By Heather Stur

As the Society for Military History’s 2013 annual meeting approaches, the University of Southern Mississippi, along with local partners the National World War II Museum and South-eastern Louisiana University, are finalizing arrangements for what is sure to be an engaging conference in historic New Orleans, Louisiana. SMH 2013: “War, Society, and Remembrance,” will be held March 14-17 at the Sheraton New Orleans. Registered participants and exhibitors can find details about the meeting, including accommodations, the conference program, host institutions, and local attractions, at the SMH 2013 website: http://www.smh2013.org.

Conveniently located between the French Quarter and the Central Business District, the Sheraton New Orleans is easily accessible for those traveling to the city by air, rail, and car. The Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport is situated approximately fifteen miles west of downtown and is serviced by taxis, shuttle buses, and public transportation. Ground transportation options to New Orleans include Amtrak train and Greyhound bus lines, which arrive and depart through Union Station. Public transportation within the city consists of buses and streetcars, both of which have routes that run near the Sheraton. Information on transportation pricing and services is available on the SMH 2013 website in the Travel section.

While in the Crescent City, meeting attendees and their companions will discover many attractions and activities to enjoy in one of the oldest American cities. In addition to the organized tours that are part of the conference program, meeting participants can plan their own activities with the help of several websites. The New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau has created a special microsite for SMH 2013 where meeting attendees can explore local cuisine, find free events, access the CVB’s “Top 10 Things to Do” in the city, and download an app to receive discounts to New Orleans restaurants and attractions. Included on the microsite is a section specifically for exhibitors with tips on driving traffic to the Exhibit Hall. Visit the site at http://www.neworleanscvb.com/smh/. In addition to the microsite, the SMH 2013 website’s Local Attractions page, the Louisiana Tourism Board (http://www.louisianatravel.com) and the official New Orleans tourism site (http://www.neworleansonline.com) contain helpful information about things to do in the Crescent City.

The University of Southern Mississippi’s Center for the Study of War & Society, the National World War II Museum, and Southeastern Louisiana University look forward to welcoming you to New Orleans in March!

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Your ballot will be mailed via email in February
Fellowships, Grants & Scholarships from Naval History and Heritage Command

The Naval History and Heritage Command, Department of the Navy, is offering the following competitive incentives to pursue original work in the history of the United States Navy for the academic year 2013-2014.

The Rear Admiral John D. Hayes Pre-doctoral Fellowship in U.S. Navy History. — The fellowship includes a stipend of $10,000 for the fellowship year (September 2013-June 2014) plus a travel grant for travel twice to the command’s Washington, D.C., headquarters. Applicants must be citizens of the United States, not on active duty in the armed forces; be enrolled in a recognized graduate school; have completed requirements for the Ph.D. except the dissertation by June 30, 2013; and have an approved dissertation topic in the field of U.S. naval history.

The Rear Admiral Ernest M. Eller Graduate Research Grant. — The grant of up to $2,500 is intended to assist a graduate student in the research and writing of U.S. naval history in fulfillment of the requirements of a master’s or doctoral degree by helping to defray the costs of travel, living expenses, and document duplication related to the research process for a master’s thesis or doctoral dissertation. Applicants must be citizens of the United States enrolled in a master’s or doctoral degree program in history or closely related discipline in a recognized graduate school.

The Vice Admiral Edwin B. Hooper Research Grant. — The grant of up to $2,500 is intended to assist a scholar in the research or writing of a book or article by helping to defray the costs of travel, living expenses, and document duplication related to the research process. Applicants must be citizens of the United States and hold a Ph.D. degree from an accredited university, awarded no later than March 31, 2013.

The Samuel Eliot Morison Naval History Scholarship. — The scholarship provides a $5,000 cash award to one active duty commissioned officer of the U.S. Navy or U.S. Marine Corps with demonstrated leadership potential and high academic qualifications who is already pursuing graduate study in history, international relations, or a related field. The award is to help pay for expenses related to research, travel, and the purchase of books or other educational materials.

Closing date for applications: April 1, 2013. Announcement of Award: In May 2013. For details and information, please visit the Naval History and Heritage Command website at navalhistory.navy.mil/education."

Conference Announcement
Naval Expertise and the Making of the Modern World
May 10-11 2013
Wolfson College, University of Oxford

This conference examines the generation of expertise in naval contexts and trace how such developments helped shape the modern world. Expertise will be considered not only as knowledge but also as methods and practices central to the evolution of modern nation-states and empires.

In the search for useful knowledge and in answering the demands of global infrastructure, navies have not only pursued military aims, but have encouraged the formation of other areas of expertise, whether medical, technological, or bureaucratic. Recent research has identified navies as forerunners of modern scientific research, social disciplinary practices, and political economy for instance. This conference will explore such developments comparatively and consider their influence in the early modern and modern periods. By exploring how issues such as social welfare, professionalization and industrialization shaped and were shaped by naval institutions and innovations, this inter-disciplinary conference will link scholarship on naval infrastructure with research on the origins of the modern world.

Speakers and discussants include: Dr. Eric H. Ash; Dr. William J. Ashworth; Prof. Mark Harrison; and Prof. N. A. M. Rodger. More details can be found at www.navalexpertise.com.

Research Grant Available
The Wisconsin Veterans Museum (Madison, WI) will award a $500 research grant this year to encourage the study of Wisconsin’s role in American military history by facilitating the use of the museum’s collections. Recipients will be scholars at the graduate, post-graduate, or instructor/professor level; or be other professional scholars or authors; or have comparable qualifications based on experience. They will be writing theses, dissertations, articles for scholarly peer reviewed journals, or books on significant subjects that are well supported in the WVM collections. The grant will be provided in the form of a $500 honorarium to support research expenses at the WVM (travel, lodging, meals, copying).

A committee reviews each application based on the applicant’s research topic, the availability of relevant materials in the WVM collections, and the potential for producing publishable work. The grant does not support research at other institutions, and it does not provide general tuition support. Applications must be postmarked by April 15. Notification will be made by June 1.

Application materials are available at http://www.wisvetsmuseum.com/researchers/. Please contact Russ Horton at russell.horton@dva.wisconsin.gov with any questions.

Conference Announcement
The Chinese Military History Society will be holding its annual meeting in conjunction with the SMH on March 14, 2013 at the conference venue. The conference theme is “Demythologizing Chinese Warfare.” The University of Southern Mississippi is the institutional host and Dr. Kenneth Swope is the point of contact. Phone: 601-266-4333. Email: Kenneth.Swope@usm.edu.

Publication Announcements
In The Blood of Free Men: The Liberation of Paris, 1944 (Basic Books, 2012), celebrated historian Michael Neiberg deftly tracks the forces vying for Paris, providing a revealing new look at the city’s dramatic and triumphant resistance against the Nazis. The salvation of Paris was not a foregone conclusion, Neiberg shows, and the liberation was a chaotic operation that could have easily ended in the city’s ruin. A groundbreaking, arresting narrative of the liberation, The Blood of Free Men tells the full story of one of the war’s defining moments, when a tortured city and its inhabitants narrowly survived the deadliest conflict in human history.

Ralph Sawyer continues his ongoing efforts to provide annotated translations of the important traditional Chinese military writings with a new edition of the T’ai-pai Yin-ching. Composed by Li Ch’uan (Li Quan), a provincial military official who served in the middle T’ang dynasty, the T’ai-pai Yin-ching revitalized the theoretical study of warfare in China. Remarkably comprehensive, it first focuses upon the human realm, devoting a quarter of its hundred chapters to the grand issues of government, warfare, human society, ethical values, and man’s orientation within the universe while pondering the more concrete problems of the nature of command, methods for
evaluating men, the role of rewards and punishments, and the implementation of subversive measures. Instead of conquering through combat or achieving the fabled hundred victories in a hundred clashes, Li’s aim was victory without combat so as to preserve the state rather than debilitate it in warfare. The remaining seventy-five chapters, not translated here, briefly discuss important battle techniques and equipment before unfolding extensive material on sacrifices and arcane prognosticatory methods. Highly regarded thereafter, the T’ai-pai Yin-ching stands at the beginning of the later military tradition in China and numerous chapters appear in the military compendia produced over the next thousand years. It also continues to be the subject of conscious study as the PRC strives to develop “military science with unique Chinese characteristics.” T’ai-pai Yin-ching is currently available from the major online booksellers and as a Kindle digital edition.

Articles of Interest

Call for Papers

With the sesquicentennial of the Emancipation Proclamation in mind, the organizing committee seeks proposals for papers that investigate such topics as wartime anxieties about emancipation and constitutionalism in the western border states, Kentucky Unionism and slavery, the draft, African American soldiers, and the coming of the Thirteenth Amendment in the border states. Please send a one-page proposal and a curriculum vita by mail to: R. Darrell Meadows, Director Civil War Governors of Kentucky Digital Documentary Edition Kentucky Historical Society 100 W. Broadway Frankfort, KY 40601, or by e-mail to: darrell.meadows@ky.gov by April 15, 2013. Presenters will be notified by May 1.

Call for Papers
Histoire sociale / Social History Special Issue on “Canada’s Great War: 100 Years On” Social historians in Canada have increasingly come to see the Great War as a significant social phenomenon, nationally, imperially, culturally, politically, economically, demographically and globally. As we approach the centenary of the Great War in 2014, Histoire sociale/Social History would like to publish a special issue that integrates military studies with social history to interrogate the effects of the Great War on men, women, children, families, labourers, ethnic minorities, and Aboriginal peoples. We invite papers from any subfield of social history, whether studies of home, work, volunteerism, or life on the European battlefield, for this special issue entitled “Canada’s Great War: 100 Years On”, to be published in May 2014.

Through this special issue, we hope to revisit the complex social worlds of wartime Canada, welcoming studies on wartime mobilization, internment, reconstruction, women’s war work, Veteran’s Affairs, or the gendered underpinnings of the Military Voters and Wartime Election Acts. Any paper that is innovative in interpretation, sources, and method and that interrogates the social history of the Great War will be considered. The deadline for submissions is May 31, 2013. Authors are invited to visit the journal’s website for presentation guidelines and send their submissions in electronic format – an e-mail attachment in Word is preferred – to the following address: Histoire Sociale / Social History Université d’Ottawa / University of Ottawa Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 6N5 Email: hssh@uottawa.ca Website: http://www.hssh.uottawa.ca. Guest Editors: Jeffrey Keshen and Jarett Henderson, Mount Royal University.

Tomlinson Prize Awarded
Call for Papers

The experience of minorities in the First World War is one of the most significant, yet least developed aspects of the conflict’s history. It is now over twenty years since the major conference on ‘National and Racial Minorities in Total War’ which spurred the highly influential volume: *Minorities in Wartime*. With the centenary of the First World War fast approaching, it seems a particularly appropriate time to revisit this subject.

Over the preceding decades, there have been massive shifts in the writing of ethnic and minority histories, which have started to excavate areas of convergence as well as departure. At the same time, our understanding of the social and military history of the First World War has expanded massively. No longer is the history of the conflict confined largely to the trenches of the Western Front. It now encompasses everything from non-combatants and the home front through to occupation and the memory of war.

The aim of this two-day conference is to mesh recent developments in the military history of the First World War with those in the field of minority studies. We welcome proposals covering any ethnic or national minority group involved in the conflict. There is no limit to geographical area, though we are aiming to focus primarily on the main belligerent nations.

Potential themes and questions may include, but are by no means limited to:

- Minorities as both opponents and enthusiastic supporters of the conflict
- Minorities as prisoners of war
- Racism, antisemitism and exclusionary politics during the conflict
- Religious and ritual practices during the First World War
- The experience of minorities in the armed forces
- The decoration and promotion of soldiers from minority groups
- Responses to colonial troops and their wartime experience
- The treatment of minorities in territory occupied during the war
- Enemy aliens: Internment, repatriation and social hostility
- The remembrance (and forgetting) of minority combatants

Please send abstracts (max 300 words) and a short biography to: ww1minorities@chester.ac.uk by 31 May 2013.

Keynote Speakers: Professor Tony Kushner (University of Southampton) Professor Humayun Ansari OBE (Royal Holloway)

Venue and Conference Information: The conference will take place on the 14th and 15th April 2014 at the University of Chester.

Call for Submissions

The *Australian Army Journal* (AAJ) invites submissions for a special issue on culture and the Australian Army to be published in 2013. The special issue encourages a lively discussion and debate about the meaning, understanding, representation, benefits and ‘problems’ of culture in Army. We encourage contributions from a variety of people including Army and other Defence members, academics, public intellectuals, writers, digital artists and the broader Australian community. Authors can request to have articles peer reviewed. All submitted material is subject to a process of assessment and evaluation through the Editors and through peer review (if requested).

Understanding that ‘culture’ is represented in various forms, we hope to publish a range of contributions such as:

- Feature and scholarly articles: 3000-6000 words
- Review essays: 1500-3000 words
- Book/Film/DVD reviews: 500-800 words
- Letters/Emails: 200-500 words
- Poetry
- Songs or song lyrics
- Videos [running length up to 3 minutes in a format that can be uploaded to YouTube]

Themes to be explored can include but are not limited to:

- leadership
- ethics
- moral courage
- traditions and history
• identity: race/Indigenous identity/multiculturalism
• nationalism
• popular culture
• gender
• sexuality
• spirituality/religion
• capability and future development


New Imprint Available
The Society has been notified about a new imprint dedicated to military history. Members are invited to submit proposals for consideration. Information can be found at www.wingedhussarpublishing.

Call for Papers
Press Gangs, Conscripts and Professionals:
Recruiting the Royal Navy from the age of sail to the present day.

This conference will explore how the Royal Navy recruited its personnel from its earliest times to the present day, including its various branches and services such as the Royal Marines, Women’s Royal Naval Services, Royal Naval Air Service, Fleet Air Arm and Submarine Service. The conference is open to scholars from all backgrounds and disciplines that are using analyses naval manpower within their research. Paper proposals that cover the following areas will be especially welcome:

• Recruiting for the Navy since 1660
• Impact of economic and other factors on recruiting
• Analyses of geographical spread or sources of recruits
• The experiences of recruits to the Royal Navy and its constituent branches
• The initial entry and training of recruits
• The impact of technology on recruiting needs and standards
• Educational levels of recruits
• Officer recruiting
• Recruiting to the lower deck
• Corporate attitudes to recruiting and views regarding the quality of recruits
• Comparisons between the Royal Navy and the experience of other branches of the Armed Forces or other Navies.

Scholars wishing to submit a paper proposal for consideration should send a 300 word outline of their paper, and a 1 page CV to Dr. Duncan Redford: duncan.redford@nmrn.org.uk or write to him at the National Museum of the Royal Navy, HM Naval Base (PP66), Portsmouth, PO1 3NH by Monday 4 March 2013.

New SMH Regional Conference Coordinators
The Great Plains Region welcomes two new Conference Coordinators for 2013 and beyond. Dr. Margaret Sankey, a Professor at Minnesota State University, Moorhead, is the new SMH Conference Coordinator for the Northern Great Plains History Conference. Mr. George Eaton is the new SMH Conference Coordinator for the Missouri Valley History Conference. They are responsible for issuing Calls For Papers for the sessions SMH sponsors at those conferences, forming the panels, arranging the graduate paper competitions and judging, and other duties peculiar to each conference. Dr. Connie Harris was the previous MVHC Coordinator. We greatly appreciate her services.

Call for Papers
“The Vietnam Era” A Conference to be held at the University of Houston-Victoria/Victoria College campus, Victoria, Texas, USA, 20-22 June 2013.

The University of Houston-Victoria and the Victoria College welcome paper and panel proposals for a conference on “The Vietnam Era” to be held this summer on their shared campus in Victoria, Texas. The program committee encourages papers that cover a wide range of topics relevant to the military, political, and social aspects of the era. Papers and panels that focus on the broad span of time from the Korean to the Vietnam wars are especially encouraged, as are papers that compare the two conflicts.

Paper proposals should include a brief abstract of 250-500 words, a biographical paragraph about the author, and contact information. Panel proposals should include brief abstracts for each
paper as well as biographical paragraphs and contact information for each presenter. Deadline for proposals is March 1, 2013.

Please send all correspondence, including questions and proposals, to Beverly Tomek at tomekb@uhv.edu.

John Whiteclay Chambers II Honored at Conference in NYC

The career of John Whiteclay Chambers II, Distinguished Professor of History at Rutgers, New Brunswick, New Jersey, was honored by a public history program on historians and World War II held in New York City, on the Veterans Day weekend. Chambers, who received his Ph.D. at Columbia University and taught there, at Barnard College, for ten years, has been a member of the Rutgers University faculty since 1982.

The celebratory program was held at Fordham University Lincoln Center Campus on November 12, 2012. Sponsored by Fordham University Press, it honored the career of Professor Chambers and celebrated the Festschrift dedicated to him, entitled The United States and the Second World War: New Perspectives on Diplomacy, War, and the Home Front, published by Fordham University Press.

Call for Papers

The theme for the 2014 OAH Annual Meeting will be “Crossing Borders.” The history of the United States is a product of migrations – internal and international. Along with people, goods and ideas crossed these borders, reshaping the composition and character of the American people. Sometimes the borders and boundaries were physical, as when international migrants crossed oceans and continents, or when large numbers of individuals migrated from one region of the country to another, or when the lure of wealth and influence led to foreign invasions and conquests. Those on the move were accompanied by bacteria or viruses, microorganisms whose migration across borders also shaped human experience. Borders were also framed by culture – racial, ethnic, class, and gender differences that perennially redefined our population and social order. The theme for the 2014 conference seeks to examine, in all their complexity, a broad array of border crossings and “encounters” in US history, highlighting the contributions and challenges presented by those who transcended borders to redefine their lives or flee the constraints of their pasts.

The 2014 OAH Program Committee seeks a broad, wide-ranging program that treats the rich expanse of the American experience, from the pre-Columbian era to the twenty-first century, and the thematic breadth that defines the work of contemporary historians on the page and in their classrooms. The committee enthusiastically encourages proposals from those teaching at universities, colleges, community colleges, and secondary schools, as well as public historians and independent scholars.

In pursuit of inclusivity and diversity, the program committee invites the submission of panels and presentations that deal with the themes of the conference, but also other important themes and issues in American history. We welcome teaching sessions, particularly those involving the audience as active participants or those that reflect collaborative partnerships among teachers, historians, and history educators at all levels. Professional development sessions are always welcome.

We encourage presenters to continue the ongoing transition from simply reading papers to more actively “teaching” the topic of their sessions. Roundtables, especially state-of-the-art sessions, and workshops offer an excellent format for alternatives to panels with presenters reading papers verbatim.

We prefer to receive proposals for complete sessions. However, we will consider individual paper proposals, as in the past.

Registration and Membership Requirements:

All participants are required to register for the Annual Meeting. Participants who specialize in American history and support themselves as American historians are also required to be members of the OAH. Participants representing other disciplines are not required to be members of OAH.

Repeat Participation:

OAH policy prohibits individuals from participating in two consecutive annual meetings in the same role and limits individuals to appearing only once on the program in a given year. If you have questions about this policy, e-mail the OAH meetings department.

Submission Procedure:

Complete session proposals most often include a chair, participants, and if applicable, a commentator (chairs may double as commentators, and commentators may be omitted in order for the audience to serve in that role). The Program Committee encourages alternative formats that maximize audience participation, such as sessions with no formal comment.
All proposals must include the following information:

- a complete mailing address, e-mail address, phone number, and affiliation for each participant
- an abstract of no more than 500 words for the session as a whole
- a prospectus of no more than 250 words for each presentation
- a vita of no more than 500 words for each participant

Submission Deadline: February 15, 2013

NCH Washington Update

By Lee White of the National Coalition for History

This is a compendium of items which might be of interest to members of the Society from several recent NCH Washington Update newsletters.

GEORGIA STATE ARCHIVES TO REMAIN OPEN—Georgia Governor Nathan Deal and Secretary of State Brian Kemp announced in October that the state will restore funding to keep the Georgia State Archives open until the end of the state’s fiscal year on June 30, 2013. Public pressure put on the governor by archivists, historians and other stakeholders clearly motivated Deal’s commitment to keep the Archives open.

This agreement also allows the archives to retain its current hours of operation, which had been slated to be severely curtailed. Under the plan, the University System of Georgia will assume control of the Georgia Archives on July 1, 2013, pending approval of the state’s General Assembly. Existing archival staff will be supplemented by staff from the University System. The Secretary of State eliminated seven of the 10 positions at the State Archives on November 1.

The crisis was precipitated in September when Secretary of State Kemp announced he was closing the State Archives to the public on November 1 due to across-the-board budget cuts mandated by Governor Deal to close budget shortfalls.

On September 21, the National Coalition for History (NCH), the American Historical Association, the Society for Military History, and other constituent groups sent letters to the Governor opposing the budget cuts and denial of access to the Archives. It also generated tremendous media attention, including articles in the New York Times and Atlanta Journal Constitution.

The situation in Georgia should be a cautionary tale for all historians. As we’ve seen at the federal level, historical, archival, educational and preservation programs have increasingly been seen as easy targets by budget cutters because they are perceived as not having a broad constituency. Our community must remain vigilant and proactive in making the case that historical and archival programs are a public necessity, not a luxury.

U.S. COURT OF APPEALS REJECTS CIA’S MOTION TO SQUASH LAWSUIT ON BAY OF PIGS HISTORY—On December 7, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit rejected the CIA’s attempt to shortcut the National Security Archive’s lawsuit under the Freedom of Information Act to obtain the last still-secret history of the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961. In August, the National Coalition for History (NCH) joined twelve other history and archival organizations, in requesting the Federal court to review the lower court’s decision.

With the ruling, the National Security Archive has moved a step closer to compelling openness for the only remaining unreleased volume of a draft history of the Bay of Pigs operation, written by a CIA staff historian in the 1980s. One volume of the five-volume history reached the public through the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Review Board’s action in the 1990s; and the Archive filed its FOIA lawsuit for the remaining volumes in April 2011, on the 50th anniversary of the failed CIA-sponsored invasion of Cuba.

The CIA released three volumes as a result of the FOIA lawsuit, but withheld the final volume by invoking a statutory exemption to the FOIA that protects “predecisional” and “deliberative” agency documents. Judge Gladys Kessler of the U.S. District Court sided with the CIA, explaining that the Agency could withhold this “predecisional” draft because it “does not want to discourage disagreement… among its historians.”

The Archive appealed to the D.C. Circuit, and the CIA then filed a motion for summary affirmance – in effect asking the court to decide in its favor without full briefing or oral argument. In
opposing the CIA’s motion, the Archive received strong support from more than a dozen organizations representing tens of thousands of historians, archivists, political scientists, educators and researchers around the world, who warned that the CIA’s position could create a “chilling effect on access to historical materials.”

The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the CIA’s motion, agreeing with the Archive and its supporters that the case merits the court’s full consideration, and set a briefing schedule through March 2013 for the lawsuit to continue.

“The CIA told the courts that a decades-old draft history should stay secret because it would ‘confuse the public’ and make CIA historians less candid,” remarked Tom Blanton, director of the National Security Archive. “In fact, that policy would put off limits half of what’s in our country’s National Archives, and the only confused people would be government itself, unable to learn from its own mistakes because the history was locked under Maxwell Smart’s Cone of Silence.”

Allon Kedem and Cliff Sloan of the law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher, and Flom represent the Archive in this case as part of the firm’s pro bono publico commitment. Veteran FOIA litigator David Sobel represented the Archive in the first stages of the case and won the release of three volumes of the history. The director of the Archive’s Cuba Documentation Project, Peter Kornbluh, wrote and filed the original Freedom of Information Act request in the case.

**PIDB ISSUES RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PRESIDENT ON REFORMING CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM**

On December 6, the Public Interest Declassification Board submitted its recommendations to the President on Transforming the Security Classification System. The Board created the report in response to the President’s request in Executive Order 13526, for assistance in identifying potential solutions for classification and declassification challenges in the digital age and producing a vision for a new system.

The PIDB is an advisory committee established by Congress to promote public access to a thorough, accurate, and reliable documentary record of significant U.S. national security decisions and activities. The Board made 14 specific recommendations in four broad categories: classification, declassification, technology, and managing historically significant records. The full report can be found at: www.archives.gov/declassification/pidb/recommendations/transforming-classification.html.

The PIDB concluded that the current processes and policies for classifying and declassifying information need to undergo a complete overhaul: “The current system, created seventy years ago, is outdated and incapable of dealing adequately with the large volumes of classified information generated in an era of digital communications and information systems.” The board recommended the secrecy system be streamlined and better aligned with safeguarding practices and less information should be classified overall. They also felt that there needs to be a better balance between what is classified and what is available to the American public.

The PIDB called on the president to aggressively take the lead in reforming the classification system: “Overcoming entrenched practices that no longer serve the purpose of protecting our national security will prove difficult. We believe it will require a White House-led steering committee to drive reform, led by a chair that is carefully selected and appointed with specific authorities that you grant.”

Of particular interest to historians is the recommendation concerning the prioritization of the preservation and processing of “historically significant records.” The PIDB suggested that these records “should be identified and set aside as early as possible after their creation to ensure their preservation, long-term access and availability to agency policymakers and historians. Each agency should have an in-house history staff to assist agency records officers and declassifiers in the prioritization of records.”

Through the use of existing technologies, including data tagging, the PIDB recommended historically significant records should be prepositioned for review and timely public release. The board felt selection of these records should reflect a reasoned judgment as to what information will be of the most interest to the public or future policymakers. The board stated, “Expedited access to these historical records will aid policymakers in retrieving the documentary records of past policy decisions, lending context to contemporary decision-making while cataloging valuable information for future analysis and public release. Such material not only informs public discussion of historical decisions and policies, but is also intrinsically important in documenting the Government’s national security history.”

**SEARCHABLE FOIA DATABASE AVAILABLE ONLINE**-
The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), along with the
Department of Commerce (DOC), have partnered to develop an online system aimed at expanding public access to information requested under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

FOIAonline (http://FOIAonline.Regulations.gov), formerly known as the FOIA Module, is now available online. It offers the public one place to submit FOIA requests, track their progress, communicate with the processing agency, search other requests, access previously released responsive documents and file appeals with participating agencies.

For agencies, FOIAonline provides a secure website to receive and store requests, assign and process requests, post responses, generate metrics, manage records electronically, create management reports and electronically generate the annual report required from each agency by FOIA.

Six Federal agencies now have partnered to develop and deploy FOIAonline along with EPA, including Commerce, NARA, the Department of the Treasury, the Federal Labor Relations Authority, and the Merit Systems Protection Board, each of which will deploy on its own schedule.

FOIAonline can be accessed at http://FOIAonline.Regulations.gov. While you can send requests to the participating agencies now, the data available in the system are initially minimal and variable by agency. The partner agencies will continue to enhance the system and they welcome other agencies’ participation.

National Archives and NOAA Digitize Navy Ship Logs- For the first time, the public has free online access to historic Navy, Coast Guard and Revenue Cutter ship logs between the pre-Civil War period through World War II under a digitization project announced by the National Archives and Records Administration and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

As a result of this National Archives–NOAA partnership, and with the aid of citizen scientists, anyone, anywhere, with online access can glimpse a wealth of weather data and climate patterns from an age long before the Weather Channel.

In addition to weather data, these logbooks offer invaluable information on U.S. maritime history, military operations, scientific exploration, diplomacy, advances in technology, and near-hourly accounts of adventures on the high seas, including rescues and shipwrecks.

Digital images of the logbooks will be available on both the National Archives website at www.archives.gov and at www.oldweather.org. This ongoing digitization is part of the Obama-Medvedev Commission, which supports US-Russian relations through cooperation in many areas, including scientific study.
history of the American military’s involvement in the First World War on a shoe-string budget with little access to surviving pertinent official and American-based documentation. To further complicate matters, many of the most experienced Allied Expeditionary Force’s (AEF) officers had already resigned their commissions. Likewise, the skeletal nature of the interwar army frequently forced the dwindling number of surviving officers to be frequently reassigned to manage organizational problems of more immediate import than the writing of history. After all, what good would lessons learned be to an army that was incapable of being sent onto the field of battle. Furthermore, although the army had accurately deduced that cooperation with allied nations would remain a fundamental component of waging future wars, most army officers held only a passing familiarity with European language, culture, and history and even less about the rest of the world. Moreover, few government resources immediately available to the staff held more than cursory information on other nations, let alone the defining battles and competing philosophies which had shaped their military traditions. Worse, those civilians who knew about those topics were largely incorrectly considered niche scholars, antiquarians, and writers of cursory triumphal histories of America’s bloodiest moments. Lastly, they were charged with writing about a generally dimly viewed war in a time when the army was being vilified as aggressive promoters of war by the nation’s burgeoning isolationist and pacifist movements. As standing officers hoping to maintain their careers amidst the onset of the Great Depression, they feared both what might become of their own careers if their proffered arguments were viewed as being political within the army and anti-nationalist amongst the general populace and, worse, what might become of their nation if they were led into another global war as grossly unprepared as they had been in the nation’s preceding military forays. By all accounts, their only saving graces remained an encouraging Army War College chain-of-command and the general acknowledgment that little was expected of the staff forced to fight an intellectual battlefield deeply mired in personal landmines and professional pitfalls.

Major C.C. Benson’s proffered solution to the military’s and military history’s plight was unconventional for the period. In late 1932, he drafted a position paper, originally titled “American Military History,” postulating the creation of a non-governmental organization (NGO) to meet the deficits of the modern military’s infrastructural and organizational hierarchy. The NGO, he asserted, would be able to gather personal reminiscences from veterans, purchase rare books, and find little known archival sources the military branches might use in sourcing on-going internal projects and in the fighting of future wars. In the process, the NGO would become an informal think-tank for military and civilian specialists in the study of military history from the academy as well as the nation’s archival and museum specialists. As the intended immediate beneficiary of this amassed knowledge, the War College’s Historical Section could help with the initial underwriting of the new organization and publication of related material until such time as the NGO could establish its
by the chain-of-command, these civilians could also promote pluralistic ideas and public discourse, which, in the short-term, could counter popular misconceptions “of pacificist tendencies, to whom military history is a subject for avoidance rather than study.” Ideally, in the long-term, the NGO could also demonstrate the military’s function in “the maintenance of peace” and make the next reluctant conflict as brief and as limited as possible.

In March, 1933, Lull and his War College superiors released Benson’s position paper into the wild. Over the next few months, the paper was reprinted in several military and civilian publications, including The Infantry Journal and Army Ordnance. Additional coverage also appeared in Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine, Army and Navy Register, Army and Navy Journal, and The Reserve Officer. The idea also attracted considerable discussion amongst both the archival, museum, and historical society communities and within the academy proper. By the end of spring, sufficient interest in the idea had arisen to spur Army War College Major General George S. Simonds to allow Colonel Charles Lull and Major C.C. Benson to conduct a first informal meeting with the civilian sector to layout the groundwork for the creation of the NGO. On June 2nd, 1933, papers were filed in Washington, D.C., formally incorporating the new organization as the American Military Historical Foundation with the goal of bringing Benson’s postulation into practical existence.

Over the decades, the focus and direction of the organization has grown beyond the original confines of Benson’s and Lull’s AMHF drafted in the aftermath of the First World War. Still, the merits of Benson’s paper and ramifications of this first tentative step can be clearly traced throughout the modern American study of military history and the on-going activities of the Society for Military History.

In commemoration of the anniversary year, a scanned copy of the original hand-edited position paper will soon be available in PDF form on the SMH website. The other surviving documents of AMHF and several of the founders other personal historical projects can be found in the Society for Military History Records housed at Kansas State University’s Hale Library Morse Department of Special Collections.
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We ask you to join us in creating the Allan R. Millett Dissertation Research Fellowship through the Society for Military History. This fellowship will recognize one of the field’s preeminent scholars and a prolific author who for more than four decades has shaped the public’s understanding of military history. The fund will honor a mentor who directed more than fifty doctoral dissertations and dozens of M.A. theses and who provided advice and support to many emerging historians. As a teacher, he instilled a love of military history in thousands of young students. As an advisor to the armed forces and the defense community, he helped instill an appreciation of history as a means to better understand the present. In addition, the Fellowship will acknowledge the contributions of a two-term SMH president and long-serving trustee who was instrumental in helping to make the Society for Military History what it is today. Finally, the fellowship will provide much-needed funding and recognition for aspiring military historians at a crucial point in their research efforts.

Our goal is to raise an initial endowment of $25,000, which would provide an annual fellowship of $750. The fellowship will increase commensurate with the growth of the endowment. Ultimately, we hope to fund two fellowships.

We are asking for your support in the form of a pledge to determine whether the Allan R. Millett Dissertation Research Fellowship is a viable undertaking. All contributions, when made, will be tax deductible. Only the total amount pledged will be provided to the SMH Council; individual amounts will be confidential, known only to Professor Brian Linn and, eventually, the Society’s Treasurer. Only if the donor wishes will his or her name (not the amount pledged) be provided to the Council and, ultimately, to Allan as well.

If you wish to make a pledge, please send an email (brianlinn53@gmail.com) or return the attached sheet to Brian M. Linn at 2500 Whispering Oaks Circle, Bryan, TX, 77802. Thank you so much for your support of this worthy project, which will recognize one of the giants in our field and benefit generations of future military historians.

Best regards,

Brian McAllister Linn, Ralph R. Thomas Class of 1921 Professor of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University

Peter Mansoor, General Raymond E. Mason, Jr. Chair of Military History, The Ohio State University

Peter Masłowski Emeritus Professor of History, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Mark Grimsley, Associate Professor, The Ohio State University
MEETINGS CALENDAR 2013

January 29-31 – The U.S. Naval Institute and AFCEA International will co-host WEST 2013, billed as “the largest event on the U.S. West Coast for communications, electronics, intelligence, information systems, imaging, military weapon systems, aviation, and shipbuilding,” at the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, California. For more details, see USNI’s website at http://www.usni.org/.


March 14-17 – The 2013 SMH Annual Meeting will be in New Orleans, LA at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel. Hosted by the University of Southern Mississippi, the National World War II Museum and Southeastern Louisiana University.

March 16 – The New England-New York Chapter of The World War One Historical Association holds its annual seminar March 16, 2013 at the Vassar College Alumnae House, 161 College Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY. Contact Dr. Gaetano (Guy) Cavallaro at (845) 485-8217 or e-mail Ph1m2h3@aol.com for details.


March 23-24 – The 23rd Annual War of 1812 in the West Symposium will be held at Arrow Rock, Missouri. Contact David Bennett at ebclenson@aol.com for details.

April 3-5 – Securing the Ultimate Victory: An international conference exploring the history of military medicine and health care. Army Medical Services Museum, Ash Vale,

SMH Election

The nominations committee (Carol Reardon, chair; Randy Papadopoulos and Jackie Whitt) successfully completed candidate selection and the semi-annual Society election will be conducted via email ballot by EventRebels in February. All SMH members in good standing with known email addresses will receive a ballot and candidate information. Candidate biographies and statements will be available on the SMH website.

Candidate for President is Gregory J.W. Urwin. Candidates for Vice President are Robert M. Citino and Jennifer Keene. Candidates for Trustee are: Bill Allison, Tami Biddle, Seb Cox, Kelly DeVries, Dave Fitzpatrick, John Hall, Rick Herrera, Geoffrey P. Megargee, George Rable, Rich Schneid, Matt Seelinger and Janet Valentine. You will vote for six trustees. Tami Biddle, Seb Cox, and Kelly DeVries are incumbents running for a permitted second consecutive term.

If you do not receive a link to the online ballot by February 15 contact the SMH office at VMI (jmhsmh@vmi.edu, 540-464-7468) or the Executive Director (rhberlin@aol.com).
Hampshire. Contact: Pete Starling, pete_starling@hotmail.com.

April 4-6 – The War of 1812 in the US and International Context. Perrysburg, OH. Information: smartin@bgsu.du.

April 5-7 – Fifth Wellington Conference, hosted by the University of Southampton in Great Britain. Email: archives@soton.ac.uk. Web: http://www.southampton.ac.uk/archives/.

April 8-11 – The Space Foundation will host its 29th annual National Space Symposium at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Information and registration details can be found on the Foundation’s website at www.spacefoundation.org.

April 11-14 – The Organization of American Historians will hold its annual conference at the San Francisco Hilton in San Francisco, California. This year’s theme is “Entangled Histories: Connections, Crossings, and Constraints in U.S. History.” For further information, visit the OAH website at http://www.oah.org/ or contact them via e-mail at help@oah.org.

April 17-20 – Knowing your Public(s) - The Significance of Audiences in Public History, the 2013 annual meeting of the National Council on Public History, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. See www.ncph.org for details.


June 23-29 – The American Society of Aviation Artists will present its annual forum and international aerospace art exhibition at the BWI Thurgood Marshall international Airport in Baltimore, Maryland. The exhibition will remain on display through September 23. For more information, see the Society’s website at http://www.asaa-avart.org/exhibits_forums/forum2013_CFE.php.

July 22-23 – The International Committee for the History of Technology will hold its 40th annual symposium in conjunction with the 24th International Congress of the History of Science, Medicine and Technology. The meeting will take place in Manchester, England, and its general theme will be “Knowledge at Work.” For additional details, visit the Committee’s website at http://www.icohtec.org/annual-meeting-2013.html.


August 15-18 – The Mars Society will host its 16th annual international convention in Boulder, Colorado. For more details, see the Society’s website at http://www.marsociety.org/home.

September 21-22 – The Pacific War Museum will hold its annual Admiral Nimitz Foundation Symposium at the museum in Fredericksburg, Texas. For more details as they become available, see the Museum’s website at http://www.pacificwarmuseum.org.

October 9-13 – The Oral History Association will hold its annual meeting at The Skirvin Hilton Hotel in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. This year’s meeting theme will be “Hidden Stories, Contested Truths: The Craft of Oral History.” For details, see the Association’s website at http://www.oralhistory.org.

October 10-11 – Cryptologic History Symposium, sponsored by the National Security Agency’s Center for Cryptologic History. Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory’s Kossiakoff Center, Laurel, Maryland. Contact: kgsieg@nsa.gov.


October 11-13 – The Balkan Wars 1912/13. Experience, Perception, Remembrance at the Center for Balkan and Black Sea Studies / Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul. Contact: PD Dr. Katrin Boeckh, Osteuropa-Institut, Landshuter Str. 4, 93047 Regensburg, boeckh@osteuropa-institut.de.

October 17-19 – 17th Century Warfare, Diplomacy & Society in the American Northeast, hosted by the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center. Contact: Dr. Kevin McBride, KMcbride@mptn.org.


November 9-11 – A stride Two Ages: Technology and the Civil War, at the National Museum of American History. Contact: Barton Hacker at hackerb@si.edu.
MEETINGS CALENDAR 2014

March 15-16 – The 24th Annual War of 1812 in the West Symposium will be held at the General Daniel Bissell House in Saint Louis, Missouri. Contact David Bennett at ebclemson@aol.com for details.

April 3-7 – The 2014 SMH Annual Meeting will be in Kansas City, MO at the Westin Crown Center Hotel. Hosted by the Command & General Staff College Foundation, Liberty Memorial - National World War I Museum, Harry S. Truman Presidential Museum & Library, and the Department of History at the University of Kansas

New members to the Society will be automatically entered into the online directory database. If this is not acceptable, please contact the business office.