

The mission of West Point's **Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies** is to produce cohorts of cadets and officers better equipped to understand the dynamics of mass atrocity and genocide, and to inspire them to the cause of prevention. The CHGS does so by promoting innovative, cross-disciplinary thinking about the nature of these phenomena and methods of mitigating or preventing the harms caused by them. In pursuit of these goals, 2013-14 CHGS programming included: hosting guest speakers, sponsoring a variety of cadet internships and research projects, supporting innovative, interdisciplinary and inter-academy curricular planning, designing a mass atrocity risk assessment "app", facilitating research, contributing to OSD/DoD initiatives related to atrocity prevention, and working with other departments to educate the West Point community about mass atrocity, its history, and its relevance.

With the President's creation of an Atrocity Prevention Board in April 2012, the CHGS has become a DoD asset with reach beyond West Point. The CHGS Director, Dr. David Frey, has advised the OSD's Senior Advisor, Atrocity Prevention and Response; instructors at the Command General Staff College; and an inter-agency working group as the DoD determines how it will educate and train forces for mass atrocity prevention and response.

In the last 16 months, the CHGS, in cooperation with the Civic and Defense Initiatives arm of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), conducted two iterations of the "Mass Atrocity Education Workshop" (MAEW). This unique collaboration occurred in Washington, DC, and convened senior faculty members from multiple departments at West Point, Air Force, Coast Guard and Navy. These men and women joined renowned Holocaust and genocide scholars, staff and experts from Museum, and representatives from the State Department and the OSD for a three-day workshop designed to create practical means of incorporating mass atrocity education into service academy curricula. The third iteration occurred in May 2013 and the fourth in September 2014. The aim of the fourth MAEW was to produce materials designed to explain "ordinary behavior" during genocide, for use basic psychology and economics courses at the Service Academies and beyond. As a result of both workshops, new courses and new course content will be offered at all of the Academies. For example, Air Force is overhauling its "War and Society" course and has altered its "War Crimes and Genocide" course; Navy is introducing a new comparative genocide course; and Coast Guard has changed its law and ethics courses to include atrocity content, and West Point and Air Force are working together to create capstone economics projects related to genocide studies.

In the September 2014, the CHGS and the USHMM jointly published "Ordinary Soldiers, A Study in Law, Ethics and Leadership." This historical case study, which emerged out of the MAEW, teaches leadership, ethics, and the Law of Armed Conflict. Numerous ROTC units, the Marines, and all of the Service Academies now use the case study, which is available in electronic form, free of charge and packaged with specially tailored Holocaust Museum videos on the transformation of the German Army under Hitler and a general overview of the Holocaust on the CHGS website (www.usma.edu/chgs). Future plans include converting "Ordinary Soldiers" into an iBook format to seamlessly mesh with the West Point History of Warfare iBook.

Among the year's other highlights was the successful integration of two new courses on genocide (XH 415) and the Holocaust (XH 405), taught by Dr. Frey, into the West Point curriculum. XH 415 (Fall 2013) and XH 405 (Spring 2014) were innovative, interdisciplinary courses featuring studies of genocide, ethnic cleansing and mass atrocity from a wide variety of disciplinary perspectives. The courses featured over 15 guest lecturers from within and without West Point, ranging from Rwandan genocide survivors to American liberators of German

concentration camps to leading scholars in the field of genocide studies. XH 415 culminated in a mass atrocity table-top exercise, created in cooperation with the Peacekeeping and Security Operations Institute and jointly carried out students in HI 345, the History of Modern Africa. Perhaps the most significant achievement was that groups of cadets in both XH 415 and XH 405 developed a Mass Atrocity Risk Awareness/Analysis App (MARA-App) for smart phones and tablets. This app, created in cooperation with the Center for the Prevention of Genocide in Washington, DC, and the Army Cyber Institute, won support from DARPA. It will be further developed by cadets majoring in computer science during the 2014-15 academic year and has significant preventative potential. This is but one example of how the CHGS has developed imaginative concepts which hopefully will have the practical application of saving lives and making military deployments to prevent genocide *less likely*.

The CHGS continued to create and support research opportunities for cadets and faculty, and educational programming for West Point and beyond. In addition to the app project, which also produced an article on mass atrocity early warning, the Center continued to work with the Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering and the Center for the Rule of Law to study the relationship between water, vulnerability, and mass violence in Africa. Further, the CHGS and the West Point Library teamed up to host the “Fighting the Fires of Hate” exhibition (<http://www.ushmm.org/exhibition/book-burning/burning.php>). This two-month display, which focused on America’s response to Nazi book burning, was the first public exhibit in the new Jefferson Library since it opened five years ago. Additionally, CHGS trips allowed nearly 120 cadets to travel New York, Washington, and Poland for Holocaust/genocide-related studies ranging from one day to two weeks. The CHGS also established an internship with the Army War College and is exploring cadet study opportunities in Guatemala and Israel. Finally, the Dr. Frey oversaw seven genocide-related theses, accounting for over 15 percent of all history majors, and demonstrating cadet demand for study in these areas.

News about the center can be found at the CHGS website at <http://www.usma.edu/chgs>



Former Nuremberg Prosecutor and Lead Prosecutor in the Einsatzgruppen Trials, Dr. Ben Ferencz speaking to cadets.



Poster featured in "Fighting the Fires of Hate" exhibit



Eugenie Mukeshimana, Rwandan Genocide Survivor, spoke to cadets in XH 415 and multiple Geography classes.



Cadets at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Credit: Miriam Lomaskin, USHMM



**ORDINARY SOLDIERS:
A STUDY IN ETHICS, LAW,
AND LEADERSHIP**

UNITED STATES
HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
MUSEUM



Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at West Point

Cover of "Ordinary Soldiers"