



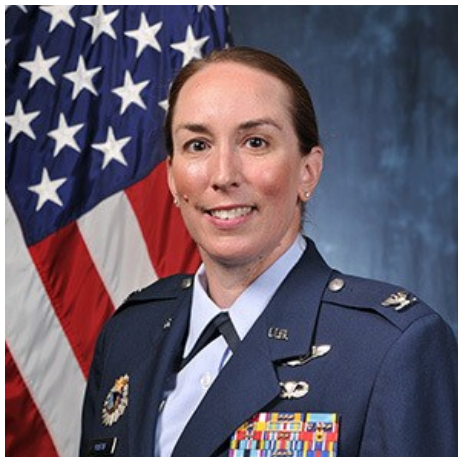
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Falcon Footnote

Volume 34, July 2025

Academic Year 2024-2025

Commander's Call: Colonel Meg Martin



Hello fellow DFHers! It is mid-summer already and we are staring Fall 2025 squarely in the eyes. This edition of the *Footnote* will share highlights from this last academic year and should give you a sense of the exciting opportunities donor funding affords to our cadets. We are pleased to share a glimpse into the Department business alongside all the alumni news.

In May, we graduated 22 History majors and 4 Foreign Area Studies-History majors. You will see a full listing of the majors on the following pages, and we are especially pleased to note that Quintin Kies graduated as a distinguished graduate and was recognized as the top cadet in the Humanities Division. Quintin, Jonas Jonsson, and Silas Strich all completed the requirements of the Martinson Honors Program. Additionally, Colby Tell will start graduate school at San Diego State University in the fall and enter our faculty pipeline as the Thiele Award winner—the recipient of the Graduate Studies Program scholarship. You will see a full round-up of our cadet award winners in this issue as well.

The Department is excited to announce this year's faculty award win-

ners. I'm especially proud to announce that **Dr Doug Leonard** (Lt Col, USAF, ret) was this year's recipient of the Heiser Award for the Humanities, the Academy's most distinguished teaching award, as chosen by the cadets. Doug is only the second member of DFH to earn the distinction, behind Dr Chuck Steele, who was honored in 2017.

We also recognized faculty members with our department awards for excellence in teaching, including: Outstanding Academy Educator—**Maj Chris Reith**; Zook Award for International History—**LTC Jake Couch, USA**; Shiner Award for Military History—**Maj Jordan Bolster**; Heidler Award for American History—**Dr Jenny Weber**; Orrison Award for Cadet Mentoring—**Lt Col Gil Sambolin-Perez**. Our faculty also earned recognition through academic promotion this year as well. Both **Dr Peter Villella** and **Dr Doug Leonard** earned promotion to Professor; **Lt Col Joe Eanett** and **Dr Stephanie Makowski** to Assistant Professor, and **Maj Christopher Reith**, **Maj Malloory Marlin**, and **Lt Col Gil Sambolin-Perez** all advanced to Senior Instructor. Behind these promotions was a mountain of excellent teaching and new scholarship. In this last academic year, DFH faculty members published more than 20 scholarly publications, ranging from a peer-reviewed monograph to book reviews, and presented over 30 times in both academic and public settings. If anyone is interested in reviewing Dr Bob Wettemann's latest publication, *Rhino Tanks and Sticky Bombs*, for the *Falcon Footnote*, let the editorial team know!

It is also that time of year when we say goodbye to a handful of colleagues. **Dr Chuck Steele** retires this summer and in this issue, Dr John Jennings has contributed an interview

with Chuck, capturing the essence of his nearly two decades in the department. **Col Matt Deitz** has retired after 26 years of active-duty service; take a moment to read about his accomplishments. **Lt Col Jess Brown** departed in late June for a new position as the commander of ROTC Detachment 840 at Texas State University, San Marcos, TX. Jess is a tremendous officer and educator—those cadets are lucky to have her! We also had to watch **Maj Chris Reith** pack up his office and move across the building to begin duties as the Executive Officer to the Dean. We will miss him in the classroom and department and are grateful to have him positioned as an advisor to the Dean. We were also sad to say goodbye to our distinguished visiting professor, **Dr Kurt Piehler**, who returned to Florida State University. The entire department benefited from Kurt's kindness, collegiality, and historical expertise.

Finally, we have just learned that retired **Brig Gen Carl Reddel**, the Academy's 41st Permanent Professor and our former Head of the Department of History, passed away earlier in July. The fall *Footnote* will include a celebration of his decades-long service to the Air Force and the historical profession.

To close out, I am pleased to remind this group that our DFH Alumni Association is planning a reunion this fall and if everything works as planned, the event will align with our Harmon Memorial Lecture, 14 Oct 2025. Please consider attending if your schedule allows. The fellowship of DFHers past and present has benefited the current department. We are grateful for the extended network and appreciate the interest and support offered by our Department of History alumni. With gratitude—and as always, "Once a DFHer, always a DFHer!"

In Memoriam: Brigadier General Carl Reddel

May 31, 1937– July 10, 2025



With great sadness, we report that on 10 July 2025, retired Brig Gen Carl Reddel passed away. All who knew General Reddel or had the pleasure of working with or for him, are saddened by his passing. He was a friend, a mentor, and a supporter for DFH and the Alumni Association. He will be missed. His military funeral was on 29 July at the Academy cemetery. This [link](#) will take you to the General's obituary.

In the fall *Falcon Footnote*, we will honor General Reddel with an "In Memoriam" section. We ask that you send any remembrance or story about him to include in that edition. You can email your tributes and remembrances to us at usafadfh alumni@gmail.com so we can include them. We look forward to hearing from you.



Alumni Association: Larry Weaver

Welcome to the graduation edition of the *Falcon Footnote*! In this edition, our focus is on the Department, and the articles should bring back fond memories of times gone by and make you appreciate the challenges this generation of DFHers and cadets face.

The next DFH Reunion is 14 -16 October. The last reunion was a big success and this one will be even better. We linked the reunion to the Harmon Memorial Lecture which will give us an opportunity to mix with faculty, cadets, and staff. We will sponsor the reception that follows the lecture. In addition, there will be a

tour of the "Chapel in a Box," the new stadium addition, and the Polaris Hotel. The reunion will culminate with quality time with Colonel Martin and the Department, a memorial service, and a banquet where we will recognize the Distinguished Alumni for 2024 and 2025. We will build in time to catch up, tell old stories, and get acquainted with DFH across generations. Success depends on one thing...**Go to the Reunion Page in this Footnote now and register!** Reserve your flight, book the Antlers Hotel, and let's celebrate our best AF assignment with the best people. We will see you in October.

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Our 2025 Graduates

General, American, and International History:

Cadet Jason Arnold
Cadet Simon Bolinger
Cadet Javin Bostic
Cadet Andrew Fischer
Cadet Jonas Jonsson
Cadet Hunter Kirby
Cadet Naomie Pawlikowski
Cadet Morgan Quire
Cadet Cooper Stroka

Military History:

Cadet Payne Barksdale
Cadet Jackson Basil
Cadet Benjamin Charlebois
Cadet Madigan Hiltz
Cadet Tyler Holcomb
Cadet Quintin Kies
Cadet Carson Lewis
Cadet Ryan Pattison
Cadet Joe Peacock
Cadet Samuel Ridgeway
Cadet Dylan Rogers
Cadet Colby Tell
Cadet Darrius Terrell

Foreign Area Studies—History:

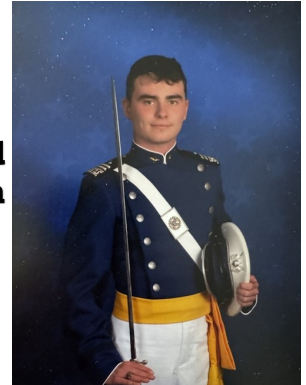
Cadet David Kenney
Cadet Katherine Ruffing
Cadet Silas Strich
Cadet Darien Tompkins

Cadet Awards



**General John K. Gerhart Fellowship
Cadet Darien Tompkins**

**Andrews Award
Cadet Ryan Pattison**



**Bong Award
Cadet Tyler Holcomb**

**7th Bomb Group Foundation Award
Cadet Andrew Fischer**



**Colonel Wayne C. Pittman Jr. Award for Excellence in Air-
power History
Cadet Don Strawbridge**

Cadet Awards



**American History Award
Cadet Morgan Quire**



**International History Award
Cadet Jonas Jonsson**



**Theile Award
Cadet Colby Tell**



**Rupp Award
Cadet Katherine Ruffing**



**Outstanding Senior Thesis Award, Wolfe Award, and
Top Cadet in the Humanities
Cadet Quintin Kies**

Faculty Farewells

After 26 years of service, Col J. Matthew “Meta” Dietz had his retirement ceremony on 6 June 2025. At the ceremony, the recently retired Dean commented that Meta’s career “bookended America’s longest war.” Colonel Dietz began his career as a navigator in KC-135s before going to pilot training, earning his wings, and becoming a Command Pilot in F-15Es with over 2,500 flight hours. He had numerous deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. He served as a NATO planner for Operation Unified Protector and was involved in Operation Allies Refuge.

He earned his PhD from the University of North Texas in 2020. In 2023, his monograph *Eagles Overhead: The History of US Air Force Forward Air Controllers, from the Meuse-Argonne to Mosul* was published with critical acclaim and fleshed out the historical treatment of airpower.

Colonel Dietz graduated from Texas A&M University in 1999 with a BA in history. At Texas A&M, Colonel Dietz met the love of his life, Lauren, and they were married in June 2000. Upon commissioning, he served as a navigator on KC-135s. During his time in the KC-135, Colonel Dietz flew worldwide missions and was deployed to support the initial US invasion of Afghan-



istan. Nearing the end of his first assignment, he competed for a pilot slot and went to pilot training in 2002. After earning his second set of wings, Colonel Dietz went on to accumulate the majority of his 2,700 flight hours in the F-15E Strike Eagle and T-38 Talon. He accumulated 338 hours of combat time flying the Strike Eagle in close air support missions for Allied forces over Iraq and Afghanistan. He was selected to be the NATO staff officer at the NATO Air Operations Center in Italy where he oversaw the NATO air campaign against Libya and developed a number of NATO-wide exercises.

After earning two master's degrees and his PhD, Meta was promoted to Colonel and became the Director of Air Operations for US Air Forces Central Command and was pivotal in directing air operations across the entire Middle East. He was a vital link in the success of the Afghanistan

withdrawal during Operation Allies Refuge in 2021, ensuring the safe air evacuation of over 120,000 people from Kabul. For his final assignment, Meta came back to the US to teach history at USAFA and served as Head of the History Department and the Dean's resident airpower expert. He completed his 26 years of service earning the Lance P. Sijan Leadership Award along with numerous Air Force, NATO, and campaign level medals.

Outside the cockpit and classroom, Meta is married to his beautiful wife, Lauren, and together they have two sons, Braxton and Will. Their support enabled Colonel Dietz to succeed and thrive in the face of all the numerous setbacks and unforeseen challenges the Air Force could throw at them. In retirement, Meta plans to fly for United Airlines and work on new projects with expected publication dates in 2026 and 2027. Lauren plans to take advantage of United trips from Denver and travel. Braxton will finish his degree at the University of Colorado and enter the dangerous world of law and politics. Will plans to study business in college after graduating high school.

For anyone who wants to contact Colonel Dietz or collaborate on a project, reach him at (208) 598-4689 or josephmdietz@gmail.com.

Faculty Farewells

Dr Chuck Steele, Professor of History and the Department of History's first Heiser Award winner, retired in June 2025 after 19 years of distinguished service in DFH. During his long tenure, Dr Steele made countless foundational contributions to the department's mission of teaching history for the profession of arms to cadets, especially in leading the design and execution of the department's military history curriculum. Here, Dr Steele shares a few concluding thoughts on his time in DFH:

Falcon Footnote: What gave you the greatest satisfaction in your years in DFH?

Dr Steele: Without a doubt, it was having the opportunity to work with the cadets majoring in military history. Don't get me wrong, I loved teaching the core military class. Teaching an introductory course on military history gave me immense satisfaction and a real sense of purpose. However, nothing could beat sharing time with cadets interested in the history of warfare. We fed each other's curiosity, and those interactions were less like work and more like an enjoyable intellectual adventure. I had the best job



in the world because the cadets made it fun.

FF: Other than teaching cadets, what will you miss most about DFH?

Dr Steele: There are two things that make retiring difficult. Both are drawn from the privilege of sharing my day with people I like and admire. Foremost among those I will miss is John Jennings. He has been a better friend and colleague than anyone would have a right to imagine. Every day, we had enjoyable and meaningful conversations about work and life. We leaned on each other personally and professionally. I also had the good fortune to work with Jeanne Heidler. She was the most amazing role model for a junior faculty member join-

ing DFH. For years, she was the North Star of the Department. Beyond being kind and gracious to me, she knew what right looked like and set the finest example. It was an honor to work with them.

The other thing that makes leaving difficult is retiring when so many people I knew as cadets are coming back into the department as faculty members. While Doug Leonard was a captain when I got to DFH, he is the kind of person that comes to mind when I think about the pleasure of working with people growing as historians and leaders. There are about a half dozen of my former cadets who have become my colleagues in recent years. It is heartening to see your hopes as a professor realized upon their return. It makes me a bit sad to leave, but knowing that I played a part in something worthwhile fills me with pride.

FF: Thank you for your devoted service in DFH and best wishes for wonderful retirement, Chuck!

Cadet Weapons Shoot 2025

By Dr Justin Simundson (Assistant Professor of History)



Thanks to a generous gift in-kind by the Class of 1988 and the tremendous efforts of DFH alum retired Army LTC Nathan Watanabe, the 2025 DFH Weapons Shoot was a great success that gave cadets a hands-on history lesson.

The shoot took place at Fort Carson, where cadets fired dozens of historical weapons, ranging from muskets and Colt revolvers to Tommy guns, M1 Garands, M16s, and more. LTC Watanabe brought all these weapons to USAFA before

the shoot and briefed cadets on their historical significance as well as safety procedures. C2C Don Strawbridge served as the Cadet in Charge, leading a cadre who learned about and trained with weapons from a specific era ahead of the shoot. During the shoot, these cadre wore full period uniforms and provided excellent instruction to the other cadets.

For many cadets who participated, the weapons shoot is the highlight of their time at the Academy and as a history major. Di-

rectly experiencing the evolution of US military weapons, equipment, and tactics is a valuable learning opportunity that gives cadets a much greater appreciation of their heritage as members of America's armed forces. Cadets who are able to serve as cadre for the shoot also receive a valuable opportunity to practice leadership in a practical way. The Department of History's mission is "to teach history for the profession of arms," and the weapons shoot is a perfect embodiment of what achieving that mission looks like.



Holocaust Education Trip to Poland

By Dr Meredith Scott (Associate Professor of History)

In late May/early June, Lt Col Winston Jean-Pierre led Cadets Ezra Barneson, Sabrina Basso, Katherine Longuil, and Don Strawbridge on a trip to Poland to study the Holocaust. The trip was educational and enriching, providing an immersive educational experience surrounding important historical sites within Poland, especially those central to the Jewish experience in Poland, and to the Jewish



experiences surrounding WWII, the Holocaust, and Poland under communist rule. The itinerary kept a rigorous pace, making the most of our five full days in Poland. The trip began in Krakow followed by visits to other central city locales near and in Lublin and Warsaw.

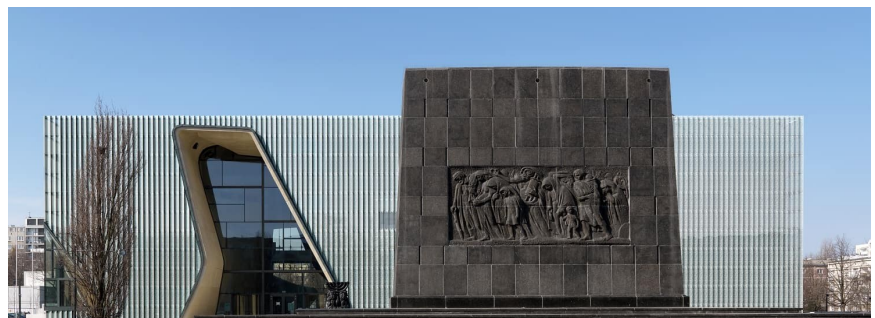
Building on our previous experiences in Poland and Germany in 2023, this



year's trip included visits to Jewish neighborhoods, synagogues, cemeteries, and museums that underscored the richness of Jewish life prior to 1933 and the Holocaust, life under the Nazis during Poland's occupation, treatment of Poland's Jews during the Holocaust, and the rebuilding of a Jewish community after the fall of the Nazis while under Communism. Cadets also visited sites of Holocaust memory and memorialization, including Auschwitz-Birkenau, Majdanek, the Lublin ghetto, and the Warsaw ghetto. We also visited important museums, including the Oskar Schindler Museum in Krakow, the Warsaw Uprising

Museum, and the POLIN Jewish Museum in Warsaw. Among the themes we considered were collective memory and its construction/reconstruction. As expected, the nature of our trip was both intense and heavy. We deliberately built in time for the cadets to decompress and enjoy themselves to foster a productive learning community.

Our intentions regarding Holocaust education are motivated by several factors. We are acutely aware that genocides are ongoing and that our mission is to educate future military officers on the impact of loss of lives and communities. We are committed to helping cadets understand the crucial role that militaries play in not only perpetrating and perpetuating, but also in preventing genocide and mass violence. The goal for them will be to recognize and prevent such atrocities and influence policy that protects human rights and decency.



POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews

The 66th Harmon Memorial Lecture

Dr Michelle Moyd

By Dr Jordan Pitt (Assistant Professor of History)



66th Harmon Memorial Lecture

15 October 2024 at 7:00pm
Arnold Hall Theater.

Dr. Michelle Moyd
Associate Professor of History,
Michigan State University

Europeans': The First World War in Africa," offered cadets a deep discussion of how African peoples experienced World War I and its lasting consequences. She exposed how various European imperial powers' stereotypes of Africans shaped the way that those empires utilized African soldiers and resources. Because of European exploitation of African peoples and resources during the war, Europeans believed they could continue to exploit Africans after the war while also feeling no obligation to care for the well-being of those who fought or participated in the war.

As in previous years, all History 100 and 300 cadets were required to attend, along with current DFH faculty. Much to our joy, many other cadets joined the event in Arnold Hall, as well as former DFHers and members of the Alumni Association. After her lecture, we hosted a light reception where cadets and faculty could once again mingle with Dr Moyd and chat about her research and career. This was such a great event as it brought together many generations of the Academy's history and helped today's cadets develop into warfighter-scholars.

In October 2024, DFH welcomed Dr Michelle Moyd as our distinguished lecturer for the 66th Harmon Memorial Lecture in Military History. Dr Moyd, currently a Red Cedar Distinguished Faculty Member at Michigan State University, is also a former DFHer. As a former USAF officer from 1991-2000, she served as a member of DFH from 1996-2000. Thus, it was a special moment to welcome back a DFHer as the distinguished lecturer for USAFA's

longest-running endowed lecture series.

On the day of her event, Dr Moyd hosted a brownbag lunch with all History and FAS-History majors. Our majors showed up in force as approximately 50 cadets attended this event. They posed excellent questions concerning Dr Moyd's research and time as an officer.

Her lecture, entitled "They are Thieves . . . the



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TO ALL AFHF MEMBERS:

In June, AFHF released all our newest publications and podcasts for your summer enjoyment and relaxation. Building on the momentum of one of the Foundation's most epic Symposium/ Awards Banquet events, we will release the Foundation Special Summer Journal, latest Birth of the Space Force Podcast, and our joint AFHF/AU Press revised version of *A Few Great Captains* (by Pete Copp). Additionally, you will soon be able to access the Raider Chronicles newsletter, and our YouTube Channel release of the Symposium presentations. The links for these exciting programs and projects are all listed below (click on the highlighted titles):

Banquet Images:



AFHF Annual Awards:



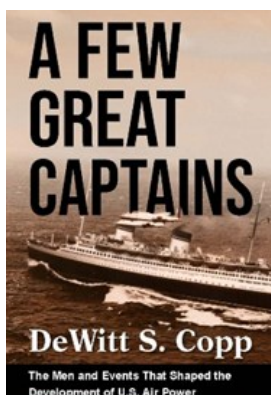
Summer Special Journal:



Official Podcast:



A Few Great Captains:



Raider Chronicles:



Research (AFHF Symposium 2023)

AFHF Symposium 2025
(Dates TBD)

DFHAA Plans for Reunion in October

After a successful initial gathering in Colorado Springs in September 2023, the DFH Alumni Association and its friends will conduct another Colorado Springs reunion, this time at the Antlers Hotel downtown, from October 14-16, 2025.

Activities will tentatively include a brief reception at the Antlers on Tuesday, October 14th, followed by the Harmon Memorial Lecture in the Academy's Arnold Hall that evening, with a catered reception afterward in the Arnold Hall Ballroom; a social at the Antlers on Wednesday night, the 15th; and a banquet honoring former DFHers, also at the Antlers, on Thursday night, the 16th. Other planned events are tours of the "Chapel in a Box," the moniker given the reconstruction site of USAFA's famed Chapel, slated for completion in 2028; the new addition to Falcon Stadium, completed in 2024; and the recently opened Polaris Hotel, adjacent to the

Academy's North Gate off of Interstate 25. In addition, the Association hopes to conduct a memorial service at the USAFA Cemetery's Memorial Pavillion for passed DFHers. The DFH Department Head, Col Meg Martin, plans to address the group and answer questions during a morning session in a Fairchild Hall Lectinar, tentatively on Thursday, October 16th, followed by a tour of the Department and a reception there.

The Antlers is offering a room rate of \$182, (including taxes and fees). The hotel will also provide that rate to individuals arriving one day early, on Monday, October 13th, or those wishing to stay as long as two days after the event concludes and depart on Sunday, October 19th. Hotel parking rates are \$25 per day for valet, or \$19 per day for self parking.

Of course, USAFA is a dynamic, subject-to-change environment, and the dates listed for various events are



subject to modification to meet the Academy's needs. We have the dates October 14-16 blocked, but be prepared to shift the order of events if necessary. "Flexibility is the key to airpower," and it could also be the key to orchestrating our gathering.



To register for reunion events, go to this link:
<https://cvent.me/EvmBk8>

From here you can register for individual events and link to the Antlers Hotel



Mighty Eighth immortalized in Normandy

During a visit to the hallowed ground of Normandy, France, "Masters of the Air" author Donald Miller noted that no monument could be found there - among dozens that dot the Cotentin Peninsula - to the airmen of the Eighth Army Air Force who flew deadly missions that ultimately led to the liberation of Europe in World War II.

The legendary unit's contributions and sacrifices are receiving new attention, thanks in part to the nine-episode "Masters of the Air" miniseries on Apple TV+, released in 2024 as a companion to HBO's "Band of Brothers" (2001) and "The Pacific" (2010).

The "Mighty Eighth" flew more than 2,300 sorties on D-Day and suffered more than 47,000 casualties, including some 26,000 deaths, during the war. Seventeen Medals of Honor were awarded to airmen of the Eighth.

Still, retired Gen. T. Michael "Buzz" Moseley later remarked, "Airmen have no solid battlefield to commemorate."

On June 5, that changes. The Normandy Institute, a U.S. nonprofit organization with which The American Legion has worked for nearly 20 years on D-Day anniversary commemorations, is dedicating four life-size bronze statues by renowned sculptor Benjamin Victor depicting icons

of the Eighth Army Air Force at the La Fièvre Bridge Memorial site.

Among those scheduled to help dedicate the statues will be American Legion National Commander Jim LaCourisere, an Air Force veteran. Four of that branch's ancestors - Staff Sgt. Maynard "Snuffy" Smith, Gen. James Doolittle, Col. Donald J.M. Blakeslee and Lt. Col. Robert Rosenthal - will be immortalized at the memorial site, protected from sale or alternative use by a three-way agreement between the Legion, Amis des Vétérans Américains and the City of Sainte-Mère-Église. World War II veterans, current U.S. military officers, and family members of Doolittle (a life member of The American Legion) and Rosenthal will be involved in the ceremony.

Monument sponsor names are engraved on a donor plaque at the site. They include Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Hillwood Aviation, American Airlines, Shell USA, Caterpillar, Onebrief, General Dynamics and GE Aerospace, as well as the KHR McNeely Family Foundation, Robert R. McCormick Foundation, Strauss Family, Joan and Mike Kahn Family Foundation, Jim Fisher and many more.

To learn more about the project, visit normandyinstitute.org.

- Jeff Stoffer

The Unveiling of Benjamin Victor's Work

By Jonna Doolittle Hoppes

Four life-size American Airmen overlook a grassy field in Sainte-Mère-Église, Normandy, France. They stand close to La Fièvre bridge, a site that saw heavy fighting on D-Day. The artist's ability to capture movement makes it easy to imagine them moving forward, focused on their missions. Every detail is carefully rendered, each face perfectly captured for eternity. Gen Jimmy Doolittle, Col Don Blakeslee, Lt Col Robert "Rosie" Rosenthal and Sgt Mayard "Snuffy" Smith represent all the Airmen from the "Mighty Eighth" Air Force during World War II.



a bomber pilot and lawyer, flew 52 missions, was shot down twice, and served as an assistant to the US prosecutor at the Nuremberg Trials. And Smith, a ball turret gunner, was awarded the Medal of Honor for valor for his

goal by aggressively pursuing the Luftwaffe and weakening the German manufacturing base. But the cost was high. The Eighth Air Force lost over 26,000 and another 28,000 were captured.

The unveiling ceremony of Benjamin Victor's work honored not only our WWII veterans but also acknowledged our current Airmen and French allies. Air Force Tech Sgt Michelle Doolittle, a member of the extended Doolittle family, sang both the US and French National anthems in a silken voice that filled the air with patriotism. Gen T. Michael "Buzz" Moseley expertly brought the four honored Airmen to life, and Lt Gen Jason T. Hinds, US Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa deputy commander, captured the reason for honoring the Eighth Air Force,

"Victory would not have been possible without supremacy of the skies, a supremacy earned through valor, innovation, and sacrifice of the men of the Eighth Air Force."

And he reminded us why it's important to remember our past. "The Eighth Air Force taught us that freedom is not free, that air superiority is earned through sacrifice, and that every generation must guard the cause of liberty."

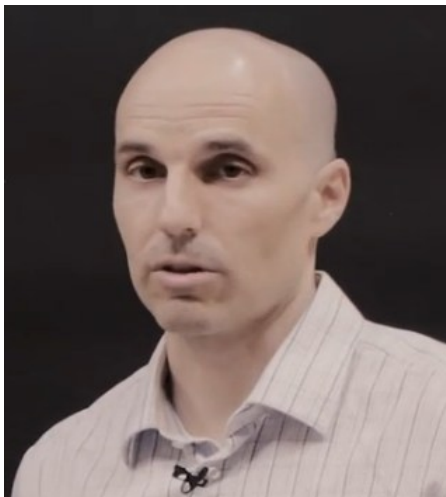
The Airmen selected to represent the Eighth were carefully chosen. Doolittle was the commander of the "Mighty Eighth" on D-Day. Blakeslee, a fighter ace with 17 kills, was a highly respected combat pilot. His group, 4th Fighter Group, shot down over 1,000 German planes. Rosenthal,

first mission where he rendered first aid to wounded crewmen, manned alternating machine guns, and extinguished a fire by hand while desperately throwing everything that "wasn't too hot, too heavy or bolted down" overboard. He saved six of his crewmen.

The concept for and driving force behind a memorial honoring the Eighth Air Force came from Gen Michael Moseley, the 18th Air Force chief of staff, Dorothea de La Houssaye, founder and chairman of the Normandy Institute, and Ross Perot, Jr., an American businessman, former Airman, and past chairman of the Air Force Memorial Foundation.

The first time I saw Benjamin Victor's sculpture of my grandfather was when he was working on it at the Warhawk Air Museum in Nampa, Idaho. My impression then and my impression standing in that field in Normandy is the same. It's the most beautiful and accurate sculpture of Gramps that I've ever seen.

Note: Jonna Doolittle Hoppes is the granddaughter of Jimmy Doolittle and the past President of the [Air Force Historical Foundation](#).



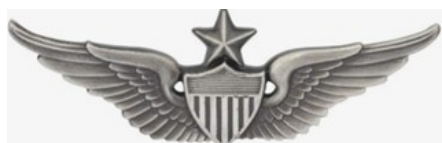
Benjamin Victor

In the last 81 years, little focus has been placed on the role played by the Army Air Forces in Operation Overlord. However, the mini-series *Masters of the Air* changed that. And now, for the first time, a stunning monument honors the Eighth Air Force and all our Air Force heroes who sacrificed so much.

When Doolittle took command of the Eighth Air Force in January 1944, his goal was air supremacy over Europe. He accomplished that

Remembering David Price

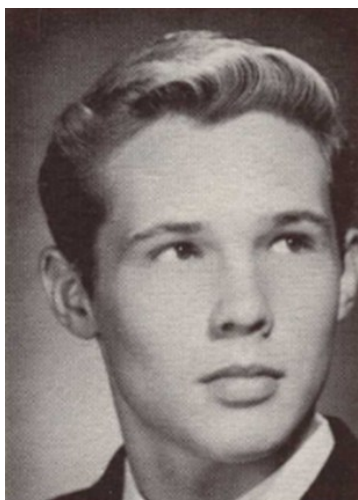
By Donald M. Bishop (DFH 1975-1979, 2022)



Among the Army officers who taught in DFH was the remarkable David Hilsman Price. This helicopter pilot's fruit salad told stories: three Silver Stars, two awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross, 52 Air Medals, and two Purple Hearts. From the Republic of Vietnam, his Cross of Gallantry was adorned with Palm, Gold Star, and Silver Star. He wore Army pilot wings, jump wings, and the rare original Air Assault Badge.



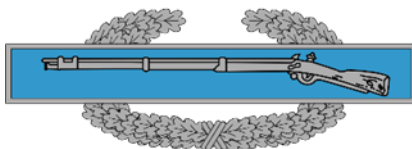
Hailing from Georgia, he attended the two-year Young Harris College (Class President) and enlisted in the Army in 1957.



DAVID HILMAN PRICE
Phi Chi
Athens, Georgia

Young Harris College
Enotah, 1956, his
middle name misspelled

Commissioned through OCS in 1962, he flew Huey gunships during two Vietnam tours, and he was an aero scout platoon leader in the OH-13 Sioux.



After studying for a master's degree in History at the University of Nebraska, he was assigned to DFH, serving from 1973 to 1977. He taught Military History in the core.

In my first term at the

Academy, we "trenchers" teaching core Military History each had four sections of 20 cadets each, and four instructors were organized into one team for the lectinars. Major Price was my first team leader. Bruce Grossetta, David Spires, and I made three dry runs before we met his standards for a lectinar presentation.

When he was on the platform, he kept cadets in awe. The substance of History 202, Modern Warfare and Society, began with the American Revolution, but it fell to Major Price to cover warfare from the ancient Greeks through Frederick the Great in one opening lesson. Sprinting through two millennia in 50 minutes, major milestones in military history got about a minute each. When he reviewed the transition from pike to bayonet, though, he paused. "Shoot a man with a rifle, your heart thumps. Shoot a man with a pistol, you shiver and you shake. But ... cold steel!!!" He left the rest to cadets' overactive imaginations.

In a Department committed to traditional air-power concept of unified use of all air assets under one air commander, Major Price believed in "organic" air-power assigned to ground units. His "discussions"

with Colonel Hurley were mostly, but not always, held behind closed doors.

Bart Bartanowicz recalls how cadets “respected David. They quickly read his ribbon rack and knew they had a real soldier who was also an accomplished aviator. “I audited David's Military History class, and he quickly won over the cadets. I've always remembered his saying to the cadets on the first day ‘I'm a Georgian, and I may not always pronounce words like folks from other parts of the country, but let's not let that get in the way of learning.”

In Jack's Valley, Bart continued, Major Price “was placed in charge of the Patrolling Committee which was a two-day course where cadets were instructed in Army patrolling techniques and were provided an opportunity to lead patrols as a leadership exercise during daylight and night time.

David told each group that they weren't being trained to be infantry officers but that the objective was to teach them to experience leadership! Phil Tate and I were with David during the sum-



Majors Phil Tate and David Price (R) in Jack's Valley.

mer, and we did our part of help.”

After the Academy and the Air Command and Staff College, he served two tours in Korea – infantry brigade commander in the “Indianhead” 2nd Infantry Division, Aviation Officer for I Corps (ROK-US) Group, commander of the 2nd Division's Aviation Battalion, and the Air-Ground Operations Officer for the ROK-US Combined Field Army.

Bruce Grossetta recalled that “after our DFH days, when I commanded the 90 TFS in the Philippines, we had one of our many deployments to Korea, this time to Osan AB. Dave was commanding a combat aviation helicopter battalion near the DMZ and invited us to visit. He sent his helicopters down to pick us up and flew us to his base, gave us a first class briefing (as only the Army can do), and then loaded us into some of his Apache helicopters and we did a ‘doors off’ close reconnaissance of the border, flying right along it and looking down onto the North Korean side. Were my flyers impressed? You better believe it.”

Selected to attend the National War College, Colonel Price asked instead to command the Army's District Recruiting Command in Honolulu, and he finished his 30 years of active duty as the Senior Army Advisor to the Hawaii Na-

tional Guard. In that billet he established the Hawaii Guard's first family support program to prepare them for deployment and reintegration, and he continued as the State Family Program Coordinator after his retirement. His program gained national recognition.

He received a second master's degree, in social work, from the University of Texas at Arlington, and he served on the National Advisory Committee on the Readjustment of Vietnam and Other War Veterans for 13 years.

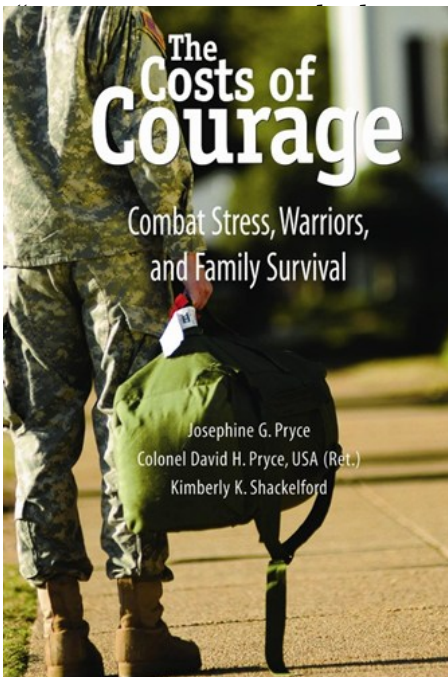
Learning that his family's surname had originally been “Pryce,” he changed



his name to the old spelling.

He served as the Executive Director of the Alabama Chapter of the National Association of Social Work. David, Jo, and Kimberly Shackelford published *The Costs of Courage: Combat Stress, Warriors, and Family Survival* – to help educated professionals know how to work with military service members, veterans, and their families.

The reviewer for the journal *Psychoanalytic Psychology* summarized its ar-



guments“: our veterans are to be honored for their service, unlike the veterans of the Vietnam War who were scorned and humiliated when they returned home . . . PTSD is a wound of war, not a con-

dition to be pathologized. The idea of trauma as wound is important for psychoanalysts to consider . . . For most of the 20th century, psychoanalytic theory paid scant attention to those who had been wounded by reality’ . . . Pryce et al. present us with a call to action to understand the complexity of the problems for warriors and their families as a result of military service in combat.”

Two faculty members at Texas State University in San Marcos noted “Social work field educators must be prepared to meet the challenge of serving students who are military personnel and veterans. Not only must we design our classroom curricula to teach

military cultural competence, trauma-informed content, and best practices for treatment of this population, we must also work with our own student veterans in preparation for field education.”

David Hilsman Pryce passed away on October 12, 2012.



General Alexis G. Grynkeiwich, a member of the USAFA Class of 1993 who majored in military history, has been named the Commander of US European Command and the NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR).

He began his career earning a master’s degree in history at the University of Georgia. He served at Vance, Luke, Eielson, Hill, Kunsan, Nellis, Langley, Holloman, Norfolk, Eglin, the Pentagon, and MacDill. He was an instructor pilot, weapons officer and operational test pilot in the F-16 and F-22, and he also flew the B-1, B-2, B-52, C-17, E-9, F-15, HH-60, MC-12, MQ-1, MQ-9, QF-4, T-38, and TU-2S. He commanded Ninth Air Force (AFCEM), and he was the Joint Staff’s J-3 at the Pentagon.

His recent speech at the 2025 LANDEURO symposium in Germany has been widely reported by [DOD](#), the [US Army](#), the [American Legion](#), and the [Wall Street Journal](#).



DOD photo by USAF Senior Airman Spencer Perkins.

“Bart”: Air Traffic Controller, DFH trencher, and Numismatist

Falcon Footnote: We are speaking today with retired Lt Col Robert S. Bartanowicz, who taught in DFH from 1974 to 1978 and was later a senior executive in the Federal Aviation Administration. Everyone called him “Bart.” Can you give us a high-speed pass through your career in uniform?

Bartanowicz: I graduated from high school in 1959. College wasn’t within my means, and jobs were scarce, not to mention employers wouldn’t hire anyone who might be drafted.

I decided to go into the Air Force. The recruiter said Air Traffic Control (ATC) was a perfect fit for me. Winking, he said it was a “cool job” and that it was the only career field where enlisted men could tell officers where to go!

Airman Second Class Bartanowicz (R) in



the tower at Sidi Slimane AB, Morocco, 1963

I took the recruiter’s advice. I spent my first 7½ years working in control towers

and Ground Controlled Approach (GCA) radars -- at Hunter AFB, GA; Sidi Slimane AB, Morocco; Larson AFB, WA; and Williams AFB, AZ. (All bases of yesteryear, I note.)

I was a Technical Sergeant when I applied for “Operation Bootstrap” and OTS. I had been working on a college degree in history and went to Park College in Missouri. I finished my degree in December 1967, was in OTS in January, and was commissioned in March 1968.

Vietnam, 1969



The Air Force put me right back into ATC. I was at Travis AFB for a year before being shipped out to Tan Son Nhut AB, Vietnam. I was the Chief Controller of the Paris Control Air Traffic Regulation Center. At Paris I had some 40 controllers to manage the III Corps airspace. This was the most important operational assignment I ever had -- while I was still a

Lieutenant.

From Vietnam I went to Headquarters Air Force Communications Command for four years. Then I was off to



DFH for four very enjoyable years followed by attending ACSC. From Maxwell I went to Shaw AFB, SC as the Commander of the 2020th Communications Squadron. In 1981 I was assigned to the Pentagon to the Flight and Airspace Management Division -- just in time for the PATCO air traffic control strike and the DOD augmentation of FAA facilities!

I retired in December 1983 as a Lieutenant Colonel with 23+ years of service. Two weeks later I started my FAA career at the Washington Headquarters.

FF: When you were assigned to DFH, which courses did you teach? Do you have any special memories?

Bart: I arrived at DFH In June of 1974, surprised that there didn’t seem to be many

people around. I quickly found that not everyone was on leave! Most were busy participating in Academy projects, summer Basic Cadet Training, academic development, and prepping for fall courses. I was impressed.

Checking in with the Executive Officer, Maj Carl Reddel, I found that I would be teaching History 101, World History. My academic background was a mix of American, European and Middle East courses, so it was a good fit for me. I was light on Asian history (except from an American and European perspective) so the course broadened my perspective.

I also felt that this was an important course for all Air Force officers. I'm not shy about it. My view was (and still is) that World History was the most important history course for cadets. It's our understanding of world history that enables us to effectively deal with other people and cultures. History opens the door to understanding both friend and foe alike -- and how their history shapes their world view of us! I've trained foreign nationals as both an enlisted man and officer, and I know the difference that their history makes in their acceptance or non-acceptance of us. Yes, it was important as an Air Traffic Controller.



Interviewing two of the Air Training Officers for the Class of 1980, the first to include women.

I eventually was the course chairman for History 101 and for the Honors Course. I also had a semester as course chairman for History 101R, the "repeat students." I found they were generally pretty good students but had simply "run out of time" trying to balance all their academic demands.

I did teach Military History for one term, and I enjoyed it. The students ate my lunch when it came to the Civil War -- they all seemed to be Civil War buffs knowing more than I ever would. I have to say, I didn't mind my students educating me.

Enjoyable and painful were the two marathons that Carl Reddel and I ran -- the Pikes Peak Marathon and the Kansas Relays Marathon at the University of Kansas. Carl finished ahead of me in both. These events require an hour in the telling.

Lt Col Dave MacIsaac was a real help to me. He gave me good advice and plenty of extra jobs! His best advice was to work with the

Commandant's staff in programs like Basic Cadet Training at Jack's Valley along with anything they needed help on. I worked with Col Phil Caine as the starter at USAFA's track meets. I hooked up with Maj David Price, our department's Army exchange officer, and with Phil Tate -- who had flown F-105s over the North and flown off Navy carriers as an exchange pilot. Dave ran a BCT leadership course in the Valley. This was an enjoyable two weeks watching and helping the cadet cadre set up the course and then conduct the training. We taught leadership by having cadets conduct an Army patrol through wooded areas. Another very good friend was George Wayne, the other former enlisted man in the department. George was my buddy--what more can I say? Another good friend was Jon Reynolds who always had time for me. Years later he would stop in and see me in Boston when I was with the FAA.

FF: After you retired, you continued a career in air traffic control, and you became a senior executive in the Federal Aviation Administration. Looking back, what were some accomplishments?

Bart: Leaving the Air Force was a gut-wrenching decision. I wanted my two boys to start and finish high school in the

same place. Plus, I wanted to be around to keep them from making any knucklehead decisions.



I started in January 1984 as an Air Traffic Control Specialist (ATCS). The folks at FAA Headquarters knew me well from the PATCO strike and our work in augmenting the FAA facilities. One job led to another. I had done some work in the Air Force on ATC Human Factors, a relatively new issue for the FAA. From there I moved to the Office of Rulemaking as the Assistant Manager. Working with the Federal Air Surgeon's office, I developed the FAA's Drug Testing Program for personnel in safety positions. That led to my obtaining a Senior Executive position as Superintendent of the FAA Academy in Oklahoma City.

We trained Air Traffic

Control candidates on nav aids and radar. On my watch we commissioned an automated control tower trainer. It was a real-world mockup of a working tower with voice recognition software and computer images of full motion aircraft in a typical airport. Computer-generated images responded to controller commands in a real time environment. People from NASA were impressed!

After two years at the Academy I was reassigned to the FAA New England Region as the Deputy Regional Administrator. I became the Regional Administrator and stayed there until I retired in 2001. This was the best job of my entire Federal career. My area of responsibility extended to the six New England States. It included interacting with communities, states, and Congress, dealing with everything from local compliance issues, airport development and FAA services.

This job was the culmination of everything I had learned and experienced from the Air Force and the FAA – especially in DFH. The Department was a gift to me. I learned something every day. I think of DFH and

Colonel Hurley all the time.

FF: I recall that you had an interest in coin collecting, and I remember from my historical methods class at Ohio State that numismatics is a contributing subfield to history. Did I hear you wrote a column for *Coins* for 20 years?

Bart: You heard right, I've been a coin collector for over 60 years. and I wrote a monthly column for *Coins*, a national magazine, for some 20 years.



FF: We'll take that up another time! [DMB]





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DFHers at the Air Force Historical Foundation Symposium (from left to right): Larry Weaver, Phil Meilinger, Teddy Givler, David Arnold, Brenda Roth, Don Bishop, Dik Daso, John Terino, and John Farquhar.