Peter R. Mansoor

Present Position: General Raymond E. Mason Jr. Chair of Military History, The Ohio State University.

Education: PhD and MA, Ohio State University; Masters in Strategic Studies, Army War College; BS, United States Military Academy. Area(s) of Historical Specialization: Modern US Military History; World War II; Iraq War; Counterinsurgency Warfare.

Special Appointments: 26-year military career with two combat tours in Iraq; National Advisory Board, Alexander Hamilton Society (2011-Present); Veterans Advisory Committee, National Veteran’s Memorial and Museum; Military History Working Group, Hoover Institution.

SMH Activities and Service: Vice President, Society for Military History (2019-Present); Chair, Membership Committee (2009-2012); Executive Director Search Committee (2017); Board of Trustees (2015-2019).


As president of the Society for Military History, my efforts will focus on maintaining the Society’s status as the premier scholarly organization in military history in the world. As evidenced by its robust membership, healthy attendance at annual meetings, and support of outstanding scholarship, the Society for Military History is in excellent condition, and well positioned to advance the military history field. This means catering to the needs of a broad spectrum of military historians, all with a shared passion for the field. The Society will continue to promote its various constituencies by serving as the flagship military history organization in the world today, while supporting first class field scholarship across all fields in military history.

Having been immersed in the society’s governance for four years as a trustee, as the conference coordinator for SMH 2019 in Columbus, and as vice president for two years, I believe I have a thorough understanding of the challenges currently facing the society. As president I intend to see through to fruition several initiatives already underway. With the constitution approved, the professionalization of the Society is nearly complete, and I will continue efforts to update committee structure where it makes sense to do so. The Journal of Military History will enter a new contract period at the end of 2021. Beginning with SMH 2022 our annual meetings will be run by a professional event planner, which will necessitate a more robust program committee to assist and provide some of the support previously provided by local program committees. In the interim, while we plan for in-person events, we will adapt as necessary to the pandemic to ensure our members have the opportunity to present their work. The Society is also on the path to inaugurate its Summer Institute in 2022, which will grow
and strengthen the study of military history by introducing fellows to its fundamental concepts and questions, its contemporary concerns and approaches, and its leading scholars. I thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to helping to govern our Society in the next two years.