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Dear All,

It has been yet another fantastic year for the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at West Point! Despite the problems of sequestration, budget cuts and my absence while in Hungary on a Fulbright last fall, we have made great progress. And thanks to the private and foundational support we have received, we are primed to make some groundbreaking advances during the 2013-14 academic year. As always, the center continues to seek new sources of funding to maintain and further its path-breaking work, so please spread the word about the innovative work happening at USMA and the other service academies!

The highlights of this year include, but of course are not limited to:

- 1) The expansion of the CHGS' role as an inter-academy and Department of Defense center. Building on last year's momentum, the CHGS helped facilitate links and coordination with all three of West Point's sister academies - Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard - as well as ROTC. Coast Guard was a new addition this spring, and progress with ROTC has been noteworthy. Further, some of the products developed by the CHGS and its partners, particularly those created at the Mass Atrocity Education Workshop (see point 2), have been forwarded by the Office of the Secretary of Defense to the President's Atrocity Prevention Board, and the CHGS has forged new links with AFRICOM and the US Army War College's Peacekeeping and Security Cooperation Institute.
- 2) Workshops. Yet again, the most impressive achievement of the CHGS is the CHGS/US US Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) collaboration we call the Mass Atrocity Education Workshop. This was the third year of the workshop, which for military academy faculty at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC just last week (28-31 May). The workshop's purpose is to create content, lessons and curricula which would allow the service academies to better incorporate Holocaust and genocide studies into their broader course offerings. This year, the workshop's third, saw its expansion to include 16 faculty from four service academies (Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard) representing six different scholarly disciplines. As in previous years, the workshop was a great success. Lawyers, historians, ethicists, psychologists, sociologists, and political scientists gathered with Holocaust and genocide scholars (including Dr. Ervin Staub and Dr. Edward Westermann) and Museum experts to learn about mass atrocity and develop teaching materials. On our second day, we toured and discussed the Museum's new exhibit on collaboration and complicity. On our final day, we met with a high ranking Defense Department official charged with developing doctrine and policy related to atrocity prevention and scholars working on innovative projects related to detection and prevention of mass atrocity. And good news - genocide/mass atrocity prevention is now part of Joint Doctrine, meaning it is now enshrined in the fundamental principles that govern the employment of all US armed forces.
 - A) As a result of the Mass Atrocity Education Workshop, the Department of Defense forwarded the "Ordinary Soldiers" case study (see point 3) to the Atrocity Prevention Board for use in inter-governmental education about genocide.

B) The CHGS and the Center for Genocide Prevention (CGP) reached an agreement to share the CGP's data so that West Point cadets can begin work on a genocide prevention "app." Development of this app will be part of the Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing course I am offering this fall (see point 10), and should my grant application be successful, the project may be partially funded by an Army agency tasked with developing advanced research and projects.

C) Workshop participants from West Point and Air Force presented Holocaust/genocide lessons they have created to share among the academies. It is the hope of the workshop organizers that these lessons will be further fleshed out, similar to the "Ordinary Soldiers" case study described below.

3) Innovative curricular materials. The "Ordinary Soldiers: A Case Study in Ethics, Law and Leadership for Tomorrow's Officers" case study, jointly developed by the CHGS and USHMM, should be available on both the CHGS and USHMM websites this fall, packaged with a video discussion by Dr. Geoff Megargee on the transformation of the Wehrmacht prior to 1941 and the USHMM's documentary on the rise of antisemitism and Nazism. The "Ordinary Soldiers" study, developed and refined in the first two iterations of the Mass Atrocity Education Workshop, is now being used in several courses at West Point, Air Force and in ROTC programs across the country (Creighton, the University of Vermont, Norwich University and Princeton were among those who used the case study this year). Employing a historical case study about the activities of the Wehrmacht in Byelorussia in 1941, "Ordinary Soldiers" in its current form, allows instructors to teach military ethics and the Law of Armed Conflict. As I have explained in previous emails, the project has a lot of moving parts, involving a bevy of scholars. Dr. Waitman Beorn and COL (R) Jody Prescott are the real drivers behind the project, and numerous scholars and researchers from across the western world, from Texas to Vermont to Germany, also have contributed to its development. At this year's workshop, we moved to a new phase of development, starting the process of using the case study to create innovative units on the psychology of atrocity perpetration, the ethics of killing and a new lesson on legal philosophy/jurisprudence. All of these projects involve inter-academy teams, and several are partnerships with outside scholars. Overall, the Ordinary Soldiers endeavor gives a sense of the reach of West Point's CHGS - not only are we developing material for use in courses at West Point, but our products are now being used not only to educate future officers across the country, but to educate civilians throughout the US government.

4) Internships. For the second year in a row, a USMA History major was an intern at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, joining Law majors from Air Force and West Point. And for the tenth year, USMA cadets participated in the American Service Academies Program. This outstanding program, run by partners at the Auschwitz Jewish Center Foundation and the Museum of Jewish Heritage, takes four cadets (along with Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard midshipmen and cadets) to New York, DC, and Poland for 2.5 weeks to study Jewish heritage and the Holocaust. Special thanks go to the David Berg Foundation for providing the support to send our cadets this year. This year, great progress was made with both AFRICOM and the War College's Peacekeeping and Security Cooperation Institute. Should all proceed according to plan, next year you will be reading about the Center's first interns at these locations.

5) Research. 2013 saw the movement of the CHGS's first faculty research projects from planning to implementation. These projects, incorporating cadets and faculty from four different disciplines (History, Geography/Environmental Engineering, Law, and Network Science), include:

A) An Army Research Office-supported interdisciplinary research project on water resource contestation and vulnerability in the upper Rift Valley. As you receive this email, four cadets led by two members of West Point's geography department (Dr. Amy Krakowka and MAJ Dylan Malcomb), are doing research and interviews in Uganda. Once they return, our research group will write a white paper detailing the methodology and findings.

B) The goals of the water vulnerability project are to develop a feasible interdisciplinary method for studying the relationship between the world's most important strategic resource, water, to all forms of vulnerability and resilience, and to help reduce the prospects for atrocity-related disputes over water. In the fall of 2013, the research group will apply for the next phase of the research support, which will take us to two other locations in Africa in 2014 and 2015.

C) Dr. Charles Thomas completed the first phase of his research on pirate networks in East Africa. This joint CHGS/Network Science project, which won support from African Command, will help explain the transnational networks which fund and support violence.

6) Exhibits. In April 2014, West Point's Jefferson Library will host "Fighting the Fires of Hate," its first ever major exhibit. One of the US Holocaust Museum's traveling exhibits, "Fighting the Fires" focuses on Nazi book burning, censorship, and the American response. It will be on display at West Point for two months, including during the week of remembrance and graduation. The exhibit will be open to the public, so for our local friends, I encourage you to come for a visit. If all goes well, the ceremony marking the official opening will be convened by a Nobel prize winner familiar to all. Stay tuned!

7) Trips. The CHGS and the History Department and Department of Law organized a series of successful visits of well over 100 cadets to the Holocaust Museum in DC. The collaboration between the Law Department and the CHGS was the first of its kind, a full day program about law, the legal profession and the Holocaust. While sequestration and the impact of Hurricane Sandy prevented us from having our annual American History trip to the Museum of Jewish Heritage and Ellis Island, that trip should resume during the next academic year. With the addition of the new courses (see point 10), I have several new academic trips under consideration to locations in New York and Washington, DC.

8) Faculty Talks. West Point faculty representing the CHGS have spoken at the 90th Infantry Division Reunion in Dallas, at the USHMM's 20th Anniversary Tribute in April 2013, and at a November 2012 inter-governmental Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention training workshop in Washington, DC.

9) Guest lectures. We supported talks by Holocaust survivors, discussions with military leaders, scholars and historians of Africa. Included were camp prisoner Dr. Jack Terry, who delivered our Day of Remembrance speech; MG Charles Hooper, the J5 of AFRICOM (the general in charge of plans and strategy for US Africa Command); Dr. Anne Knowles, a renowned historical geographer from Middlebury College, and others. Dr. Terry's Day of Remembrance talk attracted over 300 people, including 40 students from a local high school who were engaged in study of the Holocaust. MG Hooper spoke numerous cadet and faculty audiences about the complexity and diversity of Africa, as well as his command's specific task to detect and prevent mass atrocity. Dr. Knowles spoke in both the geography and history departments about her innovative use of numerous geographic methodologies to create new understanding of the Holocaust and the Battle of Gettysburg.

10) Courses. Perhaps the most significant development is that in the 2013-14 academic year, I will teach two new courses. The two courses, to be offered annually if West Point is successful in raising private funds, are the first explicitly interdisciplinary electives on the Holocaust and genocide open to all students.

A) XH405 - "Genocide and 'Ethnic Cleansing'." This course will provide cadets with an overview of theory about genocide, an understanding of the causes and processes of genocide and ethnic cleansing, and an introduction to Mass Atrocity Prevention and Response Operations. The course will use methodologies from Law, History, Psychology, Political Science, Ethics, and several sciences, and will feature a variety of high-profile guest lecturers. In addition to giving cadets the opportunity to do traditional research projects, the course will permit cadets to begin practical projects using remote sensing and satellites to develop means of atrocity detection, and to work with the Center for Genocide Prevention's data sets to create genocide warning apps for mobile devices. Rather than ending with a traditional final, the course will conclude with an exercise focusing on central Africa. This table top exercise (TTX), currently being developed by Dr. Frey and COL (R) Dwight Raymond of the US Army War College, will be conducted with students in the History Department's "Modern Africa" course.

B) XH415 - "The Holocaust and Its Legacy." This course, like Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing, will incorporate a multi-disciplinary approach and a focus on specific concepts geared to military audiences. While its basic structure will be as a history beginning with modern antisemitism and the rise of Nazism in Germany, the course will include a substantial elements on the psychology of perpetration, victimhood, and witness (active/passive bystanders), and will incorporate Holocaust literature and testimony. The course will conclude not only with considerations of Nuremberg, the creation of Israel and questions of representation, but with the US Army's involvement in camp liberation as well as its complicity in helping create the myth of the "clean Wehrmacht."

C) A third course, PY201 "Philosophy", will also incorporate Holocaust concepts in 2014. This course, required of all West Point cadets, has been altered to include works by authors writing about the Holocaust.

11) Fundraising. We have had great success this year, and we have a large matching grant which we must match by the end of this year. If you are able to help or know of others who might be interested in helping insure that West Point is able to maintain the CHGS into the future, please contact Freed Lowrey at freed.lowrey@wpaog.org or 845.446.1558 (office) 914.474.3911 (mobile).

I am excited and humbled by what we've been able to accomplish, and I sincerely thank all of you, my partners, without whose support none of this would occur.

I am always available should you have questions and/or ideas. I encourage you to visit the CHGS website for updates: <http://www.usma.edu/chgs>

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