



THE FEDERALIST

Newsletter of the Society for History in the Federal Government

Second Series

Winter 2006-2007

Number 12

THE COAST GUARD'S HURRICANE KATRINA DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

Scott Price

One of the largest search-and-rescue operations in the history of the United States occurred in 2005 when Hurricane Katrina wreaked havoc across a great swath of the nation's Gulf Coast. The governments' response at the local, city, state and federal levels came under intense media scrutiny and criticism. Certain government officials were vilified while the nation was transfixed by the carnage. Nevertheless, during the chaos, fear, and uncertainty of that time there was one shining light, one government agency that received nothing but accolades for its efforts: the United States Coast Guard (USCG).

The Coast Guard and its predecessors, including the Life-Saving Service, the Lighthouse Service and the Revenue Cutter Service, had extensive experience in responding to natural disasters. Cutters have been saving lives in the worst types of weather since the early 1830s. Life-Saving Service and Revenue Cutter Service personnel actively participated in relief efforts during the annual flooding of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers since the mid-nineteenth century. Responses to hurricanes began with the terrible hurricane of 1900 that virtually wiped out Galveston. The Revenue Cutter and Life-Saving services also responded during earthquakes, including the one in 1906 that leveled San Francisco. Lighthouse keepers too, including women, rescued those in need during storms near their lighthouses. The men and women of these services were always ready to go to the assistance of their fellow citizens when nature struck, a core value that permeates the Coast Guard today. If every Marine is a rifleman,

then every Coast Guardsman is a lifesaver.

Coast Guard preparations for the storm began well before Hurricane Katrina struck the coast of Florida. Aircraft were scattered to safe airports out of harm's way but close enough to permit them to respond quickly as the hurricane withdrew. Assets in the Gulf region too made preparations. The hurricane came ashore near the Dade-Broward county line on the night of 25 August. The first rescues occurred soon thereafter when aircraft were dispatched to rescue unlucky boaters and fishermen who were at sea as the hurricane passed over them. As Katrina swirled out into the Gulf of Mexico the storm strengthened to frightening proportions, with forecasts calling for a Category 5 hurricane. As it approached the Gulf Coast, the Coast Guard assembled helicopters, fixed-wing aircraft, and cutters, many brought in from other Coast Guard districts, and stationed them near the area where the storm was expected to make landfall. Hurricane Katrina came ashore near Buras, Louisiana, on the morning of 29 August as a Category 4 hurricane with sustained winds of 145 mph.

Coast Guard rescue operations commenced as the hurricane moved inland. Cutters had trailed the hurricane as closely as they could and began rescuing those offshore while the helicopters, HH-65 Dolphins and HH-60 Jayhawks, were launched as the hurricane's eye passed over the city of New Orleans. The operational tempo

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Photo by Amber Young

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

John W. Roberts

This may or may not be a particularly new or radical concept. Depending upon your point of view, this may or may not even be accurate. But federal history is not just federal history. That is, federal history is not just the history of federal agencies, as produced by federally-employed historians.

Contract historians, independent historians, and academic historians, of course, have been important contributors to the historiography of the federal government for decades. Archivists, curators, and historical preservationists likewise have played vital roles in furthering research and public understanding about the history of federal agencies. And agency histories have advanced themes, arguments, and evidence that have illuminated the larger fields of social, political, economic, scientific, and even cultural history.

Beyond that, however, federal history programs have given tremendous impetus to state and local history. These federal history programs are not programs about federal history, but rather history programs supported by the federal government.

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, for example, authorized the creation of a network of more than 100 State and Tribal Preservation Offices, to work as partners with the National Park Service in identifying and nominating both public and private properties within individual state and tribal jurisdictions for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. These State and

Tribal Preservation Offices are supported, in part, through federal grants. In FY 2005, more than \$38 million in federal funds was distributed to these offices. In addition, the Save America's Treasures program is one of several initiatives that provided nearly \$35 million in federal grants to historic rehabilitation projects in FY 2005, and thousands of historic preservation projects receive federal tax credits every year.

The history of the federal government itself is not overlooked, as Federal Preservation Officers for the various agencies nominate federally-owned buildings and other properties for listing in the National Register. But the majority of properties listed in the National Register are associated with themes, events, and people significant in state or local history.

Thirty years before President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Historic Sites Act created the National Historic Landmark Program and expanded the Historic American Building Survey and the Historic American Engineering Record. Together, the National Historic Preservation Act and the National Historic Sites Act are responsible for perhaps as many as 1,000 historians, architects, and archeologists, employed by federal and state agencies, working to identify and record the places and material properties that are of the greatest significance to the nation's history and pre-history.

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 represents a major milestone on the part of the federal government in documenting and preserving the historic fabric of the United States. Last year marked the law's 40th anniversary.

In honor of that event, the National Park Service launched a special web feature on the history and impact of the National Historic Preservation Act. It is available at www.cr.nps.gov/40th/, or by linking from www.cr.nps.gov/nr/.

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THE FEDERALIST (ISSN 0736-8151)

Newsletter of the Society for History in the Federal Government

Published Quarterly

The Society is a national professional organization open to all who are interested in federal history programs. Annual membership fee is \$35 and includes a subscription to *THE FEDERALIST* and the Society's *Occasional Papers*. For information, write the Society at:

P.O. Box 14139, Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044

Contributors are encouraged to submit articles, news listings, or photographs to the editors. Either hard copy or e-mail attachment in MS Word or Wordperfect format is acceptable.

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THE FEDERALIST

Co-editors..... *John Lonquest*
lonquestj@hq02.usace.army.mil

Jeffrey S. Reznick
jeffrey_reznick@yahoo.com

John W. Roberts
john_w_roberts@nps.gov

Benjamin Guterman
benjamin.guterman@nara.gov

Betty Koed
betty_koed@sec.senate.gov

Photographer..... *Charles Downs*

Web Site: www.shfg.org
Printed by *Welsh Printing Corp.*
Falls Church, VA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, *continued from page 2*

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By the time this issue of the *Federalist* is printed, announcements about the 2007 SHFG Annual Conference will have gone out. SHFG Vice President Bill Williams has put together an excellent program, featuring sessions on the role of historians in documenting war in Iraq; the impact of Congress on African American history; the federal intelligence community; museum issues; the Corps of Engineers; oral history; sources and recent research in military history; federal initiatives to recognize African American history; the

National Park Service; and the “Biographical Directory” of Congress. There will also be a session on career opportunities in federal history. And I am particularly pleased that graduate students from Loyola University of Chicago, American University, and the University of Massachusetts will make presentations at a session spotlighting graduate research and projects in federal history.

The conference will take place on Thursday, March 8, at Archives II in College Park (which, incidentally, has added a new parking lot). For more information about the conference, please check our website: www.shfg.org.

HURRICANE KATRINA, *continued from page 1*

increased as everyone realized that the levees protecting the city had given way, creating an urban nightmare. Dispensing with peace-time regulations on the amount of time needed to rest between flights, aircrews worked around the clock to pluck survivors from rooftops while maintenance crews kept the aircraft in service. Communications were problematic, but the Coast Guard is known for and prides itself on its ability to improvise. When rescue swimmers found victims trapped in their attics with no way to escape the rising waters, they used axes to chop through rooftops. When rescue teams found that not axes enough were available, a trip to Home Depot solved that. Urban search and rescue techniques were developed on the fly, since few aircrews had experience flying night sorties through a flooded city where high winds and hanging power lines added to the danger. Coast Guard cutters and small craft too entered the fray, rescuing people from small islands of dry land, flooded overpasses, inundated homes and buildings and transported them to safety.

The scale of operations during the Katrina response defies imagination and the statistics generated are almost unbelievable. USCG search and rescue operations alone saved 24,135 lives from imminent danger, usually off the roofs of the victims' homes as flood waters lapped at their feet. Coast Guardsmen “evacuated to safety” 9,409 patients from local hospitals. In total, 33,545 souls owed their lives to the men and women of the nation's oldest continuous-going sea service, nearly equaling the number of persons the Coast Guard saves during a calendar year.

As valiant as their actions were, there were many other unheralded tasks for which the Coast Guard was responsible for. The eponymous Damage Assessment Teams, known as DATs, were sent to the area. DARTs, the Disaster Area Response Teams, paddled and operated their small boats through the flooded streets searching for sur-

vivors at water level. Many of these Coast Guardsmen, including 800 recalled-reservists, came from as far away as Alaska and Maine. Helicopters working with the Army Corps of Engineers dropped 18,000 pounds of sandbags to restore the breached levees. Aids to Navigation Teams, known as ANTs, repaired and repositioned all of the navigational aids that were displaced or destroyed by the hurricane. Strike Teams, the Coast Guard's oil-spill and other environmental disaster responders, arrived to assist in the cleanup of the over 4,000 pollution cases in the area. Marine Safety and Security Teams were sent to the area to assist with security and then recovery efforts. Coast Guard responders also included Environmental Response Teams, Critical Incident Stress Management teams, Port Security Units, and Incident Management Teams all rounded out the varied Coast Guard response. Every Coast Guard District contributed something to the Katrina effort.

Clean up operations are still ongoing, including the removal of the almost 3,000 fishing and work vessels that



A Coast Guard rescue swimmer prepares to load an elderly man and woman into a helicopter.

the hurricane scattered across the landscape, with some being stranded far inland. For many Coast Guardsmen the hurricane hit close to home with approximately 30 percent of those stationed in the New Orleans area losing their homes. Many of the stations in the hurricane's path also suffered extensive damage and repairs are still being carried out. Katrina's impact proved to be devastating. Just as the operations tempo began to ease, however, another hurricane approached the Gulf Coast, Hurricane Rita. Rita passed through the Florida Straits and made landfall near the Louisiana-Texas border on 24 September as a Category 3 hurricane. Rescue operations commenced as the hurricane moved inland but conditions were no where near as dire as they had been with Hurricane Katrina.

During the Hurricane Rita rescue operations, the Coast Guard saved an additional 138 lives and conducted 53 medical evacuations. This brought the total of lives "saved" and "evacuated to safety" for both hurricane rescue operations to 33,735. A total of 76 Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary aircraft took part in the rescues. They flew 1,817 sorties with a total flight time of 4,291.3 hours in the air. The air crews saved 12,535 lives. A total of 42 Coast Guard cutters and 131 small boats also participated in rescue operations, with their crews rescuing 21,200 people. Over 5,000 Coast Guardsmen served in Katrina and Rita operations. Once again the Coast Guard, the nation's fifth armed service, demonstrated that *Semper Paratus* or "Always Ready" is more than a motto.



Members of a Coast Guard search and rescue team prepare to launch their skiff prior to conducting a search in New Orleans.

The Historian's Office's efforts to capture for posterity the Coast Guard's role during Hurricane Katrina began prior to its landfall at Florida's east coast and gained considerable momentum within three days of the hurricane's Gulf Coast landfall. This effort to collect the "history" of the service's response was an unprecedented effort made relatively easy due to the support of senior leadership, a critical factor to any such effort's success. In the case of Katrina, we had support from the very top. The service's Chief of Staff, Vice Admiral Thad Allen (who is now Commandant), ordered the Coast Guard to make every effort to save the history of the service's response to Katrina and ordered the formation of the Katrina Archival Records Team, or KART, to fulfill that effort. The effort gained some momentum and further in-depth support when President George W. Bush appointed Vice Admiral Allen as the Principal Federal Official for the federal government's Katrina response efforts. When President Bush ordered every agency involved in Katrina operations to save all documentation, we were already in place and ready to comply.

The Coast Guard formed KART with personnel from the Historian's Office and uniformed Coast Guard reservists who were ordered to active duty, as well as representatives from various information technology offices within the Coast Guard. KART was responsible for capturing all relevant documentation and photography generated during the Katrina operations. The documentation was prodigious, including thousands of emails from high ranking officers sending out orders, operational orders from mid-level commanders, mundane bureaucratic issues, logistics, and the poignant pleas for assistance from civilians trapped in New Orleans or their families elsewhere requesting that the Coast Guard rescue a loved one.

The Historian's Office suggested an active oral history program to acquire firsthand accounts from Coast Guard participants. This was accomplished by activating a Reserve Collection Team, consisting of five reservists and a civilian, which the Coast Guard sent into the field even as the search and rescue efforts were fully underway. These reservists, under the direction of Senior Chief Public Affairs Specialist Peter Capelotti, Ph.D., USCGR, and historians from the Historian's Office, conducted 240 oral histories over a period of several months. These interviews spanned the spectrum of those Coast Guardsmen involved in Katrina operations, from Admiral Allen while he was the Principal Federal Official working in New Orleans to the rescue swimmers who braved the hurricane's wrath and rescued so many from the roof tops of the flooded city. Those involved in the planning operations,

the mechanics who serviced the helicopters, the dozens of flight personnel who took part in the rescue operations, the commanding officers of the stations, the admirals who made the decisions, all were interviewed extensively.

Additionally, KART captured all relevant communications, including emails from all offices involved; situation



Peter Capelotti interviews a Coast Guard aviator about relief operations.

reports from all commands, including those from other federal agencies including the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Department of Defense summaries; PowerPoint briefings to senior leadership; and lessons learned documents. Every document was saved in an electronic format and placed in a large electronic archive developed by Mr. Jeffrey Bowdoin of the Historian's Office. The archive is huge, consisting of over 113,000 individual files that take up over 614 gigabytes of storage space. Each of the 240 oral histories was recorded digitally and many were filmed; all of them are kept in the archive as well. We have written detailed abstracts for each interview and are currently getting the interviewees to edit and sign off on their interviews.

There was one aspect of the collection effort that garnered considerable interest among the senior leadership and consequently increased the visibility of the Historian's Office. We developed a detailed visual historical timeline of the Coast Guard's response to the hurricane. Using an Excel spreadsheet, we entered data on various subjects including: storm development and conditions, major events, key Coast Guard and civilian leadership decisions, assets deployed, Coast Guard personnel involvement, key accomplishments, search-and-rescue statistics including

numbers rescued and evacuated, marine environmental response, damage to Coast Guard facilities, among others, and charted them on a day-to-day basis. There are also sections that covered cutter movements, ports and marine status, and other government agencies' actions. The senior leadership made dozens of requests for copies of the timeline for use in briefings, including those briefings for Congress and the White House. Having a product that can be easily emailed or printed generates considerable interest from many different quarters and can increase the visibility and appreciation of your efforts.

Responding to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita was an unprecedented experience for the Coast Guard and for the Historian's Office. Never before had we attempted to capture every possible piece of documentary evidence at the time of an on-going large-scale operation. In this case we believe that we have captured almost all of the relevant material regarding the Katrina operations. The oral histories alone are worth their weight in gold. We have also added a few historic artifacts to our artifact collection, including a number of the boats used for rescues and an axe, signed by the personnel who took part in the rescues, that was first used by a rescue swimmer to free a family trapped in their attic. That axe symbolizes the spirit of Coast Guard operations: improvisation, ingenuity, courage, and a willingness to do what was necessary to save thousands of lives. The axe is perhaps the best iconic representation of the Coast Guard's response to Katrina that we have in the collection.

Scott Price is the Deputy Historian in the Coast Guard Historian's Office, Washington, DC.



A Coast Guard rescue swimmer signs an axe similar to those used by air crews to free the victims of Hurricane Katrina from flooded attics.

HURRICANES OF 2005: THE NPS RESPONSE

By Dan Pontbriand and Pam West

No one in the federal government could have accurately predicted the scope of the 2005 hurricane season. Who would have thought that hurricane after hurricane would just roll into the Gulf of Mexico raising havoc with not just the United States, but with our southern neighbors as well? Federal and state land management agencies were stretched to the limit to respond to these unprecedented storms. State, county, and city emergency management agencies were stretched beyond their own abilities, requiring that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the military come to the rescue.

In 1992 FEMA developed the Federal Response Plan (revised in 1999) to establish “a process and structure for the systematic, coordinated, and effective delivery of federal assistance to address the consequences of any major disaster or emergency declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5121, et seq.)” After September 11, 2001, it was clear the Federal Response Plan needed to be rewritten to reflect a stronger emphasis on homeland security response.

The new National Response Plan (NRP) replaced the Federal Response Plan. It was developed by the Department of Homeland Security and implemented in November of 2004 “to align Federal coordination structures, capabilities, and resources into a unified, all discipline, and all-hazards approach to domestic incident management. This approach is unique and far reaching in that it, for the first time, eliminates critical seams and ties together a complete spectrum of incident management activities to include the prevention of, preparedness for, response to, and recovery from terrorism, major natural disasters, and other major emergencies....”

The National Response Plan assigns the various response functions under 15 Emergency Support Functions (ESFs). An example of an Emergency Support Function is ESF # 4 – Firefighting. The ESF coordinator and primary agency for this function is the Department of Agriculture, with the U.S. Forest Service and five other departments and the Environmental Protection Agency listed as support agencies. The Department of the Interior is a support agency in all 15 of the ESF’s.

Shortly after Hurricane Katrina made landfall, the gov-

ernment initiated all 15 Emergency Support Functions as outlined in the National Response Plan. This was a first. The government also declared Hurricane Katrina an Incident of National Significance.

Never in the history of emergency response has there been such a large and overwhelming response to a multi-state disaster as there was with Hurricane Katrina, and then a few weeks later with Hurricane Rita in Louisiana and Texas, and then Hurricane Wilma in Florida. FEMA, just as their legislation directed it to do, responded to Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and Texas to support state emergency response teams, be they county or city jurisdictions. When responding to the devastation wrought by the hurricane, these states and FEMA were challenged like they have never been challenged before. Many things went right and some went wrong.

Caught up in the widespread devastation were federal lands and facilities owned by the National Park Service including the Gulf Islands National Seashore, Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve, Cane River Creole National Historic Park, Natchez Trace Park, and the New Orleans Jazz National Historic Park to name a few. These areas were rich with historic structures and sites, special and sensitive natural and cultural resources including threatened and endangered species, visitor facilities, employee housing, maintenance facilities, equipment, and perhaps the most valuable resource of them all, the employees of the National Park Service. It became clear at the very beginning of the relief and recovery operation that the National Park units in the path of the hurricane would need assistance from not just the other southeastern parks, but the whole of the National Park System.

The Southeast Region of the National Park Service (Atlanta) in partnership with the Washington Area Support Office (NPS Headquarters in Washington, DC) developed an incident response strategy that would bring resources from many parks and regions of the NPS to bear in the affected regions.

In preparation for the storm the Park Service instructed its All Hazards Incident Management Teams to gear up and be ready to move within 24 hours. These All Hazard teams, working under an organizational structure called the Incident Command System, when at full strength, can

be as large as 20 people or more. The teams include an Incident Commander and command staff that includes planning, logistics, operations, and finance sections. The Park Service mobilized its All Hazard teams and positioned them at Jean Lafitte National Historic Site in Louisiana and at Gulf Islands National Seashore in Mississippi for Hurricane Katrina, at Big Thicket Preserve for Hurricane Rita, and at the Everglades National Park after Hurricane Wilma.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Gulf Islands reported that they had significant and extensive damage to all park facilities and resources. Jean Lafitte reported damage to many of the units of the park scattered throughout the greater New Orleans area and surrounding parishes. Big Thicket also reported damage to park facilities.

Even before Katrina made landfall in Louisiana, she had cut across south Florida as a powerful hurricane heading west toward the Gulf of Mexico. She battered the Everglades National Park before exiting into the gulf. An All Hazards Incident Management Team was called in to assist the park in the Everglades. Employees there needed to be accounted for, and housing, personal property, boats, vehicles, facilities, and natural resources all needed attention. Just as the Florida team was finishing up, Katrina barreled into Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.



Ranger Keith Flannery posts warning signs at Big Thicket National Preserve following Hurricane Rita.

The All Hazard teams in Mississippi and Louisiana were tasked with numerous logistical and operational problems and given a very wide mandate. The local communities surrounding parks were devastated, and search and rescue operations were still being conducted two weeks after the hurricane struck. Water, sanitation, electricity, law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services were cut in half in most places and in some places were non-existent. Thousands of homes were damaged or destroyed. The challenge for the Incident Management teams was to meet the objectives of the day and, if called upon, find a way to support some of the local communities. National Park Service law enforcement rangers were called upon to protect a number of federal facilities and in some cases support local FEMA and Red Cross operations with security. Park service personnel needed ranger escorts to reach some of the more inner city park facilities where security was an issue. The Incident Management teams also set up an Employee Assistance Branch which helped several of the other local federal agencies account for their employees.

There was widespread damage to NPS sites hit by the hurricane. Roads needed to be repaired or rebuilt, visitor centers were destroyed, museum cases and artifacts were severely damaged, as were cemeteries, trails, housing, roofs, docks, boat houses, boats, and vehicles. The list of damages was enormous and the price to repair the devastation would be high.

The NPS called upon a team of specialists titled the Museum Emergency Response Team (MERT), to preserve, restore, catalog, and store cultural artifacts from NPS facilities damaged by the storm. This team was established shortly after Hurricane Isabel struck the east coast in 2003, and its personnel were trained to work within the framework of the Incident Command System (ICS). Many of the MERT members were involved in the extensive recovery of the million plus artifacts from Colonial Jamestown. A large emergency cache of supplies, including both personal protective equipment and specialty supplies for collections, allowed the team to quickly deliver whatever supplies were needed to the stricken area. The team was also prepared to work under any condition.

The team responded to Chalmette Battlefield, Jean Lafitte NHS, and Fort Massachusetts at Gulf Islands National Seashore to determine how badly the collections had been impacted. The team found that the exhibits at Chalmette had been flooded and artifacts, including historic weapons, which showed signs of flash rusting, were removed from the visitor center. Historic records and other pertinent materials were also taken from the site for safekeeping. Human remains unearthed by exposed tree

roots were removed from the cemetery to be reburied at a later date.

The entire museum collection was removed from the second story of Jean Lafitte National Historic Site because there was no infrastructure to support the collection and it was uncertain how long utilities would be off. The collection was moved to Naches where a temporary storage facility was constructed in a historic building. The MERT team's archeologist was flown by US Park Police helicopter to the Ship Island part of Gulf Islands National Seashore to assess the conditions of the fort and archeological sites. The island was decimated by the storm.

Workers in field were protected by the NPS Special Events and Tactical Team (SETT), a team of law enforcement rangers trained to deal with special events due in part to a lack of local law enforcement protection. Everywhere the field teams went, the SETT escorted them with weapons ready.

An additional MERT team was at Gulf Islands National Seashore, where four more team members worked on the Mississippi district collections. The team members recovered both natural and cultural artifacts from the visitor center in Mississippi and moved them to Florida where it was easier to work on the collections. The team washed and cleaned, dried, packed, inventoried, and sent these objects to various locations for more work and storage. The team later went back to Mississippi to help evacuate a thoroughly drenched herbarium collection from the Gulf Coast Resource Lab which contained many specimens from Gulf Islands.

Several members of the MERT teams and the All Hazard Incident Management teams also reported for assignments to the FEMA Joint Field Office in Baton



Storm damaged displays at the Jean Lafitte National Historic Park.

Rouge where they fielded questions from those in need as well as going out to the field to do assessments and work in courthouses and other public buildings. Park service lessons learned documents showed that MERT team ICS training, combined with team building and the experience of its members allowed the MERT team to respond quickly and to get the job done in a positive and effective manner, rescuing and saving cultural and natural resources, while working within the ICS framework.

The work didn't stop after the Incident Management teams left the parks in late fall of 2005. The work continues to this very day. Funding to repair park facilities has been coming in and work to rebuild visitor centers, houses, docks, and other critical facilities is underway. Museum collections have been partly restored and that work is still on going.

In addition, National Park Service personnel also continued to support FEMA public works and engineering projects under ESF #3 (Public Works and Engineering) for many months into 2006. The parks are supporting FEMA trailer sites providing some level of assistance to communities. The National Park Service supported many FEMA projects that needed technical expertise such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS). NPS personnel also provided technical expertise to states along the gulf coast and to FEMA with regard to cultural and natural resources under Emergency Support Function 11 (Agriculture and Natural Resources).

While government planners all hope that another Incident of National Significance does not happen again, most concede that it probably will. Sometime in the next 20 years we will be tasked with more than just one Incident of National Significance, either natural or man made, and we all must be better prepared for the next one. Lessons learned from the 2005 hurricane season tell us that better communications and coordination amongst local, state, and federal agencies is needed to avoid the mistakes of the past. FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security are hard at work modifying the National Response Plan based on the lessons learned from the 2005 hurricane season. The National Park Service is in the process of developing an All Hazards Incident Management Program to support the Incident Management teams and parks with better Incident Management services.

For more information about the Incident Management Program, contact Dan Pontbriand at dan_pontbriand@nps.gov.

Dan Pontbriand is the Branch Chief of Emergency Service for the National Park Service in Washington, DC.

THE HISTORICAL PROFESSION AND THE DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER MEMORIAL

By Richard Striner

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission was created by Congress in 1999. Its task is to design and build a permanent memorial to Ike in our nation's capital. The Commission has been in the news in recent months because a site for the Eisenhower Memorial — on a parcel of land just south of the National Air and Space Museum — has been officially approved.

But historians can take special pride in this project for a reason that the news accounts have not emphasized: the Commission is designing this memorial not only with input from the public at large but also with substantial guidance from historians.

Carl W. Reddel, the Commission's Executive Director, is a retired Air Force Brigadier General with a Ph.D. in history. Early in the work of the Commission, he gathered a blue-ribbon panel of Eisenhower experts chaired by Prof. Louis Galambos of Johns Hopkins University — co-editor of the 21-volume *Papers of Dwight David Eisenhower* — to write an in-depth report on the Eisenhower legacy to guide the Commission. The resulting report, *Eisenhower's Legacy: the General, the President, the Public Servant*, was a distillation of the best and most recent scholarship on Eisenhower. An online version of the Legacy Report is available via the Commission's website: <http://eisenhowermemorial.org>.

To guide the Commission even further, Reddel got the Industrial College of the Armed Forces to co-sponsor a symposium on Eisenhower's national security legacy. The proceedings of this symposium, which was held in Eisenhower Hall at Fort McNair, were published as *Forging the Shield: Eisenhower and National Security for the 21st Century*. Moreover, in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins University Press, the Commission has posted the Eisenhower Presidential Papers in a fully searchable online format.

It is probably safe to say that no other presidential memorial commission in recent memory has taken its responsibility to the historical profession more seriously. I was deeply impressed by this fact when I was asked to consult with the Commission on issues of American history. Though not an Eisenhower expert — my most recent book is an analysis of Lincoln's statecraft — I saw in the work of this Commission an exemplary effort to design and build a presidential memorial in a manner consistent with the best historical scholarship.

When I began my work for the Commission its primary task was a long and methodical study of possible memorial sites in Washington, DC. Over two dozen possible sites were examined and subjected to analysis. The Commission sought to make certain that its site selection would lead to the best choice possible — not only in terms of urban aesthetics but also in terms of a site with proximity to places that possess historical significance in relation to Eisenhower. The Commission's careful work was recently validated when both the National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts approved the Commission's preferred site without a single negative vote.

The site is outstanding. It is close or adjacent to places that are rich in thematic associations with Eisenhower. It is just south of the National Air and Space Museum, thus reminding visitors of Ike's role in creating the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. It is immediately north of the Department of Education's headquarters building—thus saluting Ike's role in creating the predecessor cabinet-level department of Health, Education, and Welfare. It is close to the headquarters of the Federal Aviation Administration—an agency created by Ike as an upgrade of previous federal regulatory agencies. And speaking of aviation, the proximity of places with links to the development of American air power relate to the crucial role of Eisenhower—a career army officer!—in supporting the creation of the Air Force as a separate and coequal military service.

What will the memorial consist of? Beyond a few simple and fundamental principles, the Commission has no preconceived template. To the contrary, the Commission is actively seeking public input. All that the Commission has decided to date is that (1) the memorial should be permanent; (2) it should be located at a premiere site in our nation's capital; and (3) it should combine a physical memorial with a “living memorial” program of some type. Beyond that, the Commission is reaching out to the public and to Eisenhower legacy organizations — that is, to organizations with special links to Dwight D. Eisenhower — for suggestions and guidance.

Within the next six months, the Commission will be sponsoring a “pre-design programming” phase in its study of memorial options. In architect's parlance, the “program” consists of the specific instructions that the design

architects will receive before beginning their work. In determining the pre-design program, an architect with no vested interest in the outcome (in other words, an architect who will abstain from competing for this particular design commission in order to maintain his or her neutrality and objectivity) will conduct detailed and lengthy interviews to seek guidance in developing the program. Historians are cordially invited to participate. Details can be gleaned from the Commission's web site.

It is the hope of this Commission to be able to build the national memorial to Dwight D. Eisenhower quickly. The chairman of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission, Hon. Rocco C. Siciliano, and its two senior senators, Hon. Daniel K. Inouye and Hon. Ted Stevens, are World War II combat veterans. They want to see this memorial dedicated soon, and for obvious reasons. And what a leader we are seeking to commemorate! Eisenhower led the Allied forces to victory over Hitler and the Nazis; he created the long-term strategic "architecture" (deterrence, based upon careful analysis through space-based surveillance of Soviet military capabilities) that subsequent presidents would employ to help America prevail in the long Cold

War without a nuclear conflagration; he created the Interstate Highway System, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. He expanded Social Security. He supported the Supreme Court's school desegregation decision (while working effectively behind the scenes to desegregate the public accommodations of Washington, DC). He worked in effective partnership with Congress. He gave the American people an interlude of peace. Indeed he warned, as a professional soldier, against the stealthy militarization of American life. No one claims that he was perfect. But he was surely a champion of sanity — and a strategist of brilliance. We could use his legacy today.

The conceptualization and design of this important memorial to Eisenhower will not be easy. That's why we need the participation of historians. Do not hesitate to contact us if you wish to share suggestions and guidance.

Richard Striner is a professor of history at Washington College in Chestertown, MD.

IN THE EYE OF THE STORM: THE OPERATIONS OF THE JOINT TASK FORCE KATRINA HISTORY GROUP

By Lieutenant Colonel Alan R. Koenig, FA, USAR

When Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast on 29 August 2005, it wreaked enough damage to qualify as one of the worst natural catastrophes to ever befall the United States of America. Realizing the epic proportions of the disaster, historians of various stripes chronicled the event, to include those working for the US government.

Of the thousands of people who came to the region's aid, the National Guard sent the most responders. State public affairs officers covered their activities in print and on the Internet. Meanwhile, Admiral Timothy Keating of US Northern Command tasked First Army headquarters at Ft. Gillem, Georgia to stand up Joint Task Force Katrina to direct active duty military components responding to Katrina's damage. In so doing, the admiral named Lieutenant General Russel H. Honoré, a native Louisianan, as its commander.

Leading a contingency operation that literally meant life or death to many Americans, LTG Honoré had his hands full, but he also realized the relief efforts' historical significance. Knowing it would take time to get trained military historians to the scene, the Ragin' Cajun directed

his staff to record events in the interim. Colonel Christian De Graff, Deputy Chief of Staff, and Colonel Mario Wozniak, Reserve Affairs Advisor, took the mission to heart and wrote dozens of pages of notes as the operation progressed. Meanwhile, Forces Command (FORSCOM) at nearby Fort McPherson dispatched Colonel Chris Reddish to assist LTG Honoré. Like scribes of antiquity, the trio recorded events that might otherwise have been lost in the hustle and bustle of operations.

Before mid-September, military history detachments (MHD) had arrived at the scene, to include Major Doug Hendy's 44th MHD, the only active duty unit of its type in the Army. In addition, the 305th MHD, commanded by Major Bruce Kish, arrived from Coraopolis, Pennsylvania, and from Topeka, Kansas came the 102nd MHD under Major Tony Randall. Representing the 50th MHD was Staff Sergeant Josh Ferrier-Watson.

The MHD's collected artifacts, hard copy and electronic documents in addition to interviewing many key personnel engaged in relief efforts. They stayed in theater from two to four weeks, and some cooperated with

Captain Greg Neuschafer's US Navy team from the Washington Navy Yard. The MHDs also worked with a two-man Contingency History Personnel (CHIP) team from the Air Force Historical Research Agency (AFHRA) at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. Master Sergeant Craig A. Mackey and Lieutenant Colonel John Hrinko, a former hurricane hunter, arrived in early October and stayed on active duty to travel to units at their home stations to interview Katrina responders. In so doing, they got officially attached to the Joint Task Force Katrina History Group (Provisional), and by April 2006, they had interviewed over 400 responders from various branches of the military, to include civilian employees.

Other valuable historical coverage came from an unexpected source. Elizabeth Schexnyder, the Hansen's Disease Museum Curator in Carville, Louisiana, seized the opportunity to interview responders. Being near National Guard facilities, she was no stranger to the military and interviewed several Guardsmen as well as US Public Health Service officers, Medical Reserve Corps volunteers, and other responders. Wielding an engaging interviewing style and a sense of pertinent subjects to pursue, she captured twenty fact-filled interviews that covered a wide spectrum of the responder experience to supplement MHD efforts.

The Marine Corps also supported Katrina relief efforts, but Marine historians are few and were already covering operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere, so they were unable to get to the Gulf Coast. Fortunately, over the years a joint mind-set has trickled down to field historians, so USMC efforts did not go uncovered. Meanwhile, the Coast Guard sent a couple of history teams, each with two personnel, to interview responders.

Experienced in dealing with hurricanes, LTG Honoré had improvised an effective interim effort before trained historians got to the scene. Once they arrived, civilian and uniformed historians interviewed a mix of responders, insuring the coverage was joint in nature. JTF-Katrina stood down in early October, but before it did LTG Honoré tasked his staff to get an experienced historian to write an official history of the joint military response to hurricanes

Katrina and Rita. Out of several candidates, he selected Lieutenant Colonel Alan R. Koenig from Hector, Minnesota, a recent Army Reserve retiree of HQ NORAD/USNORTHCOM's history office. An adjunct Military and Russian history professor at the University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO), Koenig had completed several historical officer tours dating back to the peace implementation effort in the Balkans. By early January 2006, he had reported to HQ First Army at Fort Gillem, Georgia, and immediately began organizing the Katrina archives, writing chronologies, and interviewing First Army personnel. The Joint Center of Operational Analysis (JCOA) at Portsmouth, Virginia had already interviewed many key First Army personnel for their publication on Katrina lessons, and not all had the time to do more interviews, especially since First Army had a high operational tempo preparing troops for duties in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Accordingly, Koenig and his team focused on other endeavors, concentrating on oral history. Their labors yielded much worthwhile information, and they filled gaps in the coverage by glean- ing information that unit, base, or service public affairs offices had posted on the Internet. Koenig's team included few formally trained historians. Lieutenant Colonel Hrinko was a pilot, and Master Sergeant Craig A. Mackey had been a jet engine mechanic. Several augmentees from the Air Force Historical Research Agency, few of whom were trained historians, also supported the effort from afar, submitting interview notes, narratives, and a few transcriptions

that they later rendered into more useable history.

Having transcribed dozens of interviews during his many historical tours, Koenig knew that transcribing was a tedious process that sucked the energy and motivation out of even the most zealous transcriber. Those sentenced to such work often have to record the same information over and over again, sometimes recording three paragraphs where three summary sentences could do just as well. Over the years, Koenig came to consider word-for-word transcribing as a fool's errand, given the time and effort involved as opposed to the yield. Clearly, US government historians can get a much higher return on resources by taking thorough notes from interviews, just



MAJ Anthony Randall, 102d Military History Detachment, conducts an oral history interview.

as a diligent college student will get virtually all the salient, and even the not-so-salient, points of a venerable professor's lecture. All this prompted Koenig to direct his staff to transcribe no more interviews, but to capture their details through good note taking. Furthermore, when taking notes, Koenig instructed his historians to focus on specific units or bases so they might develop good corporate knowledge of those entities. Once they had done so, the JTF History Group wrote chronologies, historical narratives of an individual's experiences, or better yet, products addressing a unit or base's effort for Katrina. These products then became building blocks for several manuscripts, especially if archival material and processed Internet gleanings buttressed their content.

While few AFHRA uniformed personnel were trained historians, most were highly motivated and performed well. Freed from the tedium of laboriously transcribing every word of an interview, they responded well to the new modus operandi since they could contribute to the JTF relief operation. In so doing, they captured the responders' selfless service and the difficult conditions under which they worked. Koenig insisted that those who had worked so hard got proper recognition in footnotes if not in bylines for narratives or articles. The lure of getting one's name in a byline is a nice carrot that supervisors can dangle before their charges, who must be persistent as they render vast amounts of raw material into processed history.

Byproducts of the JTF History Group's work included searchable databases, since not all of the material processed by the task force historians became formal manuscripts, but could be valuable for those researching the military's relief operations in years to come. By placing the historians' notes, narratives, and other material about unit activities in a single word processing file, historians can develop a useful product for researchers, since keyword searches, if not a visual perusal of a table of contents, will yield data quickly. This database can then be placed in an archive or web site, accessible to all. Other possibilities include references of base or unit activities, anthologies of veterans' experiences, and encyclopedias or cyclopedias.

As of January 2007, the JTF-Katrina History Group had produced the following drafts related to hurricane relief operations: A 500-page cyclopedia of HQ First Army's efforts, to include summaries of the oral history interviews, a lengthy combined chronology, a paper on

Katrina communications, and various and sundry lesser items; a 450-page overview of Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, and Civil Air Patrol operations; a 200-page reference work on National Guard, Army and Army Reserve, and State Defense Force efforts; a 100-page collection on the Navy's role in hurricane relief operations; a 45-page narrative on the Marine Corps and Navy Construction Battalion's role in hurricane relief operations; a 45-page overview of United State Public Health Service and Medical Reserve Corps efforts for Katrina; and a JTF Katrina photo chronology. The Katrina history group anticipates the products that it prepared, as well as the source material it collected, will soon be digitized and made available either through Northern Command in Colorado Springs or the Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL) at Fort Leavenworth.

Mr. C. Richard Anderegg, Director of the Air Force History Office, strongly supported the Katrina historical effort, as did the AFHRA's Dr. Charles O'Connell. What is more, National Guard historians supported the JTF-Katrina History Group by providing material and reviewing products prepared by the task force historians. Mr. Bill Epley of the Army Center of Military History provided a great deal of good advice and moral support for the project, as did Hans Pawlisch at the Joint History Office in the Pentagon. At Colorado Springs, the US Northern Command history office also supported the Katrina effort. Jerome Schroeder compiled a useful collection of Early Bird articles on compact disc that has proven to be a most useful source. Under Dr. Thomas Fuller's supervision, Dr. David Kelly has written a classified history of the command's activities.

The military history coverage of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts was transformed from an ad hoc effort to capture initial events to a formalized, deliberate effort to collect and arrange oral history interviews, primary and secondary source material, and photographs that chronicled the military's unprecedented efforts to aid the storm ravaged communities along the Gulf Coast following hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The documentary resources the group compiled, coupled with the histories its staff produced, will provide researchers and government policy makers a valuable resource when studying the military's response to the disaster.

Lt. Col. Alan Koenig, USAR, is an adjunct professor of history at the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

MAKING HISTORY

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Charles Gross, the Chief of the ANG history office, reports that his latest book, *American Military Aviation: The Indispensable Arm* (Texas A&M University Press) is in its third printing and has sold over 27,000 copies.

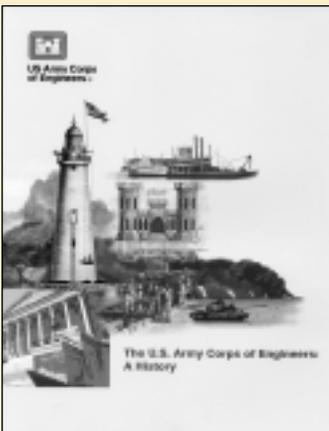
ARMY CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY

The Center recently published the first of three projected volumes on the *History of Operations Research in the United States Army*. Volume one covers the period 1942 to 1962. The author is Dr. Charles R. Shrader, a retired Army officer and former division chief at the Center.

Dr. Janet Valentine of the Center's Histories Division is the coauthor with William T. Allison of Weber State University and Jeffrey Grey of the Australian Defense Forces Academy of *American Military History: A Survey From Colonial Times to the Present* (Prentice Hall, 2007). This book is designed for undergraduate courses in American military history and covers such themes as the development of civilian control of the military; the American military at war; the professionalization of the American military; the use of American military power to achieve national strategic objectives; and the non-military uses of the American military throughout American history.

Two new historians joined the Center's Force Structure and Unit History Branch at the end of November. Mr. Joseph Seymour will be the branch's specialist on the organizational history of National Guard units. He holds a Master's Degree in history from Temple University and has conducted extensive research on the organization of artillery units in colonial Philadelphia. Ms. Kathleen Fargey comes to CMH from the National Archives where she worked on the Federal Register. She will be the branch's point of contact for Support, Quartermaster, Chaplains, and Judge Advocate General units.

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS



The Office of History has just published a book, "*The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: A History*." This new publication is a revised, expanded, and redesigned version of an older publication. Although not a comprehensive history of the Corps of Engineers, the new book attempts to introduce the reader to various aspects of Corps history from the

Revolution to the present. The current edition has a more modern, open design than the volume that it replaces, and uses many more images. The office hopes the history will appeal to a large and diverse audience, many of whom may not be familiar with the history of the Army Corps of Engineers.

At a recent meeting of the Potomac Corral of Westerners, Dr. Michael Broadhead delivered a lecture on "Isaac C. Parker: Federal Justice on the Frontier." In a presentation based largely on the controversial judge's published opinions, Broadhead summarized the story of a jurist whose life has often been obscured by the sensationalism of his criminal court cases.

In the fall of 2006 the *Florida Historical Quarterly* published Dr. Matt Percy's article entitled "The Ruthless Hand of War:" Andrew A. Humphreys in the Second Seminole War." The issue also included Humphrey's edited journal and a biographical sketch of the Army engineer.

Last October, historian James Garber presented a paper at the Conference on Washington, D.C. Historical Studies. Entitled "'Foul, Repulsive, and Unsightly,' Washington D.C.'s Sewage Problems and Improvements, 1865-1880," the paper traced the city's innumerable drainage problems caused by its natural topography. The unhealthy environment generated a century of strife for the city's commissioners, engineers, sanitarians, congressmen, presidents, and especially its long-suffering residents.



A view of the Washington Canal in the 1860s, fouled with silt, debris, refuse, and sewage.

CENSUS BUREAU

William Maury, Chief of the Census Bureau's history staff, announces the recent publication of the *History of the 2002 Economic Census*. The history, written by staff historians Jason Gauthier and Michael Hovland, documents the planning, promotion, collection, and publication of the

quinquennial economic census and its associated surveys. The publication is available by contacting the History Office at 301-763-1167 or via the Census Bureau's web site (<http://www.census.gov>).

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

CIA Historian Nicholas Dujmovic delivered a lecture in November 2006 at Brigham Young University's David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies as part of the Kennedy Center's Global Awareness lecture series. His presentation, "Turning the Telescope Around: The CIA Looks at Its History," can be viewed online at http://kennedy.byu.edu/events/lecture_archives.php.

DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY

Dr. Pat Harahan, the senior historian at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, received a fellowship at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, Smithsonian Institution for 2005-2006. While at the center he worked on a book entitled *With Courage and Persistence...the United States, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine and the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, 1992-2004*.

At the recent International Congress of Military History (ICMH) held in Potsdam, Germany, Dr. Harahan gave a presentation entitled "After the Soviet Union's Collapse: Emerging Nations and the Use of National Armies as Symbols of Sovereignty."

At the same ICMH Congress, there was a presentation by Dr. Bianka J. Adams, "TRUST: Guarding the Freedom of Trieste in Front of the Iron Curtain." Dr. Adams is a historian with the Defense Threat Reduction Agency.

NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Dr. Gary Weir became the Chief Historian in December 2006, replacing Dr. Martin Gordon who recently retired. Dr. Weir had been a historian at the Naval Historical Center since 1995.

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

The city-wide National History Day contest in Washington, DC, is scheduled for Saturday, April 28, at Howard University. You are invited to be a judge for the competition.

For those unfamiliar with National History Day, the national program promotes the study of history, while providing a forum in which students compete for excellence in one of several categories: documentary, performance, exhibit, and historical paper.

Approximately 200 students will compete in this contest with projects they have been working on for months. These

students will have been evaluated previously by teachers and by judges at their school competitions. Winners from the city-wide competition will be eligible to represent Washington, DC, at the National NHD contest held at the University of Maryland in College Park in June of this year.

Your help is needed from approximately 8 am to 1 pm. There will also be a need for a limited number of judges from 1 pm to 3:30 pm to judge the final round for both the Documentary and Performance categories.

To register to become a judge, go to <http://www.nhd.org/washingtondc.htm> and click on the link that says "Register to Judge." Follow the instructions and receive future information via e-mail or regular mail; or contact Missy McNatt at missy.mcnatt@nara.gov or 202-357-5121.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

The National Library of Medicine, a part of the National Institutes of Health, announces the release of an extensive selection from the papers of molecular biologist and science administrator, Harold Varmus, on its Profiles in Science Web site at <http://www.profiles.nlm.nih.gov>.

The Library has collaborated with the University of California, San Francisco Archives and Special Collections to digitize his papers and make them widely available. This brings to 20 the number of notable scientists who have personal and professional records included in Profiles.

The online exhibition features correspondence, laboratory and lecture notes, research proposals, published articles, and photographs from the Harold Varmus papers at the University of California, San Francisco. Visitors to the site can view, for example, Varmus's schematic depictions of gene control in birds, an extensive exchange of letters regarding the naming of HIV, and a photograph of Varmus receiving the Montgomery County (Md.) bicyclist of the year award.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Pete Daniel delivered two lectures in the fall of 2006. In October he presented the University of Maryland's Distinguished Lecture entitled "Class of the Sixties: Reflections on History and Culture in the Age of Protest." The following month he delivered the presidential lecture on "African American Farmers and Civil Rights" at the Southern Historical Convention in Birmingham, Alabama.



Nobel Laureate Harold Varmus, Credit: National Library of Medicine

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The Joseph Henry Papers Project at the Smithsonian Institution Archives has sent the manuscript of the eleventh, and last, volume of *The Papers of Joseph Henry* to the publisher. This volume documents Henry's life from January 1866 until his death in May 1878. With the completion of the edition, the project has been terminated, effective December 31, 2006.

Marc Rothenberg has become the historian for the National Science Foundation. He comes to the NSF from the Smithsonian Institution Archives, where he was editor of the Joseph Henry Papers Project. He can be reached at mrothenb@nsf.gov or at 301-292-7729.

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY

In December the National Cryptologic Museum opened a new display on two early intelligence satellites, GRAB and POPPY, which collected electronic intelligence during the Cold War. The Museum, which opened to the public in December 1993, hosts approximately 50,000 visitors annually. Located adjacent to NSA Headquarters at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, the museum's collection contains thousands of artifacts related to codes and ciphers. It is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9 am to 4 pm, and on the first and third Saturday of each month from 10 am to 2 pm.

NAVAL HISTORICAL CENTER

The Director of Naval History selected Lieutenant Joseph P. Slaughter II, USN, to receive the \$5,000 Rear Admiral Samuel Eliot Morison Scholarship, which is open to serving officers of the Navy and Marine Corps who are pursuing a graduate degree in history or a related field. The Director of Naval History has awarded Jakub J. Grygiel, on the staff of the Paul S. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, the 2005 Rear Admiral Ernest M. Eller Prize in Naval History for a superlative article published in a professional journal. For information and application forms relating to these award programs, consult the Naval Historical Center's web site, www.history.navy.mil, or contact the Center's Senior Historian, Dr. Edward J. Marolda, at (202) 433-3940.

The Naval Historical Center will be publishing four books this spring: *The U.S. Navy and the Korean War* edited by Edward J. Marolda; *Anchor of Resolve: A Short History of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/Fifth Fleet* by Robert J. Schneller, Jr.; *Black Sailor, White Navy: Racial Unrest in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War Era* by John Darrell Sherwood; and, *Interpreting Old Ironsides: Handbook of U.S.S. Constitution* by editors Charles E. Brodine Jr., Michael J. Crawford, and Christine F. Hughes.

The Center sponsors an ongoing series of lunch time seminars held at the National Museum of the United States

Navy, Building 76, the Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC. On March 20, James Wise will present a lecture on "Navy and Marine Corps Women at War;" and on April 17, Robert Davis will lecture on "Reinvigorating NATO's Naval Strategy: Challenge and Response of the 1960s." On May 15, Dr. David Winkler will present a talk entitled "Amirs, Admirals, and Desert Sailors" based on his recently published book. On June 19, James Hornfischer, will present a lecture on "The Long Ride of the Surface Warrior, 1942-1944."

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Seeking to bolster the use of history as a practical aid to decision making, over the past several months ODNI historian Dr. Michael Warner has visited most of the historians of the various intelligence community components, gaining insight into the depth and value of the historians' involvement in the components' daily work. Intelligence community historians perform a wide range of duties that includes advising policymakers, drafting classified studies, helping preserve documents and artifacts, and teaching new employees the heritage of their respective agencies.

To help establish consistent standards and expectations, and thus forge the historians' work into an instrument that can reach across the intelligence community, Dr. Warner convened the first meeting of the community's Senior Historians Panel (SHP) at the National Security Agency in August 2006. "After developing consistent guidelines across the historians' work," Dr. Warner said, "we can expect to see more effective use of historical information across the agencies." The SHP will meet again in the near future to begin setting guidelines for intelligence community historical functions.

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

In November 2006 the VHA History Office started an oral history pilot project at Veterans Administration Maryland Health Care System sites. The initiative was done in partnership with the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project (VHP) to record the oral histories of VA doctors, nurses, medical staff, and long-time employees, including both veterans and non-veterans. The pilot project will end in March 2007; the kick-off for the nationwide version of this special initiative will take place later in 2007. The first batch of oral histories recorded by the VA Maryland Health Care System was delivered to the VHP in mid-November 2006.

WARNER ROBINS AIR LOGISTICS CENTER

A new volume by William Head, Chief of the Office of History, titled *Shadow and Stinger: Developing the AC-119G/K Gunship in the Vietnam War* was published by Texas A&M University Press in January 2007.

FEDERALIST CALENDAR

Mar. 29–Apr. 1, 2007. Organization of American Historians (OAH) Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, “American Values, American Practices.” Visit <http://www.oah.org/meetings/2007/index.html> for details.

Apr. 12–15, 2007. National Council for Public History (NCPH) Annual Meeting, Santa Fe, NM. “Many Histories, Many Places—Common Ground?” Visit <http://www.ncph.org/2007/annualmtg.html> for details.

May 9–13, 2007. Council on America’s Military Past Annual Conference, Hampton, VA. E-mail camphart1@aol.com for details.

June 20–24, 2007. Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) Annual Meeting, Reston, VA. Visit <http://www.shafir.org/cfp.htm#popular> for details.

July 18–21, 2007. National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators (NAGARA) Annual Meeting, Kansas City, MO. “The Buck Stops Here: Responsibility and Opportunity.” Visit <http://www.nagara.org/index.cfm> for details.

Aug. 27–Sept. 2, 2007. Society of American Archivists (SAA) Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. Visit <http://www.archivists.org/conference/chicago2007/index.asp> for details.

Oct. 24–28, 2007. Oral History Association (OHA) Annual Meeting, Oakland, CA., “The Revolutionary Ideal: Transforming Community through Oral History.” Visit http://omega.dickinson.edu/organizations/oha/org_cfp.html for details.

Nov. 16–18, 2007. The Association for Documentary Editing (ADE) Annual Meeting, Richmond, VA. Visit <http://etext.virginia.edu/ade/upcomingconf/index.html> for more details.

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