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US Army Center of Military History (CMH) Military History Coordinating Committee (MHCC) meeting minutes, 2001-2003, 2010

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The U.S. Army Center of Military History
102 Fourth Avenue
Fort Lesley J. McNair, DC 20319-5058

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE U.S. ARMY CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY
102 FOURTH AVENUE
FORT LESLEY J. MCNAIR, DC 20319-5058

July 18, 2013

Historical Resources Branch
FOIA 13-008

This is in response to your FOIA request 13-008, dated June 11, 2013, in which you requested the minutes of the Military History Coordinating Committee (MHCC) for the last ten meetings.

The Chief of Military History convened the MHCC yearly between 2001 and 2010. There is no requirement for minutes of the meeting to be kept and none have been found. We have found notes from a person who was invited to attend as a field history representative. We are providing copies of these notes for the meetings in 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2010. This individual was not invited to the meetings between 2004 and 2009.

Mr. Robert J. Dalessandro, the current Director of Military History, has not convened any meetings of the MHCC since he was appointed in 2011.

If you have questions regarding this request, please contact Mr. Frank R. Shirer at the above address or at telephone number (202) 685-3098 or via e-mail Frank.Shirer@US.ARMY.MIL

Sincerely,

Frank R. Shirer
Chief, Historical Resources Branch

1. The following personnel attended the MHCC:

BG Brown, Chief of Military History
Dr. Clarke, Chief Historian, CMH
Col Edwards, Director CSI
Col Doughty, Head History Dept USMA
LTC Perry, Director CSI
Dr. Stensvaag, Chief Historian TRADOC
Mr. Bill Epley, CMH
Dr. Richard Gorell, Field Programs Division Chief

2. BG Brown began discussion with briefing on Homeland Security & Afgan vignettes and asked group about any historical contributions on the subjects.

Discussion:

--COL Doughty responded that Brooks Cleber had done a CONARC study and Con Crane had a study on AD of Mujadeen.

--BG Brown asked for any feedback on the CSA Reading List.

--COL Edwards observed that many students at CGSC are unaware of list.

CSA needs to mention his reading list more often.

--BG Brown observed that he may need to breath more life into CSA reading list.

3. COL Doughty briefed the group on USMA bicentennial events.

PBS special series

PBS book

Ted Crackels book on USMA

Handed out paper on USMA Thomas Jefferson Conference

Mentioned USMA conference in March 2002

Progress made in endowments for a history chair and on "staff ride" funding for cadets.

Summer Seminar funding set for 3 years; 30 civilians for 28 days.

Will get new money for library.

4. COL Edwards briefed on CSI reorganization.

Handed out web site cards

Discussed new instructors

Reorganization within CGSC structure

Letter on CSI reorganization stalled.

Discussed ILE—Intermediate level education

For history, make it core for level 4

(COL Edwards cont)
74 hours in curriculum for everyone
history is important
discussed research and writing topics

5. LTC Perry—briefed on centennial of War College
50 years at Carlisle Barracks
research topics at SSI
US Army Heritage Center, it has “revitalized” MHI
\$45 million facility
At MHI, 200K pages of digitized documents on web
Fee for services discussed
Only staffed to provide reference services
Research to be done by individuals
Discussed endowment program for USMA/ROTC cadets
Discussed demise of MHI oral history program
Announced that COL Russ Hall would be new director
6. Dr. Jim Stensvaag briefed on variety of topics:
Discussed hiring process of historians at MSCs
Discussion of TRADOC requirement for consultation on hiring of new historians.
Group discussions of consultative process on hiring—should be put in AR 870-5; CMH should be involved in hiring at MACOM level.
Discussed inbrief for new DCG—LTG Jordon
Revitalization/reorganization of CSI
Restructure of MHEP, on methodology
Mil History has remained in the “equation” at TRADOC during Transformation
Discussion of giving BG Brown’s briefings on CDs to all MHCC members.
7. General discussion:
COL Doughty: can’t depend on officers knowing “history” by the time they reach certain levels: OBC, AOC, CGS, War College.
BG Brown: “see if we can work the issue in TRADOC with letter to students, etc. and through unit OPDs.

Notes from the Military History Coordinating Committee (MHCC) Meeting, 23 Oct 2002, U.S. Army Center of Military History Conference Room, Ft. McNair, D.C.

Attendance:

Members per AR 870-5:

BG Brown, Chief of Military History, Chairman MHCC
Dr. Clarke, Chief Historian, CMH
COL Doughty, Head History Department, USMA
COL Edwards, Director, CSI
LTC (P) Costigan, Director, MHI & AHEC
Dr. Stensvaag, Chief Historian TRADOC

Observers:

Dr. Gorell, Chief Field Programs and Historical Services Division
Mr. Epley, Chief Field & International Branch

1. BG Brown began discussion with a few points from his DAHAC briefing, reviewing "kudos, conditional kudos, and concerns," from last year's DAHAC. Among the kudos, he mentioned CMH manpower stability, MHDs, and NMUSA site selection. Among the concerns were CSI manning (noted the progress made in the past year), NMUSA & AHEC manning.
 - COL Doughty expressed concern that the pendulum generally seemed to be swinging against the use/appreciation of history within DOD. This led to a more general discussion with no consensus reached on the subject.
2. COL Doughty began his presentation by reviewing the history faculty at USMA; reminded everyone that they had a "teaching" faculty between 48-50 total instructors, including 10-11 civilians and 8 permanent.
 - Also announced the name of the newly selected Deputy Head of the History Department, COL Lance Beatrose (sp?).
 - Stated that their Web site had History Dept maps posted and that they were in the public domain.
 - That they do staff rides for cadets, supported by non-appropriated funds, to Civil War battlefields and several in Europe (1940 & 1944 campaigns/battles). They do not publish staff ride guides.
 - Discussed Summer Seminar; purpose, and make up; some discussion on who could attend.
3. COL Edwards briefed
 - Reorganization of CSI, where they were and where they're headed. Used briefing slides to show organization.
 - Discussed staff rides and 5X program.

- Reviewed and discussed new/ongoing CGSC program as part of ILE (Intermediate Level Education).
 - Indicated that COL (P) Hirai, new Deputy Commandant would attend the DAHAC and speak on key aspects of ILE.
4. LTC (P) Costigan briefed on MHI and AHEC.
 - Showed impressive CD and video on AHEC
 - Discussed fund raising and dedication ceremony
 - Discussed MHI digitization program.
 - Indicated that he would be director MHI until next spring.
 5. Dr. Stensvaag discussed Military History Education Program and the reorganization at CSI. Discussed transition for new TRADOC commander.
 6. General Discussion: BG Brown led discussion on coordinating staff ride efforts and 5X. Noted that all the contributions to staff ride expertise. Noted that everyone would benefit from some standardization on staff ride material. Asked Mr. Epley to send out email for suggested formats.

Notes from the MHCC, 29 October 2003

Attendance:

Members per AR 870-5:

BG Brown, Chief of Military History, Chairman MHCC
Dr. Clarke, Chief Historian, CMH
COL Doughty, Head History Department, USMA
COL Edwards, Director, CSI
COL Cates, Director, AHEC
Dr. Stensvaag, Chief Historian TRADOC

Observers:

COL Warner, DCO CMH
Dr. Britt McCarley, TRADOC Field History Chief
Mr. William Epley, CMH, Field History Chief

1. BG Brown: BG Brown began discussion with a few points from his DAHAC briefing, reviewing "kudos, conditional kudos, and concerns," from last year's DAHAC. BG Brown then revealed that the Director of the Army Staff, LTG Lovelace, had told him that the CSA had made a decision to civilianize (to an SES) the position of Chief of Military History. He also said that he would be willing to apply for the position if the decision stands. There was some discussion that followed this.
2. Col Doughty discussed the visiting professor, Dr. Joe Gladhart and the Summer Seminar for teaching military history. He indicated that he would be getting private funds for the seminar.

3. COL Edwards discussed the division of CSI and CGSC; the courses he offered; and the four types of military history courses. Still doing MMAS & SAMS. Discussed what CSI does, staff rides, research & publications, and MH instruction such as the MH support group.

At this point, BG Brown asked COL Edwards to give him some candidates for co-imprint.

COL Edwards then indicated that CSI ICW TRADOC are planning two conferences: one with the McCormick Foundation in early March and the 2d annual CSI/TRADOC conference in April. He also indicated that he is trying to publish the proceedings from the August conference.

BG Brown then asked about the CSA reading list. BG Harai has the lead to get with TRADOC on coming up with a list with a slightly different direction.

4. COL Cates presented slide presentation on AHEC; stressed their mission as a component of AWC and NMUSA; stressed the visual layout of the new AHEC; and discussed moving MHI into their new building in May-June 04.

5. Dr. Stensvaag then presented the group with a question: "Can we create a fully integrated program of instruction in military history and military heritage? If so, how?" He then followed with leading a discussion on the institutional program and the enhanced program. He suggested as the next step to focus the MHCC: see where technology makes sense; and stay the course in the POI.

The MHCC then adjourned.

2010 NOTES AND ISSUES FROM MHCC (20 OCT 2010)

Col Crean (Opening Comments)

- Theme of CMH is "Change" – reflecting the departure of Dr Clarke and hiring his replacement
- CMH Core Missions will not change: CMH history writing is the Gold Standard for all U.S. service branches. Telling the Army's story through writing Army History.
- Things that are changing (e.g. problems with electronic records mgmt)
 - CMH recently hired new Web Master and Information Mgmt
 - Progress in Digitization
 - Overhaul of CMH Web Site (seeking a wider audience)
 - Want to increase electronic publishing – to take advantage of the use of IPODs
 - videotaping/editing "Brown Bag Lunch Presentations" and putting this on Web

-MD Branch

- Underscored the "Hub & Spoke" Concept that Dr Cureton discussed at the AHC in July 2010
- Also mentioned Army History—more provocative—wider discussion—distribution down to day rooms

Dr Stewart (nothing to add, noted that he will cover issues in DAHAC)

Mr Dalessandro

- Discussed the consolidation of Art collections at NMUSA, Fort Belvoir.

LTC Daddis (USMA) Slide Presentation

- Reviewed Mission, Dept of History Philosophy, Organization, Military History Core Revisions, Department of History Extracurricular Programs, and Center of Oral History

-Military History Core Revisions

-Move away from Warfare in the Western World for first time since 1996

-Reliance on Monographs

-HI 301 covers from Frederick the Great to U.S. in Philippines, 1902

-HI 302 covers from WWI to Post Cold War era

-characterized USMA History Dept as "healthy & vibrant organization, however funding environment is fragile"

-made frequent references to private donor, Smith-Richardson, who is now funding the Summer Seminar—seen as more reliable source of funding than TRADOC

-Due to downturn in economy, Visiting Professor position has been vacant for 2 years, but will be filled this coming year

-Noted increase in Cadet size (largest incoming class = 1,397 for this fall), this is generally due to high acceptance rate

Prep school move from Fort Monmouth to West Point

CSI (Dr Robertson)

-Publications

Stressed the problems with contractor-produced volumes that have to be "fixed" by permanent staff—but staff is now down to one writer-researcher thus production is slowed greatly

Published first volume on Afghanistan ("Different Kind of War")

-In Draft ("On Point 3", "On Point 4", "Different Kind of War II")

-Publish smaller studies (Maroon books), Recently published "Fire for Effect"

-Occasional Papers ("British Operations on the Northwest Frontier")

2 volumes of Interwar Order of Battle are at printer—two more to go

-Miscellaneous Publications ("Battle of Wanat" has gone to press) –used this as an example of contractor-related problems—also manuscript was leaked to press

- Contractors have been driven off post due to legal matters—makes it impossible to monitor progress and quality of manuscripts
 - Production has slowed down significantly, thus the “product is not as good”
 - Oral History (covering all majors coming through CGSC on their respective combat experiences – these interviews are done by contractors)-1900 interviews completed and posted to web
 - Staff Ride program (characterized as “very robust”)
 - noted the virtual staff ride program called “Staff Ride in a Box”—transportable but not exportable
 - Noted the 2 week Military History Instructors Course and Field Historian Course
 - About to lose Clay Mountcastle who constitutes the instructional support team
- CSI has 14 total people full time and can be augmented by contractors as they come and go

Talked about request from General Petraeus for historical study on Afghanistan

AHEC (LTC Viney) did not really say much that was new

He is leaving next June—will be replaced by a colonel

AHEC trying to emphasize how it supports the Army in order to justify budget

TRADOC (Dr McCarley)

-Discussed 4 major topics: Changing of the Guard, BRAC, Instruction, Archives

-Changing of the Guard (Ongoing)

-New Museum Chief – Dr Joe Raynor

-Maneuver Support Center of Excellence (CoE) – Dr John Glover

-Sustainment CoE – Dr Steve Anders

-Museums Divisions

-Maneuver CoE – Steve Allay

-Fires CoE – Frank Siltman

-Make copy of TRADOC Re-Organization Chart

-BRAC (FY11)—year of execution for BRAC

-Moving 3 museums--\$77 million needed for new facilities

-Ordnance—problem with macro artifacts being stored outside

-ADA

-Armor

-Moving 9 history offices – moving a “division’s” worth of macro artifacts

-Reconfiguring the Casemate Museum—to be turned over to state of Virginia--
TRADOC wanted to leave an Army presence behind but have been told to be out

-Instruction

-350-13 Military History Instruction for TRADOC

-Finished Capt Course Redesigned

-Archives

-Draft of Baseline Policy for Managing Archives—to become AR 870-2

CGSC (Dr Kuehn) slide presentation

John House to be first to hold William Stofft chair in history

No funding for Morrison chair

Planning underway for hosting 2014 SMH

Open Discussion (Col Crean)

-Update of 870-5 (will not happen anytime soon)

-Update of 870-20 (closer to update – after the holidays revision Feb/March

-Tentative order of updates

-870-20

-FM 1-20

-870-5

Some discussion of oral history index—COL Crean said he would be agreeable to CMH consolidating information and making it available to MHCC members

Mentioned CMH web does not have links to all MHCC members (we are working on fixing that)

-AHEC noted the need to get the word out about conferences

Mr. Bell brought in to discuss VMUS funding

Mr. Dalessandro thinks we need more presence in "the building"—only 2 cubicles instead of an office—both he and COL Crean stated no chance for CMH to go back under DAS or to get a general officer to fill Director's slot—won't update strategic plan until new director arrives in 6 to 9 months