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Dear [Friends](#),

Past iterations of my annual missive have discussed significant programmatic advances. This year I am pleased to also add that the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at West Point has made some critical gains which will assure its existence over the longer term. Several long-time supporters of the CHGS threw a gala event in New York City, featuring a question and answer session I moderated with GEN (R) David Petraeus about atrocity, national security and global affairs. Perhaps most importantly, the CHGS received two donations totaling \$1.3 million! We hope these funds and this increased awareness of the Center will catalyze our effort to endow our programming and insure that future generations of officers throughout the Armed Forces will be better prepared to understand and prevent mass atrocities.

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 (OSD) Advisor for Atrocity Prevention and Response, the US Army War College's Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute, and other DOD elements in order to expand understanding of mass atrocity and produce creative thinking about its detection and prevention. The Center was fortunate enough to have the OSD's Advisor for Atrocity Prevention and Response participate in its programs both at West Point and in Washington, DC, during the 2014-15 year; to work with Air Force on cadet and faculty research projects; to help launch a new comparative genocide course at the Naval Academy; and to facilitate discussions between Naval Academy midshipmen/women and West Point cadets about the formation of genocide prevention clubs. Great ideas abound!
- 2) **Workshops.** In September 2014, the CHGS and the US Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) jointly organized the fourth 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. 2014's program included 11 service academy faculty members and focused on understanding behavior in genocide. While multiple disciplines were represented, the primary contingents were behavioral scientists and economists. The Center is also in the planning stages for a 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/educate the educator" workshop a reality in late 2015 or 2016.

3) **Curricular innovation.** While funding shortfalls prevented the Center from offering the two interdisciplinary electives it piloted last year, “The Holocaust and Its Legacy” (XH 405) and “Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing” (XH 415), progress continued on the curricular front. The CHGS hosted multiple **invited speakers**, either at West Point or in programs conducted at the USHMM, who spoke on topics ranging from the future of the principle of Responsibility to Protect, to insurgency in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to survival in the Lwow ghetto, to US Army chaplains at the Nuremberg Trials. Among the leaders in the field who spoke to West Point audiences were Law of Armed Conflict Guru Gary Solis, Simon-Skjoldt Center for the Prevention of Genocide Scholar Naomi Kikoler, Rwandan expert Philip Gourevitch, and many more.

- a. For the second year in a row I gave a lecture in West Point’s capstone “History of the Military Art” class for all seniors (nearly 1100 cadets). This lecture, on the relation between Nazi ideology and Nazi operational planning for war on the Eastern Front in 1941, is now an annual, and provides another illustration of how the CHGS can incorporate Holocaust and genocide studies into the broader West Point curriculum.
- b. My discussion of the relation between Nazi ideology and Nazi operational planning for war on the Eastern Front in 1941 will also be part of the *West Point History of Warfare* iTunes U course, soon to be publicly available.

4) **Research & Publication.**

- a. The CHGS and the Levine Center at the USHMM jointly published “Ordinary Soldiers: A Case Study in Ethics, Law and Leadership,” both electronically (attached) and in hardcopy in September 2014. 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” is 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 world (including in Australia), and by the Marines. Currently, the author group is working on transforming “Ordinary Soldiers” into an interactive electronic book, complete with videos of survivor and witness testimony; additional maps, photo collections, and graphics of artifacts; biographies of key individuals; and an expanded introductory section on prewar Jewish life in Belorussia. Our hope is to complete this iteration by May 2016.
- b. I am currently editing and revising an article titled “A Historiography of Early Warning.” The product of a group of USMA 2014 graduates who worked on the Mass Atrocity Risk Awareness “app” research last year, the article will be published in 2016 in a book on innovation published by Purdue University. It assesses paradigmatic shifts in the study of early warning, engaging evolutions in thought from the origins of genocide definition and detection, to current use of social media and beyond.

- c. Working on a project that was a direct outcome of the 2014 Mass Atrocity Education Workshop, I, Dr. Chuck Anderton of Holy Cross, and MAJ Adam Ackerman of Air Force, with assistance from the staff at the USHMM, oversaw a capstone economics project at the Air Force Academy. USAFA Cadets Christian Ferrarini, Stephen Orians, and Benjamin Persian, all graduating seniors, created “Understanding Genocide through Rational Action and Evolutionary Game Theory.” The project’s purpose was to demonstrate how economics could provide critical insights into the behaviors of the genocide participants, using the case study of Rwanda. The project included a series of lesson plans designed for undergraduate economics courses to teach the basic principles of Evolutionary Game Theory and the Rational Actor Model while showing how economics provides tools that can help us to better understand the dynamics of genocide. Our hope is to publish to project electronically in the near future.
 - d. The African Environmental Stability Project, in which the CHGS is a partner, made great progress in 2014-15. Multidisciplinary cadet-faculty research and field work in Uganda, Malawi, Rwanda and Ethiopia, coordinated by USMA’s Geography & Environmental Engineering Department, yielded its first research brief (http://media.wix.com/ugd/a75547_66e7d60186214884b819abf675fdaef8.pdf), published earlier this year. The goal of the project is to develop a feasible interdisciplinary method for studying the relationship between the world’s most important strategic resource, water, and all forms of vulnerability and resilience, in order to help reduce vulnerabilities that could help trigger atrocity. As CHGS director, I supervised an independent research project by CDT Shawna Moore. This article length study, “Control of the Nile: Debates, Disputes and Legal Precedents, 1898-2015,” will be published in the inaugural issue of the *Undergraduate Journal of African Studies* later this year.
 - e. Together with MAJ Bonnie Kovatch, I wrote an article “After Genocide: Rwanda and the African Future.” Originally produced for the Student Conference USA, hosted at West Point, the article will be published in a compendium edited by Hugh Liebert and Thom Sherlock and titled *What is the Worst That Could Happen? The Politics and Policy of Crisis Management* in late 2015 or early 2016.
- 5) **Internships.** The CHGS placed its first two interns at the US Army War College’s Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute. CDT Curtis Valencia will be working on studying the legal and institutional changes that undergirded international intervention in Libya in 2011, and will reflect on how Libya did or did not change the debates about Responsibility to Protect. The second intern, an Honors student at the University of Georgia, will be working on a situation assessment of Nigeria for use in a mass atrocity prevention and response table top exercise (TTX, or role-play scenario) similar to the DRC-TTX developed in 2013. These exercises are of critical importance as currently, they represent a direct response to a DoD imperative that atrocity education and training be incorporated into all levels of military education. The CHGS is also supporting the study of CDT Gabe Beck, who is spending several weeks in Germany this

summer researching different forms of German Holocaust memory and memorialization. Both cadets Beck and Valencia will turn their research into honors theses in the 2015-16 academic year.

- 6) **Trips.** The CHGS, working with multiple departments and cadets of all ranks, organized and assisted with a range of opportunities for cadet travel.
 - a. For the twelfth 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.
 - b. 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 30 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 my “Race, Ethnicity, Nation” course (HI463) and “The Law of War” (LW 474) toured multiple exhibits, conducted discussions and heard lectures from 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.
 - c. The Department of English and Philosophy, with assistance and support from the CHGS, took a group of eight cadets to Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic for a two week trip to study the literature and philosophy of the Holocaust in late-May and early-June, 2015. The Center and its partners, particularly the Auschwitz Jewish Center, played a critical role in planning the trip and providing the critical historical context for cadets and faculty.

- 7) **Documentary.** While still in the information gathering stages, I am working with renowned documentary filmmaker Dan Polin and the Center for Oral History at West Point to develop short documentary film on “creating enemies.” The documentary will consider the role of dehumanization in combat, and consider the myriad ways dehumanization occurs, how and if its function has changed in the recent past, and how the function of enemy creation is regulated and structured at the strategic, operational and tactical levels.

- 8) **Graduates.** Recent graduates who took part in CHGS courses and programs have already made an impact on the Army. CPT David Krueger, who will attend Harvard and then return to West Point to teach, will be studying the relationship between mass violence and counterinsurgency in the colonial world. On 1 June, he spoke to an audience of nearly 300 at the Museum of Jewish Heritage about how his undergraduate

study of genocide at West Point impacted him as a leader. CPT Regina Woronowicz and 2LT Evan Kowalski have both coordinated Day of Remembrance commemorations for Army units in Germany, and both have also led educational trips for soldiers to concentration camps. 2LT Kowalski, specifically, won an Army citation for his work. Several recent graduates, both in military intelligence, have done exemplary work on human rights and atrocity prevention, taking on responsibilities way above their ranks due to the education they received through CHGS programs.

- 9) **Plans for the Future.** As the CHGS begins to stand on more sound financial footing, the future holds great promise. In addition to planning for the large DoD workshop (point 2) and further developing the Mass Atrocity Risk Awareness “app” begun in 2013 with the Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide, plans for 2015-16 include:
- a. outreach work with regional Holocaust and genocide education groups;
 - b. development of a “Ordinary Behavior” case study, based on the model of the “Ordinary Soldiers” case study. “Ordinary Behavior” would use the history of German Army behavior on the Eastern Front to elucidate fundamental concepts in psychology;
 - c. visits by several extremely well-known speakers concerning Holocaust or genocide-related issues. Without giving away names, a former President of the United States has accepted my invitation to discuss the importance of atrocity studies for future officers and is very likely to address cadets this fall! I hope to have more concrete news soon!

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 Claudia Phillips at claudia.phillips@wpaog.org 845.446.1575 (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