiors whether the assignment is to be treated as historical work or as a staff study which merely uses historical material for a non-historical purpose (e.g., a speech, press release, congressional testimony, or policy paper).
 1. If the assignment is to prepare a historical study, the discretion allowed for published historical work should apply, except that the agency shall have the right to control the dissemination and use of the study.
 1. If the assignment is for a purpose other than preparing a historical study, the historian is subject to the same directions and restrictions that may appropriately be established by the agency for any other employee.
- d. In Using Oral Evidence
 - i. The collection of oral evidence from persons who participated in events of interest to the historian is the oldest form of historical research, and it is a source that should not be neglected.
 - ii. Federal historians should be provided reasonable opportunities to conduct oral history interviews with departing or retired senior executives and program managers of the agency, either to enhance the historical records of the agency or to fill in gaps in research for official histories.
 - iii. Interviews should be recorded on tape but only after the person to be interviewed has been informed of the mutual rights and responsibilities involved in oral history, such as editing, confidentiality, disposition, and dissemination of all forms of the record.
 - iv. Such agreements with the interviewee should be documented.
 - v. To the extent practicable, oral interviews should encompass the potential interest of other researchers and not just the immediate needs of the interviewer.
 - e. In Advising Policy Makers
 - i. Agency officials should recognize that staff historians, as the most reliable and available source of institutional memory, can be valuable advisors on policy issues.
 - ii. The senior staff historian should have access to current policy records in order to identify issues on which research may be illuminating.
 - iii. Agency officials should recognize that the staff historian has a responsibility to call attention to opportunities for historical research on current policy issues.
 - iv. Staff historians should be encouraged to write accurate and candid histories of policy issues for their superiors independent of staff or program review.
 - v. Staff historians should recognize that their professional responsibilities extend only to preparing historical studies and not to advocating courses of action.
 - f. In Preserving Non-verbal Historical Materials
 - i. Federal historians have a responsibility to preserve all types of historical evidence, not just documentary records. Non-verbal sources include archeological and other historic sites, historic structures, artifacts, works of art, and photographic records. This responsibility extends not only to materials related to the history of the agency but also to those significant in local, state, and national history.
 - ii. In historic preservation, federal historians should apply ethical and professional standards equal to those expected in documentary research and writing. Federal historians should act only within their area of competence and call upon specialists for advice when needed.

- iii. Agency historians should review all proposals for disposing of federal land, buildings, and equipment of possible historical value. Historical significance should be a factor in determining the course of action.
 - iv. Federal historians should recommend practical ways of preserving artifacts and other non-verbal materials either in museums or storage.
 - v. Federal historians should maintain inventories of historic sites, buildings, and artifacts in their agency's custody and when appropriate prepare interpretative materials explaining their significance.
- g. In Negotiating and Administering Contracts
- i. Federal historians should follow procurement and contracting procedures established by federal law and regulation.
 - ii. A Statement of Work should set forth clearly the scope and requirements of the contract, the specifications of the work product, and well-defined benchmarks for completing each phase of the work.
 - iii. Selection criteria for contractors should not be defined so rigidly as to exclude all but a few candidates.
 - iv. Contract opportunities should be advertised as widely as feasible.
 - v. Federal historians administering contracts should monitor the work of the contractor to provide adequate guidance to the contractor and to assure timely completion of a high-quality product.

“Mansfield Fellowship Program” from page 1

how the Japanese Ministry of Defense uses military history in professional military education and in the shaping of Japanese defense policy. However, I also was curious about the general approach to the study and teaching of history in Japan, from elementary education through university-level instruction. Unlike in the United States, where history education policies depend heavily on state and local requirements, the Japanese government takes a national approach to developing its history curriculum. To understand the Japanese methods of teaching and preserving history, I would have to go beyond my narrow professional interests. By working with Japanese historians, librarians, archivists, museum curators, education professionals, and other experts, I would be able to gain a broader understanding of the Japanese government's priorities and practices in history education, preservation, and promotion.

During the application process, Fellows prepare a list of Japanese government agencies whose duties overlap with their own interests. The Mansfield Foundation works with the Japanese government's National Personnel Authority (the equivalent of the Office of Personnel Management) to coordinate placement opportunities for Fellows. Fellows usually prioritize requests for placements with counterpart agencies; in my case, I had one month at the National Institute for Defense Studies in the Ministry of Defense, which is home to Japan's own Center for Military History. Through additional placements in related agencies, I was able to study other facets of historical preservation and education. To examine archival management practices, I spent two enjoyable months learning more about the extensive collections of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Diplomatic Archives and the National Archives of Japan. The education and cultural specialists at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology gave me fascinating tours of many museums and educational facilities, including areas not open to the general public. And to understand how members of the Japan Self-Defense Forces engage with history, I had opportunities to sit in on classes with young cadets at the National Defense Academy, Japan's equivalent of West Point and the other service academies.

In fact, it was the National Defense Academy that offered me a truly unforgettable experience. In early December 2022, I accompanied a group of cadets on a training visit to Iwo Jima, where they studied the Imperial Japanese Army's efforts to defend the island in February and March 1945. Along with members of the Academy's instructional staff, I visited the island's memorials to pay my respects to the thousands of Japanese and Americans who died in the Battle of Iwo Jima. But for me, the weight of history was never more apparent than when I donned a helmet and headlamp and joined the cadets in entering a portion of the island's massive underground tunnel complex. Crawling through the claustrophobic darkness of the tunnels, breathing in the hot, sulfurous air that gives the island its name — for Iwo Jima literally means “sulfur island” — immersed me in the history of that horrific battle. It was a sorrowful, deeply moving experience. Yet it also reminded me of how far the U.S.-Japan relationship has come since those days of enmity, not least because of the ties that have been strengthened through programs like the Mansfield Fellowship.

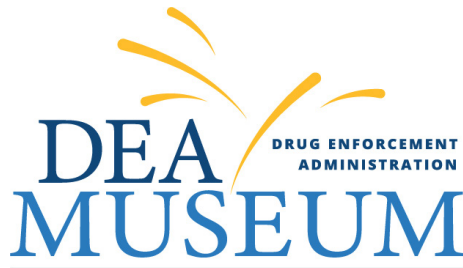
Of the nearly 200 Mansfield Fellows who have taken part in the program, I am one of the only participants whose placements have focused on history-related topics. In every office I visited, I found myself thinking about how much other federal government historians, archivists, and museum professionals could gain out of this experience. I would love to see more SHFG members apply to the Fellowship, both to share their knowledge and to learn from Japanese experts in the field.

For more about the Mansfield Fellowship Program, including candidate requirements and a application timeline, please visit <https://mansfieldfellows.org/>. I also encourage anyone who is interested in applying to contact me for more information about my specific experiences (and about the Fellowship in general) at shannon.granville@mansfieldfdn.org.

Shannon Granville, a member of the 26th class of the Mansfield Fellowship Program (2022–2023), is the senior editor with the U.S. Army Center of Military History in Washington, DC.

The DEA Museum in 2023

By Josh Edmundson, Curator of Education,
and Kasey Sease, Museum Historian, DEA Museum



First opened in 1999, the DEA Museum collects, preserves, and shares the stories of America's connection to drugs, including public policy, federal drug law enforcement, and the work of Drug Enforcement Administration employees around the world. In the years since, the Museum has welcomed thousands of student groups, families, employees, and dignitaries who learn about the history of drug use in the United States, current drug trends, and DEA's preventative educational outreach programs and initiatives.

In 2021, the Museum reopened following an extensive two-year renovation. Its all-new, innovative learning environment features interactives, artifacts, and displays that engage every guest in the history of drug misuse prevention. Captivating educational programs and hands-on activities also inspire visitors to become Agents of Change in their communities.

With over 5,000 objects, 40,000 photographs, and an online video archive, the DEA Museum's collection brings the history of drug use, legislation, and law enforcement to life. Visitors' favorites include green platform shoes worn by an undercover

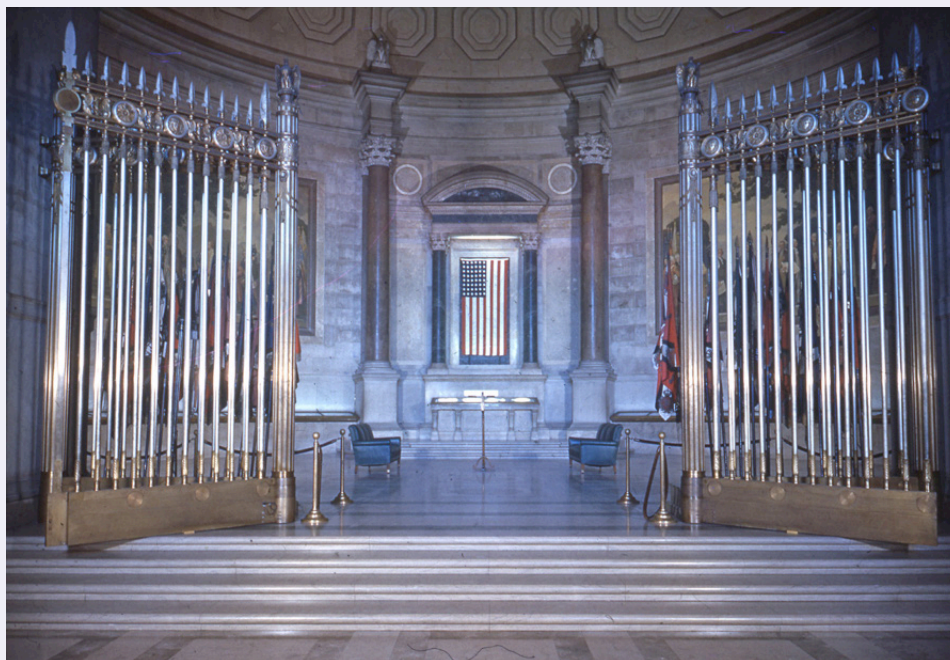


The DEA Museum.

special agent and drug kingpin Pablo Escobar's death mask. Changing exhibits display Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán's Mexican prison uniform and diamond-encrusted firearms, branded heroin bags from Thailand, and a Paddington Bear that once concealed smuggled drugs. Museum staff is working on new exhibits to celebrate DEA's 50th anniversary, opening fall 2023. Visit our website at www.DEAMuseum.org for updates and view online exhibits, our Stories from the Collection video series, educational panel discussions, documentaries, and more.

Powerful memorials are also onsite. DEA remembers employees lost in the line of duty with its Wall of Honor. A 9/11 Task Force Officer Memorial honors first responders who died from illnesses related to their work at Ground Zero. The moving Faces of Fentanyl Memorial is dedicated to the hundreds of thousands of victims of fentanyl poisoning.

The DEA Museum is free and open to the public 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Plan a visit or schedule a group tour at www.DEAMuseum.org.



See You at the Annual SHFG Conference!

June 1-2
The National Archives
Washington, DC

The entrance to the Exhibition Hall of the National Archives Building, showing the bronze gates and interior of the Rotunda before it was reconstructed for the receipt of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution in December 1952. From Record Group 64, Records of the National Archives and Records Administration, NAID: 266848177.

The History Professional

An Interview with Kara S. Blond,
NARA's Director of the Office of Presidential Libraries

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) announced the appointment of Kara S. Blond as the Director of the Office of Presidential Libraries, effective July 18, 2022.

Ms. Blond joins the National Archives as a seasoned museum executive with extensive experience in public engagement, research and collections, and museum operations. Since 2017, she has served as Executive Director of the Capital Jewish Museum, where she led the effort to envision, plan, fund and build a new museum about identity, community and civic engagement in the nation's capital. Ms. Blond oversaw strategic and operational planning, a \$35M capital campaign, cutting-edge exhibition and program development, design and construction of a new facility, and restoration of a landmark historic site.

Previously, Ms. Blond served as Director of Exhibitions at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, where she provided strategic direction for the exhibitions and public engagement program and managed key national and global partnerships. She also led the award-winning Deep Time initiative, the museum's largest-ever renovation and extended education and research program. Earlier in her career, Ms. Blond oversaw exhibition development at the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park. In total, she spent over fifteen years at the Smithsonian Institution. Ms. Blond began her career as a reporter at Newsday in New York.

Ms. Blond received a master's degree in Education: Learning Design and Technology from Stanford University and a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Pennsylvania.

Debra Steidel Wall, Acting Archivist of the United States, said of the appointment, "Ms. Blond's extensive leadership and professional background in the museum community make her a natural choice to lead the Office of Presidential Libraries, and I look forward to working with her to advance NARA's mission through the Presidential Library system."

The Office of Presidential Libraries oversees the 15 Presidential Libraries in the Presidential Library system administered by NARA. Presidential Libraries promote understanding of the presidency and the American experience. They preserve and provide access to historical materials, support research, and create interactive programs and exhibits that educate and inspire.



Kara S. Blond

The Federalist editors had a series of questions for Director Blond. Below are her responses.

Your career has taken you from the Smithsonian to the Capital Jewish Museum to the National Archives. What attracted you to the presidential libraries position?

I've always loved libraries, museums, and archives—I'm passionate about preserving, providing access to, and interpreting their vast stories and collections. The common thread across my career has been making complex content, records, and artifacts accessible and relevant to audiences by supporting research, exhibitions, programs, and educational experiences. For me, the National Archives represents the epitome of that work at a critical time for our democracy—and presents a tremendous opportunity to elevate the libraries' civic engagement mission. I've spent my first year in the role focused on understanding the system and the exciting possibilities here.

The proposed FY 2024 NARA budget does not repeat the 10 percent increase enjoyed in FY 2023. What are your priorities for presidential libraries in this less generous budget environment?

NARA's budget constraints are deeply challenging, particularly as the records in our holdings and requests for access to them grow exponentially. Even as we advocate for additional

resources, we are focused on shaping the future of the Presidential Library system and reinforcing its dual archival and public-facing mission. My priorities include strategic planning to identify innovative initiatives to galvanize our work, sharpening our operation by finding efficiencies in collaboration across the system, and evaluating current workload and adjusting priorities to preserve our critical functions.

Recently there was debate in the press and on Capitol Hill over NARA's role in shaping the content of presidential museums, particularly with regard to the George W. Bush presidential library in Dallas. Could you comment on the November 2022 agreement to transfer control of the museum to a private foundation, and what that might portend for other presidential library museums? How can NARA ensure that presidential museums remain fair and balanced?

In January, the National Archives transferred the museum and volunteer program at the George W. Bush Presidential Library to the private George W. Bush Foundation. NARA retains all responsibility for the legal and physical custody of the records and artifacts at the library and continues to loan records

and artifacts to the Foundation for display in the museum. This change was a result of NARA's efforts, in the wake of long-term budget challenges, to evaluate how services are provided and to assess the sustainability of current structures. However, NARA remains committed to the Presidential Library system, and no further changes to the museums, from the Hoover through the Clinton administrations, are under consideration.

While NARA will no longer produce or approve exhibitions for the privately operated Bush Presidential Museum, the Foundation has committed to Congress to seek historian and NARA input into major changes to the permanent exhibition galleries. We intend to provide robust and nuanced feedback to the Foundation regarding proposed changes.

Across the library system, we rely on advisory panels of scholars representing a range of perspectives to guide the development of our major exhibitions and renovations. We are deeply committed to ensuring that our interpretation represents that diversity of perspective and presents fair and balanced historical interpretation.

Can you offer an update on the staffing and collections management of the Trump Library? The social media archives are useful, but when might digital and paper records be available to researchers?

The Donald J. Trump Presidential Library has a supervisory archivist, a museum registrar, and a team of archivists currently on board. The library will onboard additional archival and museum staff over the coming year.

Under the Presidential Records Act, the majority of Trump Presidential records (electronic and textual) are closed for research for the first five years after the administration. At the five-year mark, January 20, 2026, the records will be subject to the access provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, and the public may file requests.

Can you explain to SHFG members the ongoing effort to move classified materials from presidential libraries to College Park? One particular concern for scholars is the impact of the transfer on declassification efforts, and on access to declassified documents. But many SHFG members are cleared government historians who conduct classified research in presidential libraries' collections. What are NARA's plans for ensuring that those researchers have the access they need when the documents arrive in the Washington, DC area?

In 2018, NARA decided to consolidate all classified holdings of the Presidential Libraries and temporarily transfer them to Archives II to facilitate their declassification, leveraging the systems and processes of the National Declassification Center (NDC). The move of the holdings began in late 2019 and was scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic interrupted the agency's efforts, but we plan to have all classified holdings moved in the next year.

NARA has continued to provide access to these significant records throughout the consolidation process. The NDC has extensive experience in providing government historians with access to accessioned classified federal records and will use this experience to assist these historians with researching the Presidential records now in its physical custody.

What are your thoughts on the changing roles of presidential libraries in a digital age, and on the challenges the libraries are facing? How can these libraries expand access and appeal to broader audiences?

The "digital age" presents myriad opportunities and challenges for the Presidential Libraries. Of course, digitized and born-digital records and archival audiovisual material once open can be more easily accessed by researchers and public audiences globally. Many Presidential records are already available electronically through our websites and the National Archives Catalog, and digitization and digital records will let us dramatically scale that access. However, there are massive information technology and staffing challenges associated with ingesting and reviewing all of those records. FOIA and research requests often identify millions of pages of potentially responsive records, and putting our archival eyes on every page is hugely time-consuming. While we're thinking creatively about how to tackle those information technology and staffing challenges, any solution will require substantial new resources. With those challenges, however, come exciting opportunities to connect digitized records across the system, share resources through social media and digital curation, and find alignment and intersections with records at other archives around the world.

What suggestions do you have on how presidential libraries can enhance public history, such as museum curatorship, oral history, archival science, and historic preservation?

The libraries are a tremendous resource for enhancing public history research and interpretation. Our vast collection holds fascinating stories about our democracy across time—and our archival and museum teams are passionate about making those resources available and relevant to critical current issues. We're excited to use a wide range of engagement strategies—curating thematic digital exhibitions across our system; growing our loan program; strengthening strategic partnerships that further expand our national civics initiative; testing learning experiences that include gaming, simulation, and role-play; developing creative programming that highlights the little-known parts of our collections; and training teachers for innovative uses of primary sources in the classroom. In particular, we're focused on elevating underrepresented content and voices—and engaging with diverse, underserved audiences that have not typically engaged with the library system.

Interviews in Federal History

By Benjamin Guterman

Interviews with history professionals have been important features in SHFG's publications since 2004. Now, we have collected those interviews and made them available on SHFG's network, H-FedHist, under the Resources tab at networks.h-net.org/h-fedhist.

The SHFG interview collection lists all our interviews from three sources: SHFG's newsletter, *The Federalist*; journal, *Federal History*; and network, H-FedHist. All interviews are available for immediate download except those published in *The Federalist* within the past three years, which are available to Society members online at shfg.wildapricot.org/Federalist-Newsletter.

The interviews celebrate the work of federal history workers, defined broadly to include historians, curators, archivists, editors, educators, librarians, archaeologists, and many others working with records, artifacts, and interpretive texts. And, they include both federal and nonfederal professionals. That broad range of testimonies over the years has revealed a breadth and complexity of historical work that I could not have imagined before reading them. Much like all other content in *The Federalist*, the interviews expand our view of what history workers do to explore and document the work and history of the federal government.

A few issues of *The Federalist* in the 1980s and '90s featured brief exchanges with incoming SHFG presidents, but they were limited in scope. Shortly after a new team of editors resurrected the newsletter in 2004, I sought to include more in-depth conversations with working federal professionals that could reveal what they were doing and how. My fascination with space research led me to approach NASA's Chief Historian Steven Dick for the first interview, and he generously agreed. In that first attempt, he answered questions about the structure, personnel, publications, and goals of his history program. It was a good start.

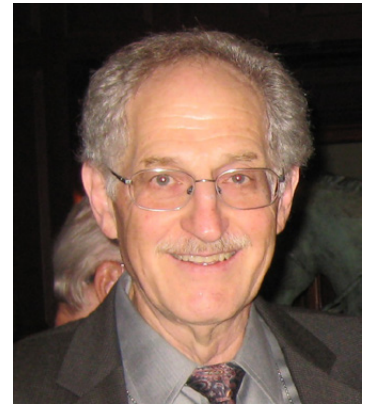
We did not follow up with more interviews for a few years while we focused on other newsletter features. The "History Office Profile," for example, aimed to identify the structure and mission of diverse federal history offices. "Internships in Federal History" allowed interns to relate their volunteer experiences and thus highlight key aspects of federal history work. Finally, in the Summer 2009 (Issue 22), I interviewed Senate Historian Richard Baker, who had served three terms as SHFG president. The questions and answers recorded his ideas, plans, and methodology for founding the Senate History Office in 1975—a vital new program. He noted that his organizational inspiration came from directors of long-established federal history programs, such as those in the departments of State, Labor, and Defense. He also discussed the unique duties and roles of the Senate history program: "We are also called upon to be conversant with the Senate's institutional development over the past 220 years...we

often need to walk only a short distance to observe contemporary practices rooted in the 18th and 19th centuries." On the sensitive nature of his work, he noted, "we also try not to get out in front of the Senate's party leaders on controversial procedural matters, no matter how deep their historical antecedents." This exemplified the kind of unique and sensitive procedural guidelines in federal historical work that I had hoped to capture. The Baker discussion showed the value of interviews and encouraged us to include them in most subsequent newsletter issues under the title "The History Professional."

The online collection of interviews is based on our understanding of the dual meaning of "federal history": we often view it as a sub-discipline—a defined area of study like legal history. But federal history can also refer to the produced historical record of our government—the narrative of its past. That second meaning has allowed us to interview historians, both in government and academia, and to delve into their research and publications.

The interviews' primary value lies in what we learn from them. First, they reveal the wide geographical range of federal offices—for example: NASA's Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio; the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum in Independence, Missouri; the National September 11 Memorial and Museum in New York City; and the Fort Monroe Authority in Virginia; among many other locations. Second, they provide insights into the unique missions of the dozens of federal history programs, in civilian and military agencies, and into the complex, agency-specific duties of their history-related personnel. For Smithsonian Curator Peter Liebhold of the National Museum of American History (NMAH) (Issue 51) the mission is to research and create exhibits that probe U.S. history and educate the public. In contrast, Curator Tracy Baetz of the U.S. Department of the Interior Museum (Issue 59) produces more focused exhibits that educate and investigate history through the lens of her agency's past work.

Responsibilities of historical work vary from one program to another. Thomas Wellock, historian at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (Issue 46), explained that he is primarily charged with writing about the history of nuclear power regulation and the agency and educating the public through blogs and documentaries, including a report that explains "how evolving safety regulations have influenced the design and operation of existing reactors." Richa Wilson, an architectural historian with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) (Issue 43) surveys historic architectural



Benjamin Guterman

sites; researches their use through land records, local interviews, and district histories; and helps develop preservation plans. She also advises on historic site restoration, and provides expert testimony in lawsuits relating to federal land use.

We gain appreciation for the planning and skills required to start a federal history program. Victoria Harden, director of the Office of NIH History and the Stetten Museum (now retired) (Issue 39), recalled setting the priorities for the new NIH program in 1986–87. First, she aimed to preserve knowledge of “four intramural Nobel laureates and many Lasker award winners and members of the National Academy of Sciences” through oral histories. She then worked to track the vital research on HIV/AIDS and to produce an inventory of the advanced equipment and instruments used in research. In addition, she had to rush to hire contractors to produce an exhibit on the NIH Centennial.

Military historians comprise the largest group of history workers in the federal government. Yancy D. Mailes (Issue 65), oversees the Air Force Materiel Command History and Museums Program, with historians, curators, and archivists who gather documents, classified/unclassified special studies, books, and briefings used to preserve the Command’s institutional memory as well as its material heritage, among their other duties.

Richard W. Stewart (Issue 49) discussed his duties as director and chief historian at the U.S. Army Center of Military History (CMH) in Washington, DC. This premier program oversees museums and provides research reports to officers on any requested topic, from occupation policies of the past to intelligence operations. The office produces campaign pamphlets from past battles, unit lineage and honors certificates, unit histories, and official histories that are essential for the success of Army doctrine writers and policy makers. To those ends, Stewart stressed his efforts to produce the highest-quality publications, enhance gathering of data and interviews from the field, and improve hiring procedures for skilled historians.

Other interviews with military historians yield insights into national security. Joseph P. Harahan, historian at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) (Issue 50), explained how he researched and prepared his report on the dismantlement of nuclear weapons in Eastern Europe after the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991. He travelled to Eastern European nations researching and conducting interviews during the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program. At risk were unprotected former Soviet “missile bases, submarine sites, weapons production plants, and massive chemical weapons storage depots.” He interviewed key individuals in several nations, including Ukrainian commanders, and produced a monograph explaining the international cleanup effort. His resulting book *With Courage and Persistence* (2014) provides valuable information on the disarmament program but also stands as a prime example of how historical work is essential to government work.

Donald Carter of the U.S. Army Center of Military History (Issue 47) discussed his book *Forging the Shield: The U.S. Army in Europe, 1951–1962* (2015) and the reasons for the successful


10 THE FEDERALIST

THE HISTORY PROFESSIONAL

Victoria A. Harden was the founding director of the Office of NIH History and the Stetten Museum in 1986–87 and served as NIH Historian until her retirement in 2006. She has authored *Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever: History of a Twentieth-Century Disease* (1990), *AIDS at 30: A History* (2012), and numerous articles, and has developed many historical websites and exhibits. Dr. Harden’s many awards include the American Association for the History of Medicine Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007 and the American Historical Association’s Herbert Feis Award in 2006 for her exceptional contributions to public history.

How did you first become interested in the general topic of federal biomedical research policies?

Like many other graduate students, I stumbled upon the topic as the result of a class assignment. At Emory University, I utilized the papers of a Georgia chemist, Charles Holmes Herty, which were being processed, for the assignment. The box to which I had access happened to relate to Herty’s lobbying efforts on a bill to create a National Institute of Health in the 1920s. No secondary literature seemed to exist, and a historian at the National Library of Medicine said that little was known about this effort. To a graduate student looking at four



around me, but no one was attempting to track this work. One scientist on my advisory committee knew what instruments Dr. Stetten had collected and mentally kept track of new ones that came in regularly, but I lived in fear that he might be hit by a truck before a proper inventory could be made. Our storage space was essentially a large closet, and initially it was shared with other NIH components. Instruments were not protected from dust, and one was moved out of the space by another occupant and sent to surplus a month before I found out. The NIH Centennial observance was upon us; the museum was tasked with producing a historical exhibit.

Interview by Benjamin Guterman Victoria A. Harden

Victoria Harden

deterrence of the USSR. We learn that good relations with Germany and the rebuilding of the German army gave the West “a reasonable chance of standing up to the Soviets.” Nuclear weapons were a major deterrent, but he notes that “by the mid-1950s...most military leaders in Europe believed that nuclear weapons...would not provide a realistic way of actually fighting a war.”

Interviews with academic historians showcase new perspectives in historical work. Chandra Manning, for example, speaks about her book *Troubled Refuge* (2017), noting that during the Civil War, the army’s sheltering of escaped Blacks constituted “military emancipation” and effectively created a fundamental shift in the United States government—it now abandoned its constitutional duty to protect slavery. Kelly J. Shannon, speaking about her book *Muslim Women’s Human Rights* (2018), contrasted U.S. administrations, stating that “the Clinton administration avoided taking a colonial feminist approach in its women’s rights policies, while the Bush administration’s approach was openly colonialist...[Clinton’s] willingness to work alongside local women’s groups and let them set the agenda was noteworthy.”

Looking back at nearly 20 years of interviews, we are deeply appreciative of the insights they provide into the work of federal history offices and history workers, both in government and academia. The collection is a valuable resource for understanding diversity, complexity, and creativity in historical work, and the essentiality of that work for effective government and civic education. More broadly, they evidence vital aspects of government-in-action. I look forward to reading many more such first-hand accounts.

We welcome comments on these interviews and hope that readers find them informative. We will continue to add interviews from *The Federalist* three years after their original publication; SHFG members can read new interviews without delay with their subscription and membership. Those interviews published in *Federal History* and *H-FedHist* will be available immediately after publication.

Benjamin Guterman is a former editor of *The Federalist* and editor of *Federal History*.

Time to Discuss OPM's History Qualification Standards



Over the next year, Joel Christenson, SHFG's current president, hopes that SHFG can help convince the Office of Personnel Management to modernize its qualification standards for the 0170 (history) career series (last updated in 1962). An extract of that document is below. The full text can be found at www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/classifying-general-schedule-positions/standards/0100/gso170.pdf.

Many SHFG members are concerned about the 18-credit hour qualification standard, which is also below.

SERIES DEFINITION

This series includes positions the duties of which are to advise on, administer, supervise or perform research or other work in the field of history when such work requires a professional knowledge of established methods and techniques of historical research in the collection, evaluation, analysis or presentation of historical facts.

This standard supersedes and is to be substituted for the standard for the History Series GS-0170, which was published in June 1948 under the code P-170-0.

OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION

Historians in the Federal Government are engaged in one or more of the following major areas of endeavor: (1) planning and conducting special historical studies relating to current problems for use by agency officials and others in developing or modifying policies and programs, (2) planning and conducting continuing or long-range historical studies to record the policies, programs and operations of their particular agencies, (3) planning and preparing scholarly narrative or documentary histories for publication, or (4) planning and conducting historical studies in connection with the establishment, conservation, restoration, reconstruction and interpretation to the public of sites of major significance in the military, political, economic and cultural history of the United States.

Regardless of the area of endeavor involved, historian positions at full performance levels typically include responsibility for project planning and research and presentation functions. These functions are discussed below:

Project planning. This function involves: (1) Defining the scope of the project, (2) determining the breadth and/or depth of historical treatment to be undertaken within such limitations of subject, length, and urgency as may be imposed, (3) blocking out the major areas of research if the project is of such scope and magnitude as to make a "team" approach feasible, and (4) determining preliminary approaches and techniques to be employed. Planning of this kind requires the historian to possess (1) a thorough understanding of the objectives of the project, (2) ability to achieve a solid grasp of the subject area involved, (3) considerable familiarity with the kinds of problems which may be anticipated in the accomplishment of the project and the steps necessary for their solution, and (4) a complete grasp of historical method.

Historical research and presentation. This function involves:

1. *Obtaining and evaluating historical evidence.* Historical evidence may take several forms and be obtained by several means. It may consist of (a) written evidence contained in primary or secondary source materials, either published or unpublished, (b) physical evidence such as drawings, models, photographs, architectural or other structural remains, or objects such as pottery, coins and guns, or (c) oral evidence such as unwritten eye-witness accounts of events or statements by participants. It may be obtained through search of the files and records of Government agencies and major archival and library collections, from records in the hands of private individuals, through the examination of physical objects, or through the conduct of interviews with individuals having knowledge of the events under study. This requires the historian to be familiar with techniques involved in gathering material from records depositories of various kinds, or in conducting personal interviews for fact-gathering purposes.

The historian subjects each piece of evidence obtained to critical evaluation in order to establish its relative value. This includes investigation to establish the reliability of the evidence which may involve such matters as identification of the author, consideration of his personality and reliability, his relationship to the event described (was he an eye-witness? a participant? or is he relating an event described to him by others?), and the elapsed time between the occurrence and the recording of the event. It also includes investigation for genuineness by such methods as comparison with the original if the source is printed, study of the style and content of the printed source, and comparisons of handwriting and paper. In testing the genuineness of physical evidence the historian may consult with experts or rely on chemical or other laboratory analysis of physical remains. In assessing the value of evidence gathered by personal interview the historian must have an understanding of the interviewee's personality and background to recognize personal prejudices and idiosyncrasies, to check the accuracy of memory, and to consider the knowledge and understanding of surrounding circumstances at the time the event took place or the decision was made.

2. *Establishing historical facts.* Historians determine what items of evidence may be accepted as historical fact by comparing and weighing the various pieces of evidence. They consider

the possibility and probability of events in light of reliable human experience, being always aware of the dynamic nature of such experience. The problems involved relate to the extent of agreement existing between the various pieces of evidence or to the quality and quantity of the evidence. If several independent pieces of evidence do not all agree the historian may either suspend judgment until additional evidence can be found, or may accept the evidence of the majority (or the exceptional nature of particular evidence) as no more than a qualified probability, or he may reconcile the discrepancies in the evidence. If there is only one affirmation, the facts and conclusions based thereon require the most careful assessment and may be of limited value. In determining what actually happened the historian must have an understanding of the relative merits of each piece of evidence, and the relative degrees of reliability of historical “facts.”

3. *Grouping historical facts and determining their interrelationships (synthesis).* Historians apply critical judgment and the rules of reason to develop the hypotheses necessary to explain the facts, to visualize and understand their causal relationships, and to explain their significance. The objective of this process is to develop a concept of the complex whole which has logical unity, and which points up the substance and quality of the changes which have occurred, by giving the original condition, the action, and the novelty of the resulting condition. In its final form the historical syntheses, based on careful and thorough investigation of the source materials supported by complete references to the authorities upon which each fact was established, and upon sound deduction, interpretation and judgment, provide the foundation of the historical narrative or other presentation to be made.

4. *Presentation.* The purpose of the historical project usually determines the form in which it is presented. Historical narrative requires the historian to apply a high degree of skill in organizing the narrative, and in selecting that language which will present the historical synthesis clearly and concisely, and will maintain proper balance and perspective without distortion of the evidence. In some instances, the results of professional historical research may be presented in the form of a selected group of source documents. In this situation, the historian usually writes

introductory narrative material. He may interpolate statements to bridge a documentary gap or insert references to additional documents having some bearing on the subject not included in the collection, and may prepare analytical lists of documents, lists of persons, bibliographies and cross references. This form of historical presentation requires the historian to exercise judgment in the choice of documents to be included. Some historical projects may require presentation in such forms as tabular or graphic charts, statistical compilations, chronological summaries, maps, etc. In an educational environment the historian may present the results of his study in lectures, informal talks, or in response to questions raised by students or the general public.

From the OPM website:

History Series 0170

Individual Occupational Requirements

Basic Requirements

A. **Degree:** history; or related field that included at least 18 semester hours in history.

or

B. **Combination of education and experience:** courses equivalent to a major in history, or a major in a related field that included at least 18 semester hours in history, as shown in A above, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

Evaluation of Graduate Education

Graduate study in the social sciences or humanities may also be credited when such study included training in historical research methodology; or the thesis approached the subject from an historical viewpoint and used professional historical research methodology and techniques in its preparation.

www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/general-schedule-qualification-standards/0100/history-series-0170

FEATURE YOUR PROJECT!

Want to spread the word about your work? *The Federalist* newsletter prints information about federal history projects and issues affecting federal history programs.

If you or your organization have news items related to federal history that you would like printed in *The Federalist*, or if you have a press release, feature article, or profile you would like to contribute, email the editor at shfgfederalist@gmail.com.

The Federalist welcomes contributors with information highlighting news of the profession, or who are willing to describe their projects for the SHFG audience!

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Census Bureau Data

Asian Population

24 million. The estimated number of Asian alone or in combination residents in the United States in 2021.

Source: 2021 Population Estimates

5.2 million. The estimated number of people of Chinese (except Taiwanese) descent in the United States in 2021. The Chinese (except Taiwanese) population was the largest Asian group, followed by Indian (4.8 million), Filipino (4.4 million), Vietnamese (2.3 million), Korean (2.0 million), and Japanese (1.6 million). These estimates represent individuals who reported a specific detailed Asian group alone as well as those who reported that detailed Asian group in combination with one or more other detailed Asian groups or another race(s).

Source: 2012 American Community Survey

2.4%. The percentage of the Asian alone-or-in-combination military veterans in 2021.

Source: 2021 American Community Survey

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Population

1.7 million. The estimated number of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone-or-in-combination residents of the United States in 2021.

Source: 2021 Population Estimates

680,353. The number of Native Hawaiian residents of the United States in 2021. The Native Hawaiian population was the largest detailed Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (NHPI) group, followed by Samoan (243,682) and Chamorro (142,516). These estimates represent the number of people who reported a specific detailed NHPI group alone as well as those who reported that detailed NHPI group in combination with one or more other detailed NHPI groups or another race(s).

Source: 2021 American Community Survey

6.8%. The percentage of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone-or-in-combination military veterans in 2021.

Source: 2021 American Community Survey

Library of Congress

The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the generations of Asian and Pacific Islanders who have enriched America's history and are instrumental in its future success. For updates on AA-PI activities, see asianpacificheritage.gov.

Federal Asian Pacific Council

In January, the Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC), premier organization representing Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) employees in the Federal and District of Columbia governments, announced the National 2023 theme for the observance of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May: "Advancing Leaders Through Opportunity". This year's theme is a continuation of the "Advancing Leaders" theme series which began in 2021. "Advancing Leaders Through Opportunity" further highlights FAPAC's efforts in advancing leaders in the Federal and DC government.

House of Representatives

The Office of the Historian, U.S. House of Representatives, has a variety of publications and online resources related to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders at history.house.gov/apa. As the Office website explains: Since 1900, when Delegate Robert M. Wilcox of Hawaii became the first Asian Pacific American (APA) to serve in Congress, a total of 70 APAs have served as U.S. Representatives, Delegates, Resident Commissioners, or Senators. This website, based on the publication *Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Congress*, contains biographical profiles of former APAs, links to information about current APA Members, essays on the institutional and national events that shaped successive generations of APAs in Congress, and images of each individual Member, including rare photos.

Library of Congress

The Asian American and Pacific Islander Materials: A Resource Guide serves as a point of entry for researchers seeking materials in multiple formats on Asian American/Pacific Islander studies and related resources at the Library of Congress. The types of resources covered in this guide range from special collections containing photographs, diary entries, and recorded interviews to monographs, reference works, and serials.

The items described in this guide are housed within many reading rooms throughout the Library including the Main Reading Room, the Asian Reading Room, the Manuscript Reading Room, the Prints and Photographs Reading Room, the Microfilm and Electronic Resources Center, and others. For further information on these research centers, see the "Using the Library of Congress" section of this guide. For more information, see guides.loc.gov/asian-american-pacific-islander.



Making History

Society for History in the Federal Government

Come to the 2023 SHFG conference!

Federal History 2.0: Rethinking Methods and Approaches in the Wake of a Pandemic

The Society for History in the Federal Government will hold its annual meeting on June 1-2, 2023 at the National Archives in Washington, DC. Registration for the Annual Meeting is \$40 for student members, \$45 for non-member students, \$85 for members, and \$135 for non-members.

National Archives and Records Administration

National Archives and Records Administration Summary of the FY 2024 Budget Request reads in part:

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) requests \$467.6 million in discretionary budget authority for FY 2024. This is a decrease of \$22.7 million from the FY 2023 enacted level. Within the aggregate request, NARA requests \$443.2 million for the Operating Expenses appropriation, \$6.4 million for the NARA Office of Inspector General, \$8 million for Repairs and Restoration of NARA-owned buildings, and \$10 million for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) Grants Program. NARA's request for Operating Expenses includes \$413.2 million in one-year funding and \$30 million to be available until expended.

Appropriations Request (*Dollars in Thousands*)

NARA's request for Operating Expenses is an increase of \$15.7 million and 53 FTE from the FY 2023 enacted level, which is the net of the following program increases and reductions:

(1) An increase of \$6.6 million and 32 FTE for pay and benefit increases. This includes the FY 2024 pay raise (5.2 percent), an annualization of the FY 2023 pay raise

(4.6 percent), and the annualization of new FTE provided in FY 2023 initiatives.

(2) An increase of \$6.6 million for inflationary increases to both NARA Facility Operations costs and other, non-labor costs.

(3) A reduction of -\$14.4 million from the following program decreases:

\$11.4 million in reductions from non-recurring one-time costs associated with technology investments to support digitization and online digital access to archival records.

\$2 million for the non-recurring FY 2023 funding for the operating expense of the Civil Rights Cold Case Review Board due to significant available balances.

\$1 million in reductions from non-recurring one-time costs to complete a full assessment of the Emancipation Proclamation to prepare the document for permanent display.

(4) An increase of \$16.9 million and 21 FTE from the following program increases:

A program increase of \$7.8 million and 1 FTE to begin implementation of Zero Trust Architecture (ZTA) principles. Funds requested would provide for a new, enterprise identity and access management (IAM) solution, a Cloud Access Security Broker (CASB), and for recurring costs of Login.gov for phishing-resistant multi-factor authentication. Funding would also provide for two new, permanent staff to support NARA's implementation of ZTA principles.

A program increase of \$5.2 million to improve the Customer Experience with NARA online public services through archives.gov, the National Archives Catalog, and better access to archival databases.

A program increase of \$2.9 million and 18 FTE to prepare for the transition to a fully electronic government through more robust access to permanent electronic records, digitization in Presidential Libraries, and a Public Dashboard reporting the progress of federal agencies in managing their electronic records. Funding requested would also provide for 35 new, permanent staff to accession, process, and preserve permanent electronic records.

A program increase of \$0.6 million and 2 FTE to expand NARA's paid internship program to support DEIA goals for interns, recruitment, and mid-career retention of archival professionals. Funding requested would also provide for two new, permanent staff to oversee NARA's internship program.

A program increase of \$0.4 million to relocate 50,000 cubic feet of permanent records to provide much needed space at the National Archives at College Park, MD and the National Archives at Atlanta, GA for new accessions of permanent records

NARA's request for the Office of Inspector General appropriation is an increase of \$0.4 million, which is the net of pay and benefits adjustments, and program efficiency savings.

NARA's request for the Repairs and Restoration appropriation is a decrease of -\$14.2 million from the FY 2023 enacted level. This decrease is derived from non-recurring Congressionally directed spending (-\$13.3 million) and reductions to the enacted level.

NARA's request for the NHPRC Grants Program appropriation is a decrease of -\$24.6 million, which is derived from non-recurring Congressionally directed spending (-\$22.6 million) and non-recurring one-time funding to preserve records of former Members of Congress (-\$2 million).

New England Trail Photographs at the Connecticut General Assembly

The New England National Scenic Trail, a solo photographic exhibition by Xiomaro showcasing the Connecticut portion of the historic hiking route, will be on view April 3 to 14, 2023, at the Connecticut General Assembly's Legislative Office Building located at 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford. A selection of over 40 large prints will occupy 250 feet of wall space, which visitors can view from either a moving walkway or by strolling up the corridor that links the Legislative Office Building and the Capitol Building, Connecticut's seat of government. The immersive experience will introduce visitors to the scenic diversity of fields, forests, river valleys, and mountains encountered along the New England National Scenic Trail – also known as the “NET.”

Designated by the U.S. Congress as a national scenic trail in 2009, the 215-mile passage stretches through 39 communities from the Long Island Sound in Connecticut to the Massachusetts-New Hampshire border. Although long known to America's first landscape painters and adventurers, “Connecticut's 110-mile portion of the trail is still being discovered by residents who enjoy hiking, walking, and nature,” explained Xiomaro (pronounced “SEE-oh-MAH-ro”).

American University Public History Program

Interested in talking with students about your work? Looking for a way to meet future history professionals and encourage them to think about career possibilities in federal history? For the last three years, SHFG professionals have been meeting over Zoom with graduate students in American University's Public History program to talk about what they do on the job and about their career paths.

Sessions take only about an hour, are very informal, and typically include five to ten students. Past sessions have included historians, curators, educators, archivists, and documentary editors from the National Archives, National Park Service, Department of Defense, and State Department. The next series of discussions are scheduled for this fall.

Bruce Bustard, SHFG's liaison with AU's Public History program, is hoping to create a database of history professionals who would like to participate in this program. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions about how the program works, contact Bruce at brucebustard@gmail.com.

National Archives and Records Administration

Are you stuck in your historical research? Have you hit a wall in your genealogy quest? Find your answer on History Hub! We invite you to visit History Hub's new home following the recent migration! Free and open to anyone, you can ask questions and get answers from multiple sources including National Archives staff, other archives, libraries, museums, and a community of genealogists, history



enthusiasts, and citizen experts like you. Make History Hub the first stop in your research journey! Keep reading to learn how to make the most effective use of the platform! See historyhub.history.gov.

Center for Cryptologic History

The Center for Cryptologic History and the National Cryptologic Foundation invite proposals for papers and posters to be presented at the 19th Cryptologic History Symposium on May 8-10, 2024. The Symposium will be held in-person at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab Kossiakoff Center in Laurel, Maryland. The theme for the 2024 Cryptologic History Symposium is “Engage the Past – Educate the Future.” Proposals are due September 5, 2023. For more information, visit www.nsa.gov/history/cryptologic-history/cryptologic-history-symposium/ or www.cryptologicfoundation.org.

National Museum of Forest Service History

From the Museum website: The National Museum of Forest Service History is a nonprofit organization dedicated to collecting and preserving the history of the U.S. Forest Service. The Museum is pleased to announce plans to build the National Conservation Legacy and Education Center in Missoula, Montana. The NMFSH, a national nonprofit organization founded in 1988, is dedicated to collecting, preserving, and interpreting the history of the USDA Forest Service and America's conservation legacy for the education and enjoyment of the general public, scholars, and historical researchers. At the Center, the NMFSH will carry out its mission and pursue its vision for national conservation education, historical preservation. As a showcase for collections totaling more than 50,000 objects, photographs, documents, books and reports, the Center will encourage visitors to explore the cultural, ecological, economic, political, and social history of the lands and people that have defined the nation and given meaning to the term conservation. You can keep up with the Museum's efforts through the spring 2023 newsletter. For more information, see forestservicemuseum.org/.

National Endowment for the Humanities

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) today announced \$35.63 million in grants for 258 humanities projects across the country. Grants awarded today will underwrite a documentary on the life and legacy of African American intellectual W.E.B. DuBois; enable the digitization of the personal papers of former members of Congress for the American Congress Digital Archives Portal; and support restoration of the sick bay, post office, barber shop, and torpedo-handling spaces aboard the historic aircraft carrier the USS Intrepid to allow these areas to be reopened for public access.

“These 258 newly funded projects demonstrate the vitality of the humanities across our nation,” said NEH Chair Shelly C. Lowe (Navajo). “NEH is proud to support exemplary education,



preservation, media, research, and infrastructure projects that expand resources for Americans, support humanities programs and opportunities for underserved students and communities, and deepen our understanding of our history, culture, and society.”

This funding cycle includes the first round of awards made under NEH’s new Spotlight on Humanities in Higher Education grant program. Developed as part of the agency’s *American Tapestry: Weaving Together Past, Present, and Future* initiative, Spotlight on Humanities in Higher Education supports humanities teaching and research projects that benefit underserved populations at small- to mid-sized colleges and universities. Thirty new Spotlight grants will fund an array of curriculum and program development projects, teaching resources, and community engagement efforts, including the conversion of humanities courses at Stanly Community College that currently rely on textbooks into open educational resources to reduce the financial burden on students; the creation of a humanities-focused bridge program at La Salle University to support Spanish-speaking students in enhancing English proficiency and college readiness; a series of community workshops on literature about the African American experience that would foster greater interaction between Southern University, an HBCU, and the surrounding historically Black communities in Shreveport; and a workshop and lecture series led by the Modern Language Association to assist faculty in designing language and literature courses that align with students’ career goals.

Newly awarded Humanities Connections grants will support large curricular innovation projects at 19 higher education institutions. These include an initiative to integrate humanistic methods and modes of inquiry into engineering courses at Purdue University, the creation of a minor in art conservation at Saint Mary’s College in California, and the development of a new minor in medical and health humanities at Baldwin Wallace University. Additional funding for education programs, awarded through the NEH Dialogues on the Experience of War grant program, will support the Providence Clemente Veterans Initiative in developing discussion programs for military veterans in Rhode Island that use history, literature, film, and philosophy to examine the experience of homecoming after war and military service.

Several grants awarded today will help preserve and expand

access to important historical and cultural collections, including a project to digitize and create a database of seventeenth-century court cases relating to escape attempts by enslaved and indentured laborers in the Chesapeake Bay region, and an effort to preserve and put online four decades of photographs, news clippings, and other materials from the Religious News Service documenting the response of religious communities in the U.S. to pivotal historical events. Other funding will support the development of an online archive to preserve the cultural and historical heritage of the Chickaloon Native Village of southcentral Alaska and provide for the expansion of the Perseus Digital Library, the largest online open-access reference collection of Greco-Roman culture and language.

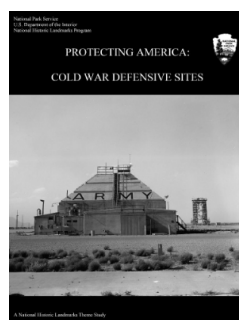
New NEH awards will also fund the creation of media, exhibitions, and public programs that bring the insights of the humanities to wide audiences. These include a grant to support work on a documentary exploring the historical and cultural legacies of Nancy Drew, the iconic fictional girl detective whose books have been in print for nearly 100 years; and underwriting for a nationally syndicated radio program and podcast series focusing on influential women philosophers from antiquity to the twentieth century. Grants for museum exhibitions will support a traveling exhibition on the global impact of the art and culture of Byzantine-era North and East Africa organized by the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Cleveland Museum of Art, provide for the reinstallation and reinterpretation of a permanent gallery on Kentucky art at the Speed Art Museum, and make possible a traveling exhibition from the Los Angeles County Museum of Art on the role and use of color in Mesoamerican art.

Additional funding for public programs in the humanities will support the planning of a multi-format interpretive tour marking the 50-mile march route of West Virginian coal miners who fought for workers’ and civil rights during the 1921 Mine Wars. Grant awards for public discussion programs will support a partnership among twelve New York museums to host a series of public events throughout the state exploring themes related to community and democracy in America, and help fund “Music Unwound” festivals and public programming across six states that will bring historical and cultural context to performances of major works of twentieth-century classical music.

Recent Publications

Protecting America: Cold War Defensive Sites by John S. Salmon, Historical Consultant, examines Cold War-era sites. This theme study was released in October 2022 by the National Park Service’s National Historic Landmarks (NHL) Program.

As the NHL explains, “The historic context portion of the study examines



the Cold War chronologically from the detonation of the first two atomic bombs and Japanese surrender in 1945 at the end of World War II to the dissolution of the Soviet Union, America’s principal nuclear adversary, in 1991. It examines how the international affairs and the political and military challenges of the Cold War-era influenced the weapons systems and defense programs of the United States.

Currently, 17 Cold War-related resources have been designated as National Historic Landmarks. These include military

sites such as Air Force Facility Missile Site 8 Military Reservation in Pima County, Arizona, now operated as the Titan Missile Museum, the White Sands V-2 rocket launching test site in Dona Ana County, New Mexico, and the USS Nautilus, the world's first nuclear-powered submarine, now located in Groton, Connecticut.”

The National Historic Landmarks Program is also pleased to announce the release of a new theme study, *African American Outdoor Recreation*, which examines how race impacted the experience of and access to outdoor recreation and leisure resources for African American people in the United States from the end of the Civil War through the early 21st century. Led by the legacy Midwest Regional Office Historic Preservation Partnerships Program and prepared through a partnership with Organization of American Historians (OAH), the study also includes typologies of related property types such as resorts, amusement parks, campgrounds, or beaches, and registration guidelines to identify and evaluate surviving examples for further study as potential NHLs. By examining this history through the lens of race and from the perspective of Black people, *African American Outdoor Recreation* brings together the histories of recreation and civil rights in the United States and sheds further light on central themes in the Black experience in the United States

The Spring 2023 edition of *NASA History News & Notes* focuses on the 20th anniversary of the STS-107 Columbia accident. As NASA Chief Historian Brian C. Odom explains: The essays in this issue of *News & Notes* explore the historical context and legacy of the Columbia accident from several perspectives. Earlier this year, I spoke with several NASA leaders to get their thoughts on what they believed to be the most critical points of this history as well as how that history should be applied to NASA's current missions. A few important themes came up consistently in those conversations: the importance of remembering the lessons of the past, the central role of diversity and inclusion to safety culture, a concern about a potential “communication gap” between younger and experienced engineers, and the critical part played by Agency leadership.

From the USNI website: *Arming East Asia: Deterring China in the Early Cold War* by Eric Setzekorn (U.S. Naval Institute Press, 2023) examines President Eisenhower's mutual security program in East Asia and explains how that administration worked to contain China. This historical chronicle offers insights and perspectives regarding how to address Sino-American tensions and maintain a free and open Asia-Pacific. Eric Setzekorn argues that President Eisenhower expanded and solidified the U.S. presence in East Asia through use of military aid and

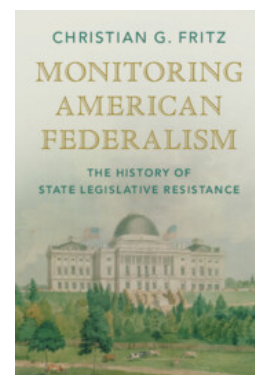
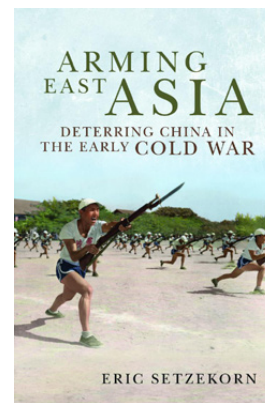


military advisory efforts in sharp contrast to the use of U.S. military forces by Presidents Truman, Kennedy, and Johnson. In South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, and Southeast Asia (particularly in Thailand and South Vietnam), the United States spent billions of dollars and significant time developing local military forces. By the end of Eisenhower's two terms, a force of over 1.4 million Allied soldiers in East Asia had been trained, equipped, and often paid through American military assistance.

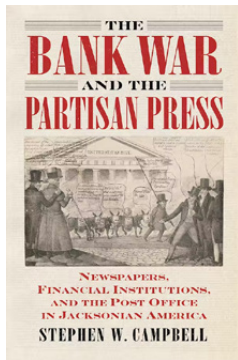
Eisenhower's mutual security policies were vital in building local allies, and by the end of the 1950s, East Asia was beginning a long period of growth that would make it the economic heart of the world within fifty years. American policies that created close ties and involvement in the affairs of allied nations also constrained allies, such as Chiang Kai-shek in Taiwan, and Syngman Rhee in South Korea, who often sought to take direct action against the PRC. The heavy role of American military advisors and experts “on the ground” in East Asia also profoundly shaped the character of these nations, all of which were emerging from war, by putting massive resources into the government administration and military forces of newly formed states. With an assertive China using its growing political and military power throughout East Asia, contemporary U.S. security challenges are similar to the situation faced in that earlier contentious era. Eisenhower's policies from 1953 to 1961 clearly demonstrate an awareness of the possibilities for military, economic and political growth in East Asia, and the challenges of deterring Chinese (PRC) expansion during the early Cold War.

Eric Setzekorn is a historian with the U.S. Army Center of Military History and an adjunct faculty member at George Mason University and the University of Maryland, Global Campus. The views expressed in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Department of Defense or the U.S. government.

Monitoring American Federalism: The History of State Legislative Resistance by Christian G. Fritz (Cambridge University Press, 2023) examines some of the nation's most significant controversies in which state legislatures have attempted to be active partners in the process of constitutional decision-making. Christian G. Fritz looks at interposition, which is the practice of states opposing federal government decisions that were deemed unconstitutional. Interposition became a much-used



constitutional tool to monitor the federal government and organize resistance, beginning with the Constitution's ratification and continuing through the present affecting issues including gun control, immigration and health care. Though the use of interposition was largely abandoned because of its association with nullification and the Civil War, recent interest reminds us that the federal government cannot run roughshod over states, and that states lack any legitimate power to nullify federal laws. Insightful and comprehensive, this appraisal of interposition breaks new ground in American political and constitutional history, and can help us preserve our constitutional system and democracy. Christian Fritz is Emeritus Professor of Law at the University of New Mexico. You can learn more at www.cambridge.org/core/books/monitoring-american-federalism/D6242CF495FAD5466443BA3C4B1E003B.



The Bank War and the Partisan Press by Stephen Campbell (University of Kansas Press, 2023) brings to light a revolving cast of newspaper editors, financiers, and postal workers who appropriated the financial resources of preexisting political institutions—and even created new ones—to enrich themselves and further their careers. The bank propagated favorable media and tracked public opinion through its system of branch offices while the

Jacksonians did the same by harnessing the patronage networks of the Post Office. Campbell's work contextualizes the Bank War within larger political and economic developments at the national and international levels. Its focus on the newspaper business documents the transition from a seemingly simple question of renewing the bank's charter to a multi sided, nationwide sensation that sorted the US public into ideologically polarized political parties. In doing so, *The Bank War and the Partisan Press* shows how the conflict played out on the ground level in various states—in riots, duels, raucous public meetings, politically orchestrated bank runs, arson, and assassination attempts. The resulting narrative moves beyond the traditional boxing match between Jackson and bank president Nicholas Biddle, balancing political institutions with individual actors, and business practices with party attitudes (from the website).



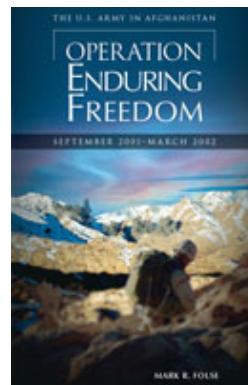
Imperial Material by Alvita Akiboh (University of Chicago Press, 2023) reveals how US national identity has been created, challenged, and transformed through embodiments of empire found in its territories, from the US dollar bill to the fifty-star flag. These symbolic objects encode the relationships between territories—including the Philippines,

the Hawaiian Islands, Puerto Rico, and Guam—and the empire with which they have been entangled. Akiboh shows how such items became objects of local power, transmogrifying their original intent. For even if imperial territories were not always front and center for federal lawmakers and administrators, the people living there remained continuously aware of the imperial United States, whose presence announced itself on every bit of currency, every stamp, and the local flag (from the website).



The World is Our Stage by Allison M. Prasch (University of Chicago Press, 2023) considers how presidential appearances overseas broadcast American superiority during the Cold War. Drawing on extensive archival research, Prasch examines five foundational moments in the development of what she calls the “global rhetorical presidency.” Truman at Potsdam, Eisenhower’s “Goodwill Tours,” Kennedy in West Berlin, Nixon in the

People’s Republic of China, and Reagan in Normandy. In each case, Prasch reveals how the president’s physical presence defined the boundaries of the “Free World” and elevated the United States as the central actor in Cold War geopolitics (from the website).



The Center for Military History has recently published *The United States Army in Afghanistan, September 2001-March 2002* by Mark R. Folsom. When Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaeda network executed the deadly 11 September 2001 attacks, the United States responded with a global offensive against international terrorists and those who harbored them. War with al-Qaeda meant war with its hosts—the Taliban—who had gained control of

most of Afghanistan in the 1990s. In October 2001, U.S. military forces began a campaign against both groups. With the help of various anti-Taliban militias, American troops fought to remove the Taliban from power, destroy al-Qaeda, find bin Laden, and preclude terrorists from using Afghanistan as a refuge. Afghanistan, therefore, would be the first conflict in the decades-long Global War on Terrorism.



The FEDERALIST

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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Federalist Calendar

Jun 1-2, 2023. Society for History in the Federal Government. Annual Meeting. Washington, DC. www.shfg.org/Events

Jun 7-9, 2023. Policy History Conference. Columbus, OH. jph.asu.edu/

Jun 8-10, 2023. Agricultural History Society. Annual Meeting. "Agricultural Pasts of the Climate Crisis." Knoxville, TN. www.aghistsociety.org/2023-meeting

Jun 15-17, 2023, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations. Annual Conference. Arlington, VA. shafr.org/shafr2023.

Jul 13-16, 2023. Society for Historians of the Early American Republic. 44th Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. www.shear.org/future-conferences/

Jul 22-23, 2023. North American Society for Intelligence History. Annual Conference. University of Calgary. www.intelligencehistory.org/conference

Jul 22-29, 2023. Society of American Archivists. 87th Annual Meeting. Washington, DC. www2.archivists.org/conference

Aug 14-18, 2023. International Committee for the History of Technology. Annual Meeting. Tallin, Estonia. Icohtec.org

Sep 22-24, 2023. Nineteenth Annual Seminar on the American Revolution. Fort Ticonderoga Museum, NY. www.fortticonderoga.org

Oct 18-21, 2023. Oral History Association. Annual Meeting. Baltimore, MD. oralhistory.org/annual-meeting

Oct 23-26, 2023. Western History Association. Annual Meeting. Los Angeles, CA. www.westernhistory.org/2023

Oct 25-29, 2023. Society for History of Technology. Annual Meeting. Long Beach, CA. www.historyoftechnology.org/annual-meeting/2023-shot-annual-meeting-october-2023-long-beach-california/

Nov 9-12, 2023. History of Science Society. Annual Meeting. Portland, OR. hsonline.org/page/futurepastmeetings

Jan 4-7, 2024. American Historical Association. Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA. www.historians.org/annual-meeting

Apr 10-13, 2024. National Council on Public History. Annual Conference. Salt Lake City, UT. ncph.org/future-meetings

Apr 11-14, 2024. Organization of American Historians. Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA. www.oah.org/meetings-events/future-annual-meetings/

Apr 18-21, 2024, Society for Military History. Annual Conference. Arlington, VA. smh-hq.org/conf/futuremeetings.html

May 8-10, 2024. National Security Agency and National Cryptologic Foundation. Cryptologic History Symposium. Laurel, MD. www.nsa.gov/history/cryptologic-history/cryptologic-history-symposium