



## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

# Falcon Footnote

Fall 2024

Volume 32

Academic Year 2024-2025

## Commander's Call: Colonel Matt "Meta" Dietz



My Fellow Historians,

We are off into another school year with a new Superintendent and some changes within the cadet wing. Fortunately, DFH is doing what we do best, teaching history to the next generation of military leaders.

First on our agenda, beyond the classroom,

was the Harmon Memorial lecture, given by Dr. [Michelle Moyd](#) from Michigan State University. A DFH alum, she carried the department's legacy of excellence with her, and she definitely enlightened the cadets with WWI's legacy in Africa.

We have cadets winning research awards and indoctrinating new faculty. Undoubtedly our Spring will be just as full.

On a personal note, this will be my last year as the department head and my last year in the Air Force. I will offi-

cially retire in September 2025, and my last days in the seat will be the first week of June 2025. I want to thank the department and the alumni for their support, allowing me to lead and be a part of an amazing organization. I will miss my time here and in the Air Force, and I will miss the people the most. I will forever carry with me the department—once a DFHer, always.

Finally, I also want to invite anyone who wants to attend to my retirement ceremony and

celebrations—more info to follow.

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## Department Welcomes New Faculty

Distinguished Visiting Professor **G. Kurt Piehler**, Director of the Institute of World War II and the Human Experience at Florida State University, received his BA from Drew University and his MA and PhD from Rutgers. He has held academic positions at the City University of New York, Drew University, Rutgers University, and the University of Tennessee.



In 2008, he was a Fulbright Lecturer in American Studies at Kobe University and Kyoto University. Among his books are *A Religious History of the American GI in World War II* and *Remembering War the American Way*. Piehler edited the *Encyclopedia of Military Science, The United States in World War II: A Documentary Reader*, and many

other titles. As founding director of the Rutgers Oral History Archives, he conducted more than 200 interviews with veterans of World War II.

Lieutenant Colonel **Joseph D. Eanett**, Assistant Professor, graduated from Virginia Military Institute, served as a Security Forces officer for five years, and deployed with a brigade of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division in Iraq and Afghanistan.

At Misawa AB, Japan, he was a first responder during the 2011 Earthquake and Tsunami. He cross-trained to become an intelligence officer and served as an analyst for the Alaskan Region of NORAD and the National Security Agency. An experienced educator, Lieutenant Colonel Eanett taught Naval History, Modern Western History, and the History of Epi-



demics at the U.S. Naval Academy. His doctorate is from Temple University. He teaches core Military History.

Lieutenant Colonel **Joel Barnes** holds degrees from Virginia Military Institute (BA, History & Japanese 2009), American Military University (MA, Intelligence Operations 2013), and Norwich University (MA, American History 2016).



He previously taught at the Intelligence Officer Course at Goodfellow AFB and the Squadron Officer School at Maxwell AFB. He is a career intelligence officer who deployed to the Middle East four times. He is now an Instructor, teaching Military History to fourth class cadets. His specialties are the Ameri-

can Civil War, Revolutionary War, World War II, Vietnam, and the Global War on Terrorism.

Lieutenant Colonel **Gilberto Sambolin Perez** (BA, University of Puerto Rico, Ponce; MA, Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico) is a career Intelligence Officer currently assigned as an Instructor and Deputy Director of Development in DFH. He mentors over 100 students and manages 12 departmental portfolios, including academic advising, cadet summer research programs, and graduate program scholarships.

Lieutenant Colonel Sambolin Perez is also re-



sponsible for annually instructing the History of Modern Warfare case studies to approximately 180 future officers.

Major **John Prince** (BA, Oklahoma Baptist University, MA, Universi-

ty of Tennessee, PhD, Florida State University) re-joined the History Department in June 2022 after having previously taught in the department from 2013-2016. Prior to his current teaching assignment, Major Prince served as the Operations Officer at the 22d Force Support Squadron at McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas, where he also deployed in support of Operations FREEDOM'S SENTINEL, RESOLUTE SUPPORT, and ALLIES REFUGE.



Major Prince's doctoral dissertation was "Keeping 'Em Flying: The American Ground Crew Experience in Europe During World War II." Usually the ground crews have been thought of as "unsung heroes"; he brought their stories into the foreground. Now an Assistant Professor, his research and scholarly interests include World History, Military History, and War & Society.

Major **Winston "Pepé" Jean-Pierre**, a USAFA history major in the Class of 2010, is now an Instructor at his alma mater. "J-P" is a Senior Air Battle Manager with



nearly 2,000 flying hours on the E-3 AWACS.

Major Jean-Pierre was an instructor and evaluator on both the E-3 and Japanese Aerospace Defense Ground Environment. He deployed five times to support Operations INHERENT RESOLVE, SPARTAN SHIELD, and ENDURING FREEDOM. His degrees are an MA from Rutgers in Global and Comparative History and an MBA from Oklahoma State University. He is teaching four sections of core World History.

Captain **Nicholas A. Eckenrode** is an Instructor. Enlisting in 2008, he was an aerospace medical technician stationed in Europe and the Middle East. In 2015, he commissioned through the University of Oklahoma's ROTC pro-



gram with a BA in History. As a nuclear operations officer, he served in the missile fields of North Dakota and Montana and earned an MA in Military History from Norwich University. He recently completed his PhD at Ohio State University. Focusing on the Cold War's foreign relations, national security, and nuclear strategic studies, his research examined the consequences of failing to maintain a strategic direction, or grand strategy, within U.S.-Soviet relations in the 1970s-80s.

**Stephanie Makowski** earned her PhD at The City University of New York Graduate Center in 2024 and taught world history courses across New York City as a teaching fellow and as an adjunct instructor. Her research examines connections between gender, race, empire, and war in modern Britain and how interracial relationships drove larger conversations about empire, migration, and activism.

She received a disserta-

tion fellowship last year from the Schomburg Center Scholars-in-Residence program, and in 2022 from the North American Con-



ference on British Studies. Her BA is from Mary Baldwin University, where a study abroad program at Oxford changed the trajectory of her career. The University of Kent in Canterbury awarded her MA in War, Media and Society. She is teaching World History.

Second Lieutenant **Jeremiah Pinon** is from Roswell, NM, "where the sand is coarse, and the aliens are real." He graduat-

ed from USAFA in the Class of 2024 and is now a casual lieutenant in DFH awaiting a pilot training slot. He considers himself blessed to be with the department he loved as a cadet.

In his free time, he likes to workout, watch movies,



ski, and take long walks on the beach. Outside of being a pilot, his life plan is to win the lottery, get REALLY into woodworking, and live the rest of his days in a seaside town in a foreign country, fishing and surfing by day, and playing guitar in a local jam band by night.

[Editor's comment: "Good luck with the dream, lieutenant!"]

**Fight Songs also hummed in the DFH hallways by new faculty.**



Falcons



Keydets



Rangers



Leones



Tigers



Sooners



Flying  
Squirrels

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:

### SARA B. CASTRO



Sara B. Castro is an associate professor of history at the U.S. Air Force Academy. She has served as course chair for USAFA's offerings in East Asian history, Chinese history, the history of unconventional warfare and espionage, and the core and scholars' offerings of global history. She is also the President of the Society for Intelligence History, and she serves on the editorial board of the *International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence*.

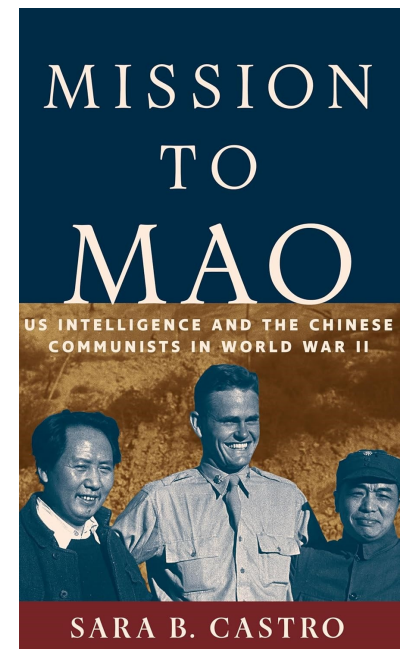
Castro's book [\*Mission to Mao: US Intelligence and the Chinese Communists in World War II\*](#) was released this Sep-

tember. She also co-edited with Jadwiga Biskupska *Shots in the Dark: Experimentation, Success, and Failure in the Second World War*, expected to be released in August 2025. She has published in various journals, including *The Journal of Military History* and *International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence*.

Castro was named a China Fellow at the Wilson Center in 2020. From 2016 to 2019, she served as the Associate Director of the Triangle Institute for Security Studies (TISS) ICCAE program and as a teaching assistant professor in the Curriculum on Peace, War, and Defense at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill specializing in global security and intelligence history.

She earned a doctorate in history from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 2016 and a master's degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in 2004. Before becoming a professor, Castro worked as an intelligence analyst on East Asia for the Central Intelligence Agency.

As a DFH instructor, Castro frequently uses examples from her career experience in intelligence to show cadets how they can apply the historical context they are studying directly to critical thinking about current world events. She also serves as a resource in Fairchild Hall for cadets seeking to learn more about China. In addition to supporting cadets for independent research on China, Castro frequently partners with colleagues in other departments at China-focused events to help cadets and other faculty understand China's role in strategic competition.





# Holocaust Education Trip to Poland and Germany

## By Meredith Scott

In early June, Major Chris Reith and I led eight cadets on a trip to Poland and Germany to study the Holocaust. The cadets were Samuel Beyer, KC Cannon, Jackson Darlington, Cooper Feinberg, Kaitlyn Keinast, Samuel Nelson, Naomie Pawlikowski, and Katherine Ruffing. The extremely fruitful trip provided an immersive educational experience that took us to important sites in two countries central to the Holocaust. The itinerary kept a rigorous pace, allowing us to make the most of our eight days. The days were full, each one focusing on critical events and locations. Geographically, the trip began in Poland (with Krakow, Lublin, and Warsaw as central city locales) and then moved to Germany, with Berlin as the base for two days.

Building on our experiences in Poland and Germany in 2022, this year's trip in-



**Cadets at Auschwitz with a guide**



**The memorial at the Majdanek camp in Poland, on the outskirts of the site**

cluded visits to Jewish neighborhoods, synagogues, cemeteries, and museums that underscored the richness of Jewish life prior to 1933 and the Holocaust. Cadets also visited sites of Holocaust memory and memorialization, including Auschwitz, Majdanek, the Lublin ghetto, the Warsaw ghetto, and Sachsenhausen. We also visited important museums, including the Oskar Schindler Museum in Krakow, the Warsaw Uprising Museum, the Polin Jewish Museum in Warsaw, and the Topography of Terror Museum in Berlin.

Among the themes we considered were collective memory and its construction. As you might imagine, the nature of our trip was both intense and heavy. We deliberately built in time for the cadets to decompress

and enjoy themselves and create a learning community. Each day, we shared meaningful conversations and discussions, and we carry this experience with us.

Our intentionality regarding Holocaust education is motivated by several factors. We are acutely aware that genocides are ongoing and that our mission is to educate future military officers. We are committed to helping cadets understand the crucial role that militaries play in preventing genocide and ending mass violence. They will be able to recognize and prevent such atrocities and influence policy that protects democracy and human rights within the Department of Defense and with domestic and international partners.

# 2024 DFH Cadet Summer Research Program

By Lt Col Gilberto Sambolin Perez

The United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) Cadet Summer Research Program (CSRP) is crucial in preparing future leaders by providing cadets with hands-on, immersive experiences beyond traditional classroom instruction. These programs offer cadets unique opportunities to apply their academic knowledge to real-world challenges, enhancing their understanding of the complexities they will face as officers. The USAFA History Department (DFH) partnered with eight sponsors this year.

This year, DFH sent cadets to conduct historical research at the WWII Aviation Museum in Colorado and the Museum of Aviation in Georgia. These cadets strengthened their military history acumen while connecting historical lessons to contemporary military strategy and operations. Furthermore, these students sharpened their writing skills and delivered academic pa-

pers for these organizations.

The CSRP also fostered interdisciplinary learning by placing cadets in environments where they could interact with professionals from commands such as SPACECOM, NORAD, NORTHCOM, and AFCENT. These experiences allow cadets to see firsthand how historical knowledge informs current military tactics, strategy, and policymaking. Engaging with organizations like the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) and the Simon Wiesenthal Center also broadened our cadets' global security and ethics perspectives—and their understanding of historical contexts in enhancing human rights and future military and diplomatic decisions.

The research conducted during these summer programs significantly contributed to the advancement of the history field and the intellectual growth of the cadets.

This program received positive feedback from the student cohort due to enhancing their critical thinking, research, and analytical skills. They earned the USAFA Humanities Division CSRP awards in the Cadets First- and Second-Class categories. They will be competing at the Dean of the Faculty level in late September.

Our cadets were honored by the opportunity to travel and network with outside organizations. These experiences helped them develop the ability to synthesize complex information and apply it in a practical context, preparing them for the distinct challenges they will encounter in their military careers. The CSRP experience is not just about academic knowledge but about forming well-rounded leaders of character who are tactically proficient and strategically insightful.

**Cadet posters won at the Humanities Division level (Cadet First Class and Cadet Second Class categories). Cadet Fischer's research also won the Thomas D. Moore Award in the Humanities Division. Our cadets will brief their presentations to the Air Force's most senior leaders during the CORONA.**

C1C / Andrew Fischer  
**F-4D Phantom S/N 66-7554, Museum of Aviation**  
 Museum of Aviation, Warner Robins, Col. (Ret.) Jeff Brett, President/CEO  
 USAFA Department of History

**INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND**

- Develop in-depth knowledge of the operational capabilities and historical significance of an F-4D aircraft
- Identify, preserve, and safeguard historical artifacts of critical importance

**TASKS / ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Authored narrative history on F-4D S/N 66-7554
- ID'd critical gaps in aircraft's aerial victories and post-Vietnam history
  - Conducted research at Maxwell AFB's archives
  - Unveiled deficiencies in AF records keeping
  - Discovered crucial one-of-a-kind WWII historical artifacts
  - Conducted detailed analysis & unearthed pieces of WW2's untold history
  - Flagged artifacts for additional curation
  - Organized display item storage
  - ID'd dedicated storage area
- Designed a collection for Lt Col Kenneth Rondo Carson, preserving several rare artifacts

*Below: The shadow box used to create the Carson collection*

*Above: 66-7554 during the Vietnam War, most likely at Udorn RTAFB*

**AF AIR FORCE ACADEMY**

C2C Kayli J. Hilburn  
**Commander's Intent at the Southwest Border (2020 – 2024)**  
 NORAD and USNORTHCOM, Dr. Richard Marsh, Deputy Command Historian  
 USAFA Department of History

**INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND**

- USNORTHCOM:** "Provide command and control of Department of Defense homeland defense efforts and to coordinate defense support of civil authorities."
- How my research informs the future fight:**
  - Provides insight on interagency coordination and congressional authorities
  - Realistic picture of the Southwest border to inform future operational plans, homeland security, and defense

**TASKS / ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Authored a 13-page draft of USNORTHCOM's Involvement under General VanHerck's Command at the Southwest Border (2020 – 2024)**
- Historian Staff appreciated the visual of two accurate timelines and answers on the increase in Unaccompanied Children and the anticipated "Surge" of the calendar year 2023

**Week 1:** Intro to NORAD & USNORTHCOM

- Discussions w/ Historian & Command Staff
- Data gathering of mission sets

**Week 2:** Primary and Secondary Source Analysis

- Commander's Command's archives
- Historian Staff's archives
- DIO's and CBP's documents
- Drafted two accurate timelines along with answered guided research questions

**Week 3:** Finalized Work and Extra Opportunities

- Edits, sources & citations
- Met with S&B PB, IE, Intel, and NSA staff
- Submitted work in Historian Staff Archives

**FUTURE PLANS**

- Next Step:** NORAD and USNORTHCOM History Office will combine this research and will publish in a Command History.
- High impact on future Southwest Border operations
- Enhanced warrior ethos
- Deeper understanding of operational-level research and its application to future USDF operations
- Strengthened USAFA/Commander's Command partnership

**AF AIR FORCE ACADEMY**





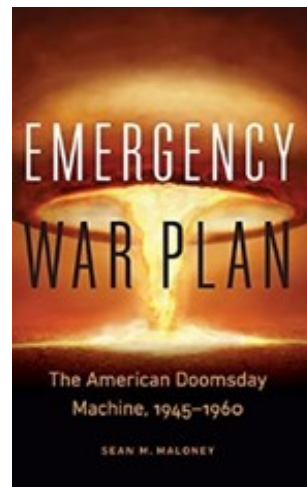
**Become A Member:** [afhistory.org/](https://afhistory.org/)

AFHF Website: [afhistory.org/](https://afhistory.org/) The Journal of the AFHF: [afhistory.org/journal-of-the-air-force-historical-foundation/](https://afhistory.org/journal-of-the-air-force-historical-foundation/)

The Air Force Historical Foundation is proud to announce the recipients of this year's Foundation literary awards. The recipients will receive their awards at the 22 May 2025 AFHF Annual Awards Banquet that will be held at the National Air and Space Museum, Udvar-Hazy Center located in Chantilly, VA. Each recipient is also slated to participate in a discussion panel at the AFHF Symposium on 21 May at the Hazy Center. The AFHF Symposium previously scheduled for November 2024 has been rescheduled for 21 May 2025 at the Udvar-Hazy Center and is limited to 140 participants. Check the website for registration information coming soon. <https://www.afhistory.org/2024-fall-symposium-literary-awards-and-museum-conference/>

### 2023 AFHF Air Power History Book Prize

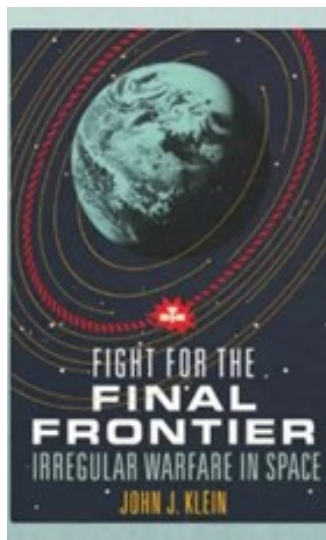
**Sean Maloney**, *Emergency War Plan: The American Doomsday Machine, 1945-1960*. Lincoln, Neb: Potomac, 2021



### 2023 AFHF Book Prize for Space (for a series or multiple titles)



**John J. Klein**, *Understanding Space Strategy: The Art of War in Space* (London, UK: Routledge, 2019).



**John J. Klein**, *Fight for the Final Frontier: Irregular Warfare in Space* (Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 2023).

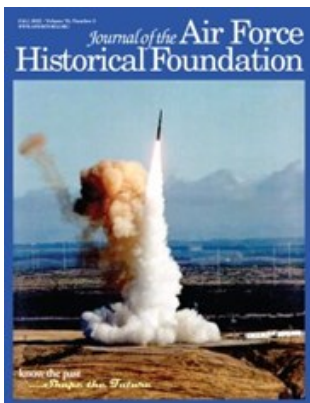


## 2023 AFHF Best JAFHF Article Award



“The SA-2 and U-2: The Rest of the Story,” by **John A. Schell** (Journal of the Air Force Historical Foundation, Summer, 2023)

## 2024 AFHF Special Medal for “Old School” Technical Research. *This is a Special AFHF Literary Award* for original primary source technical research across two articles

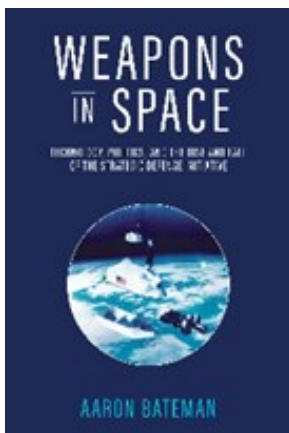


“Ballistic Missile Shock Isolation Systems,” by **David K. Stumpf** (Journal of the Air Force Historical Foundation, Winter 2022)



“Operation Button Up: Security at Minuteman Launch Facilities,” by **David K. Stumpf** (Journal of the Air Force Historical Foundation, Fall 2023)

## 2024 Space History Book Prize



**Aaron Bateman**, *Weapons in Space: Technology, Politics, and the Rise and Fall of the Strategic Defense Initiative*, MIT Press (2024).

[Click](#) to view the Fall Edition of the Raider Chronicles. Many thanks to our contributors this month: Curt Bedke, Phil Meilinger, Paul Tibbets, Darrel Whitcomb, Scott Willey, and a special thanks to Don Bishop, who provides a look back at a classic from the 1960s for this month’s book review. And as always, we love input and feedback from our readers, so please don't hesitate to reach out to us at [newslettereditor@afhistory.org](mailto:newslettereditor@afhistory.org)



# Alumni Association

## Larry Weaver



A new academic year, new faculty members, a new class and new opportunities. Welcome to the Fall 2024 edition of the *Falcon Footnote*. Department news is our primary focus in this edition and as you read the new faculty bios, flashback to your first semester and smile.

There are also several excellent articles on cadet research trips over the summer. Hopefully, we will be able to help the Department expand those opportunities in the future.

Our continuing partnership with the Air Force Historical Foundation yields yet another great page by Dik Daso with the dates for the Spring 2025 symposium in the Washington DC area. As always, we are looking for alumni to contribute, so if you have an idea, please let Dik or I know. In our last issue, Larry Skogen served as our star with a building named after

him at Bismarck State. This edition features our own Don Bishop. The Defense Information School inducted Don into their Hall of Fame. I also want to call your attention to Mark Clodfelter's article on General Fogleman and his wife who are the subject of an ongoing DFH Alumni project to honor their contributions to our nation. In the next addition we will discuss the efforts of our various committees to advance our cause of supporting DFH.

In closing, Halloween is upon us. I suggest everyone go trick or treating as their favorite historical figure and send us the stories.

To join the DFH Alumni Association, go to our website [here](#) and fill out the form. It only takes a few minutes, and it is free.

On August 7, 2024, The Defense Information School (DINFOS) held its Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony as part of a celebration of its 60-year anniversary. We are proud to announce that former DFH Don Bishop was one of the inductees. Congratulations Don! Another great honor for a great American. To view the induction ceremony go [here](#). The presentation to Don is at 25:32 on the video.





# Alumni Association Plans to Honor General Fogleman and Miss Jane

By Mark “Clod” Clodfelter (DFH: 1983-1985, 1987-1990)

DFH Alumni Association members are working with the USAFA Class of 1963 to honor USAF General Ron Fogleman and his wife, affectionally known as “Miss Jane.” General Fogleman, a member of the Class of 1963, was the first USAFA graduate to become the Air Force Chief of Staff, serving in that position from 1994-1997.

He received the Silver Star and two Distinguished Flying Crosses for his service during the Vietnam War, where he flew 315 combat missions and logged 806 hours of combat time. General Fogleman also taught in USAFA’s history department from 1970-1973.

Miss Jane, who passed away in 2023 and had been married to the general for 60 years, made real contributions to the Air Force as well as the other services. In recognition of her support to the families of joint service personnel, Miss Jane was awarded the Department of Defense Outstanding Civilian Service Award and further received the United States Air Force Outstanding Civilian Service Award.

To memorialize the Foglemans’ many contributions to the Air Force and its sister services, the Alumni Association has met via Zoom with Class of



1963 Class Scribe (and former DFHer) Skip Lee, along with USAFA Class of 1971 grad Jim Nance, who has become an accomplished sculptor since his Air Force retirement. Jim sculpted the dramatic bronze statue of USAFA Class of 1965 Medal of Honor recipient Captain Lance Sijan that appears in the Academy’s Southeast Asia Pavilion near Doolittle Hall; the monumental bronze statue of triple-ace Robin Olds and an F-4 that grace the Academy’s Air Warrior Combat Memorial adjacent to the B-52; and the bronze bust of former DFHer and USAFA Rugby Coach Alan Osur, along with many other works of art.

The proposal is to honor the Foglemans with a Nance-sculpted bronze of the pair

that would potentially appear adjacent to the display honoring the Class of 1963 in Arnold Hall. Nance stated that such a sculpture would likely cost approximately \$100,000. Lee said that ’63 grads would likely help contribute to raising that sum, though all Academy grads, friends of DFH, and indeed anyone who knew the Foglemans and appreciated their influence on the Air Force could contribute.

A computer-controlled kiosk would accompany the busts, allowing cadets, grads, and Arnold Hall visitors to explore various facets of the lives of General Fogleman and Miss Jane. Snippets from interviews and personal remembrances would appear on the kiosk.

One of those memories comes from General John Fairfield, a DFH friend, who often worked with General Fogleman during Fairfield’s career. General Fairfield recalled when General Fogleman became Chief of Staff, he instituted the practice of all Air Force three- and four-star generals stationed at the Pentagon meeting in the Chief of Staff’s private dining room in the building for Thursday lunch. Fairfield noted that the newest three-stars assigned to the Pentagon had to serve the other generals wearing aprons to start the

lunch, and then General Fogleman, with his history background, would ask various subordinates an Air Force history question to generate an interest in Air Force heritage on the part of the senior leadership. This focus on the history of the Air Force and military operations became a part of his tenure when he established the Chief of Staff's professional reading program.

On his first "formal" lunch with a substantial chunk of the Air Force's leadership, General Fogleman also added an admonition that he had received from Miss Jane. He remarked that now that he was Chief, Miss Jane told him that "fighter pilot language"—the colorful phrases often sprinkled with liberal doses of four-letter vocabulary that pilots frequently used as standard communication—were now off-limits for him, given that he had the dignified position of Chief of Staff. General Fogleman remarked that he agreed with her assessment, and that such language would now be off-limits for the Air Force officers and NCOs while they served in the Pentagon—to consider holding themselves to such a standard. He later remarked that he may have fallen a little short of complying with Miss Jane's admonishment.

General Fairfield offered another recollection about General Fogleman that Fogleman had related about his time as a cadet—and that had a direct impact on his service in Southeast Asia. The Academy had a

requirement that all graduates must pass a swim test by advancing a quarter-mile in the seven-foot deep water polo pool. Try as he might, Fogleman succeeded only in flailing in the water. When the day of the test arrived, he asked his instructor if the specifics of the test necessitated swimming? The instructor responded that to pass the test a cadet had to complete the required laps in the pool to have traveled a quarter-mile in the water, and he didn't see how that would be possible without swimming.

Fogleman answered that he was going to try another method.

When his name was called, he took a deep breath, jumped into the pool, and flailed away while progressing forward in the pool until he ran out of energy and needed a break. He then took a gulp of air and sunk to the bottom, walking forward until he needed more air. He then surfaced, took another deep breath, and repeated the process until he met the quarter-mile requirement. He never did learn to swim, but he received credit for passing the swim test.

In 1968, while piloting an F-100 Super Sabre during the Vietnam War, Fogleman's episode at the Academy and his inability to swim came into play. When his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft artillery fire while flying a ground support mission in the southern part of South Vietnam, he tried to make it to the Gulf of Thailand before he bailed out.

As he coaxed his stricken aircraft toward the sea, eventually the fire warning light came on and he knew it was time to eject. He also knew that he was over rice paddies surrounded by canals—and that he could not swim.

After parachuting from his disabled aircraft, he deployed every water survival apparatus that he had, to include his Mae West and his life raft. "I'm sure I looked like a pretty large target," he reflected, "kind of like a hot air balloon."

Yet instead of drifting into the Gulf of Thailand, he landed in a flooded rice paddy, surrounded by a series of canals filled with neck-high water. Fogleman recalled seeing a woman in the rice paddy run away as he descended near her; a young boy, who had poked his head out of a nearby spider hole, ducked back into the hole when he saw Fogleman. The Viet Cong had seen him as well, and they advanced on his position.

Fogleman realized that to survive he had to get out of the rice paddy and into one of the canals. He had radio communication with the Forward Air Controller (FAC) circling above. The FAC radioed two F-100s that were diverted to keep the Viet Cong from closing in on Fogleman's position. Fogleman, meanwhile, hid in a canal underneath a ledge. He realized that a VC infantryman had moved to the ledge above his position and began firing his AK-47 at the FAC—he was so close that



the brass expended from his weapon fell into the canal a few inches in front of Fogleman, whom he did not see.

Eventually, the crews of two US Army AH-1 Cobra attack helicopters heard the radio transmissions on Guard and offered to assist in the recovery. One of the choppers landed in a rice paddy about 30 yards in front of Fogleman's position, while the other hovered above and provided fire support.

The crew of the Cobra that had landed notified Fogleman that he needed to get out of the canal if he expected to be rescued.

The VC soldier had abandoned his position once the Cobras arrived, and Fogleman started to run in the canal for the helicopter—fully expecting to be shot in the

back when he did so. Yet that was not the case. When he reached the chopper, the gunner in the Cobra's front seat showed him how to open the gun bay door. The helicopter then flew Fogleman, clinging to the door, twenty miles to a Special Forces Camp. At the camp an Air Force helicopter flew him to an Air Force medical facility where the 26-year-old captain was treated to a bourbon toast, and subsequently transported back to his base at Bien Hoa.

The rescue was the first—and only—Cobra rescue of an American pilot during the war.

Similar anecdotes will highlight the lives of General Fogleman and Miss Jane, revealing them not only to be stellar leaders, but also extremely innovative

and caring. General Fogleman's many legacies, to include the establishment of the Air Force's "Core Values"—"Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do," the creation of the Chief of Staff's "Professional Reading List," and his decision to retire rather than resign in protest over failure to promote Brigadier General Terry Schwalier in the aftermath of the 1996 Khobar Towers bombing, all occurred with Miss Jane by his side as his chief consultant. The story of the Foglemans should not only inspire future generations of cadets—and all Americans—but further show all those who view the busts and kiosk that the greatest Air Force leaders are also those that are the most human.



# An Academic Powerhouse: Colonel William E. Simons

## By Donald M. Bishop (DFH 1975-1979)

When Captain Bill Simons drove from his quarters to Fairchild Hall in the winter cold and snow, he no doubt said to himself, “my, what balmy weather!”

The initial USAF assignments of this 1950 Naval Academy graduate had made him a cold weather specialist. He was an adjutant, installations engineer, and personnel officer at Selfridge AFB with its “freezing, snowy, and windy” winters. His “foreign service” tour was as wing supervisor of arctic survival training at Thule, Greenland.

He arrived at USAFA in 1958 with an MA and Ed.D from Columbia University Teachers College, and he taught in the Department of History until 1962. His degrees in education, rather than history, proved valuable as the Academy faculty — much a pickup team in 1955 — professionalized courses and instruction. In the Department of History, his talents were recognized by Colonel John R. Sala, department head, himself a noted educator.

Between 1954, when the Academy was established by law, and 1959, when the first class graduated, there was considerable intellectual ferment and organizational turbulence. A bedrock principle for the new Academy was that it would provide a

liberal education. Secretary of the Air Force Stuart Symington stated the new Academy must include flight training, and the curricula for the Academy’s first three classes included an “airmanship program” that awarded navigator wings to graduating cadets. Academy planners were much influenced by the science and engineering focus of West Point and Annapolis. But General Harmon insisted on strong core sequences in the social sciences and the humanities. When curriculum options were on the table, members of the faculty, different academic divisions, and those under the Commandant, in the airmanship program, and in the athletic department all had their own ideas about what “liberal education” really meant.

It would be Colonel Robert McDermott, aided by key department heads including Colonel Sala and his successors, Colonel Wilbert Ruenheck and Colonel Alfred F. Hurley, who shaped the Academy into the institution we know today. Simons and Sala worked together. Retired Colonel Tom Julian (DFH 1959-1963, 1967-1970) recalls the two traveled together (with the non-rated Sala at the controls of an Aero Club aircraft) to meet officers in graduate pro-

grams.

In this academic tumult, Bill Simons’ contributions to the debate were two professional articles and a foundational book.

In its October 1961 issue, the U.S. Naval Institute’s *Proceedings* published “[The Service Academies and Higher Education](#)” by Captain Simons. It compactly summarized the development of service academies in Europe and the U.S. He judged “service academies are designed primarily to provide a general foundation upon which more advanced professional education, along with actual service experience, can build.” And he described a historic trend — “the academic growth of the service academies can be correlated with the gradual increase of this general education function.” Simons concluded the article with two lists of principles:

***What the Service Academies Should Do —***  
*“provide general education in both the liberal arts and engineering studies,”*  
*“provide opportunity for advanced academic work for the talented student,”*  
*“develop and induce in its students a professional military ethic that can set a standard for service throughout their profes-*



sional careers,” and impart that professional military knowledge necessary for a junior officer about to embark on a service career.”

**What the Service Academies Should Not Do –**

“attempt to produce a finished officer or an accomplished military technician,” “provide specialized education in either engineering or the liberal arts or in some specific field embraced by these categories,” attempt to offer patterns of education or training which other institutions are better equipped to provide.”

In retrospect, these principles matched the shaping of the Academy under Brigadier General Robert McDermott.

The Spring 1962 issue of *Military Affairs* published another foundational article by Major Simons, “[The Study of History and the Military Leader](#).” “[F]or military leaders,” he wrote, “the study of history becomes a professional necessity; the neglect of this study in American services creates a professional shortcoming.”

He observed the “paucity of efforts to coordinate and encourage scholarly activity in military history,” “the lack of emphasis given to history in our basic educational institutions,” and the “trend in American schools . . . increasingly to substitute courses in social studies or contemporary problems for traditional offerings in history.” Even “courses in military history, like courses in any other specialized history area, are only as effective as the general foundation which precedes them,” he argued. In the body of the article he offered many examples of how study of history would help address challenges faced by serving officers.

After USAFA, Lieutenant Colonel Simons was assigned to Headquarters Air Force/Plans and Operations, and then to RAND.

It was in 1965 that the Teachers College at Columbia University published his magisterial *Liberal Education at the Service Academies*. The book’s account of the historical development of education at

West Point, the Naval Academy, and the Revenue Cutter School (the predecessor to the Coast Guard Academy) is complemented by a portrayal of the curriculum debates preceding the USAF Academy’s establishment and in its first years. He was on hand as Brigadier General Robert McDermott, first dean of the faculty, set the course for USAFA’s future.

After he retired as a Colonel after 22 years in the Air Force, Simon continued at RAND and BDM Corporations. He wrote [ten studies for RAND](#) on topics ranging from Air Force planning, operational issues, NATO’s southern region, NATO mobilization, the JCS, and “Coercion in Vietnam?” He wrote three of the original Pentagon Papers. He also authored *Professional Military Education in the United States: A Historical Dictionary* (Greenwood, 2000).

Colonel Simons retired in the Washington area, noted as an ardent fan of Navy football. He passed away in 2018.



**William E. Simons, left to right:**

Admiral Farragut Academy, USNA Midshipman, LtCol at HAF, Dr. Simons at RAND



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In addition to membership information, you'll find a variety of publications and video resources by or about DFH alumni or current members of the department. The website also has information on archived Falcon Footnotes, Harmon Memorial Lectures, Military Symposia, and, sadly, those members lost but not forgotten.

