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Dear [Friends](#),

I seem to begin each of my annual emails with some hyperbolic rhetoric about breaking new ground, offering new courses, making new contributions to the Army. I will not disappoint - it has been yet another excellent year for the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at West Point! With the help of private, foundational support, and government aid, I was able to offer two new courses on genocide and the Holocaust, develop the Center's first publication, win support for the Center's first technological innovation, and more.

The highlights of this year include:

- 1) **The continued expansion of the CHGS' role as an inter-academy and Department of Defense center.** The CHGS continues to facilitate links between all three of West Point's sister academies – Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard – as well as ROTC, the Department of the Army, and the Department of Defense. As Director of the Center, I continue to work with the Office of the Secretary of Defense's Senior Advisor for Atrocity Prevention and Response, AFRICOM, the US Army War College's Peacekeeping and Security Cooperation Institute, and other DOD elements in order to expand understanding of mass atrocity and produce creative thinking about its detection and prevention.
- 2) **Workshops.** Last year, the CHGS and the US Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) jointly organized the third annual Mass Atrocity Education Workshop, bringing military academy faculty to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC for a 3.5 day workshop intended to create Holocaust and genocide studies content, lessons and curricula for military audiences. 2013's program included 16 service academy faculty. In the fall of 2014, we will do a smaller project designed to create materials on the psychology of perpetration. We are also in the planning stages for a much larger project for the Department of Defense to help produce material to train and educate service members to better deal with the problem of mass atrocity. The CHGS and the USHMM are collaborating to make this major "train the trainer" workshop a reality in the late-spring or early summer of 2015.
- 3) **Curricular innovation.** This year's crowning achievement was curricular. The Academy, through the CHGS and the Department of History, offered two new interdisciplinary electives, "The Holocaust and Its Legacy" (XH 405) and "Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing" (XH 415), in the 2013-14 academic year. I taught both courses, tailored them to military audiences, and will place both syllabi on the CHGS website. Among the innovations the courses supported were outreach assignments which allowed cadets to communicate with scholars, activists, American and international policymakers, and survivors; design of technological tools for mass atrocity early warning; and joint classes with numerous disciplines across the Academy. Both XH 405 and XH 415 incorporated a substantial number of guest speakers from a range of different disciplines. In total, the two courses

supported **23 invited speakers**, either at West Point or in programs conducted at the USHMM. Cadets heard from multiple Holocaust survivors, a Rwandan genocide survivor, several WWII liberators and a bevy of renowned scholars. The range of scholars was particularly impressive, including several lawyers, political scientists, historians, ethicists and psychologists, as well as a conflict economist. Among the leaders in the field were Armenian genocide expert Peter Balakian, Holocaust Museum Senior Scholar Peter Black, Holocaust Historian Deborah Dwork, Nuremberg Prosecutor Benjamin Ferencz, Genocide Psychologist Jim Waller, and many more.

- a. "The Holocaust and Its Legacy" (XH 405) was offered in the spring of 2014. Beginning with a survey of antisemitism and Nazi-era history, the course then became inter- and multi-disciplinary, with segments on the psychology of perpetration; the experiences of victims, rescuers and witnesses; the dynamics of resistance and escape; the geography of the Holocaust and much more. Several classes dealt with specific military questions, ranging from leadership decisions made by *Wehrmacht* company commanders to problems in Allied intelligence about the Holocaust to the question of how the US Army enabled German generals to produce the "myth of the clean *Wehrmacht*." The US Army's roles in camp liberation and war crimes prosecution were also considered. The class concluded with a short study of denial, truth and Holocaust memory. Film, literature, site-visits, and primary documents all contributed to what cadets unanimously agreed was a challenging and highly rewarding course.
- b. "Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing" (XH 415) was offered in the fall of 2013 and was by some measures even more innovative than XH 405. This course had three essential parts. The first, and most substantial, was an overview of the theory of genocide and ethnic cleansing. Part two dealt with the psychology of perpetration, victimhood and bystandership. Part three, comprising the second half of the course, were historical case studies of ethnic cleansing or genocide. The case studies varied in length from one lesson on the genocide of the Yana in California; to four lessons on the Armenian Genocide; to seven lessons on the final case study on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, an understanding of the causes and processes of genocide and ethnic cleansing, and an introduction to Mass Atrocity Prevention and Response Operations. The course drew from Law, Ethics/Philosophy, History, Gender, Political Science, International Relations, Economics, Anthropology, Geography, Psychology, Sociology and Cultural Studies. Rather than ending with a traditional final, the course concluded with an operational planning exercise focusing on the DRC, jointly conducted with students in the History Department's "Modern Africa" (HI 345) course. This table top exercise (TTX), which I developed with Dr. Charles Thomas and COL Dwight Raymond of the US Army War College, taught cadets about how to do some of the initial planning for Mass Atrocity Prevention and Response Operations. It was observed by a number of Lieutenant Colonels who had served on joint staffs, and was also to be observed by Major General Charles Hooper,

the former Head of Plans and Policy at AFRICOM. Unfortunately, the timing of the exercise coincided with the outbreak of violence in the Central African Republic and South Sudan, preventing MG Hooper from visiting. This reality only underscored the importance of the course to future officers, and the lesson was not lost on them. Due to the course's success and novelty, the History Department nominated it for an Academy-wide citation for innovation.

- c. In addition to giving cadets the opportunity to do traditional research projects, the courses permitted a group of cadets to begin a project in conjunction with Jay Ulfelder and the Center for the Prevention of Genocide designed to create a Mass Atrocity Risk Assessment "app" for mobile devices. COL Thomas Cook of the Army Cyber Institute and I teamed up with cadets from the XH 415 and XH 405 courses, and with a grant from the Defense Advanced Research and Projects Agency (DARPA), produced an alpha version of an atrocity early warning "app." Our hope is to continue the project next academic year with the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and produce a usable beta version for Android operating systems. Should we succeed, this app will be available to the global public for free.
- d. I gave a lecture in West Point's capstone "History of the Military Art" class for all seniors. This lecture, on the relation between Nazi ideology and Nazi operational planning for war on the Eastern Front in 1941, will likely become an annual lecture and is yet another example of how the CHGS is working to incorporate Holocaust and genocide studies into the broader West Point curriculum.
- e. This year seven history cadets (nearly 15% of all honors cadets) did theses on genocide topics, ranging from the relationship between political leaders and the media concerning the Rwandan genocide, to rape as a tool of genocide in Bosnia, to the influence of the Nuremberg doctors' trial on the development of international codes of medical ethics, to French memory of Vichy complicity in the Holocaust, and more. This is a substantial and exciting increase that demonstrates the organic interests of cadets in these topics.

4) **Research & Publication.**

- a. "Ordinary Soldiers: A Case Study in Ethics, Law and Leadership," jointly developed by the CHGS and USHMM and several Holocaust scholars, is currently in the final production stages, and will be available both electronically and in hardcopy by early fall. Packaged with the USHMM's new documentary on the rise of antisemitism and Nazism and a short video on the changing nature of the *Wehrmacht* by WWII historian Dr. Geoff Megargee, "Ordinary Soldiers" will be free for public use. Developed and refined in the first iterations of the Mass Atrocity Education Workshop, "Ordinary Soldiers" is now being used in several courses at West Point and Air Force, in ROTC programs across the country, and by the Marines. Please check both the CHGS website and the Holocaust Museum's website this fall!

- b. "A Historiography of Early Warning," the product of USMA cadet and faculty work on the Mass Atrocity Risk Awareness "app" research, will be published in 2015 in a book on innovation. An assessment of paradigmatic shifts in the study of early warning, this essay engages evolutions in thought from the origins of genocide definition and detection, to current use of social media. More information to come as publication is finalized.
 - c. 2013-14 saw progress in the water vulnerabilities project, in which the CHGS is a partner. Using research from the summer of 2013 gathered in Uganda and research to be gathered in the summer of 2014 in Ethiopia, a research group from Geography/Environmental Engineering, Law, Network Science, History and Engineering will complete a white paper for the Army on water resource contestation and vulnerability in the Central African Nile region. 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.
- 5) **Exhibits.** The CHGS and West Point's Jefferson Library teamed up to host "Fighting the Fires of Hate: America's Response to Nazi Book Burning" (<http://www.ushmm.org/exhibition/book-burning/burning.php>). One of the US Holocaust Museum's traveling exhibits "Fighting the Fires" focuses on Nazi book burning, censorship, and the American response. The first ever public exhibit to be hosted by Jefferson Library, it has been at USMA since mid-April and will remain through mid-June. The display has been a great success, particularly during the recent graduation week. Visitors have come from throughout the region, and should you be interested, please don't hesitate to contact me about a visit.
- 6) **Internships.** And for the eleventh 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. We finalized arrangements for an internship at the War College's Peacekeeping and Security Cooperation Institute and are working out details and private support for internships at AFRICOM and Yad Vashem.
- 7) **Trips.** The CHGS, the History Department and Department of Law organized a series of successful visits of nearly 120 cadets to the Holocaust Museum in DC. Approximately 80 "plebes" (freshmen) took part in our annual Beitler/History Department program, and over 35 upperclassmen participated in a two-day collaboration between the Law Department and the CHGS about law, the legal profession under the Nazis, complicity and the Holocaust. Cadets from XH 405 and "The Law of War" (LW 474) toured multiple exhibits, conducted discussions and heard lectures from four Holocaust Museum senior

scholars, and spoke with a Holocaust survivor. The program allowed for unparalleled depth of study and greatly augmented courses in two departments.

- 8) **Film Festival.** In March, the GI Film Festival came to USMA, and screened several Holocaust-related films, including the award-winning Canadian documentary, “The Real Inglorious Bastards” and the feature “Walking with the Enemy” about rescue in 1944 Hungary. Hosted by our English and Philosophy Department, this program was another example of how the CHGS helps facilitate interdisciplinary cooperation. In addition to the Film Festival, the Academy screened the stunning documentary “The Act of Killing” about genocide in Indonesia. If you have not seen this film, I urge you to do so.

- 9) **Plans for the Future.** With your help, the future will be bright, indeed. In addition to planning for the large DOD workshop (point 2) and further developing the Mass Atrocity Risk Awareness “app,” plans for 2014-15 include outreach work with Holocaust and genocide education groups in Westchester, Rockland and Orange counties and visits by several extremely well-known speakers concerning Holocaust or Genocide-related issues. Without giving away names, a former President of the United States and a Nobel Laureate, among others, have promised to address cadets during the upcoming academic year! Stay tuned for news!

- 10) **Supporting the CHGS.** We continue to make progress toward our goal of insuring that the next generations of West Point cadets and other military leaders understand the phenomena of genocide and mass atrocity and have the opportunity to think deeply about prevention. If you are interested in helping West Point to continue offering broad programming, such as that described above, please contact either Claudia Phillips at claudia.phillips@wpaog.org 845.446.1575 (office) or Allison Barry at Allison.barry@wpaog.org 845.446.1556 (office).

I sincerely thank all of you, my partners, whose support is so critical.

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>

All the best,

David

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