

NGA topic of second InterAgency Brown-Bag Lecture for AY19

Mr. Ralph M. Erwin, Senior Geospatial Intelligence Officer, led a discussion on the roles and missions of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) on September 24 – the second to speak as part of the InterAgency Brown-Bag Lecture Series for academic year 2019.

The NGA is both a combat support agency under the Department of Defense and an intelligence agency as part of the United States' intelligence community. During his presentation, Erwin explained that NGA compiles 2 exabytes (2 quintillion bytes) of data every day that can be used to inform the decisions of policymakers, warfighters, intelligence professionals, and first responders. Erwin went on to describe NGA's role in a variety of missions, from the 2011 raid on Osama bin Laden's Abbottabad compound to humanitarian relief operations after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

Mr. Erwin is the Senior Geospatial Intelligence Officer assigned by the Army National Geospatial Intelligence Agency Support Team to be the NGA Liaison to the US Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) and the Combined Arms Center (CAC) at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. His responsibilities include the integration of geospatial intelligence education into U.S. Army TRADOC educational institutions, CAC elements, and the Command and General Staff College. He is a Director of National Intelligence designated Intelligence Community Officer and served as a Senior Mentor to the Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office in 2011. Mr. Erwin's other service to our country and in the private sector include duty as the deputy director of the U.S. Army TRADOC Program Integration Office for Terrain Data at the U.S. Army Engineer School, service as a U.S. Army Field Artillery officer, time at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency as the main battle tank simulation operations manager, and as a topographic systems combat developer for Lockheed Martin Corporation.

The InterAgency Brown-Bag Lecture Series is co-hosted by the CGSC Foundation's Simons Center with the U.S. Army Command and General Staff School (CGSS). The lecture series is an extracurricular, interagency topic-focused series that is intended to help enrich the CGSS curriculum. The CGSC Foundation and the Simons Center have received support for all brown-bag lectures in academic year 2019 from First Command Financial Services in Leavenworth, Kansas.

- Simons Center

WWI lecture focuses on American Expeditionary Forces in 1918

On August 23, 2018, Dr. Richard S. Faulkner, William A. Stofft Professor and Chair of Military History at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, presented "Into the Crucible: The AEF in Battle September-November 1918," at the Stove Factory Ballroom in downtown Leavenworth, Kansas.

In his presentation, Faulkner explored the challenges that the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) faced in conducting large-scale combat operations from September to November 1918, with a primary focus on the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, the United States' greatest contribution to the Allied victory in the war, and an event that holds the distinction of being the largest and bloodiest campaign in the nation's history.

Dr. Richard S. Faulkner served 23 years in the U.S. Army and commanded a tank company in the 1st Armored Division during Operation Desert Storm. Faulkner is the author of *The School of Hard Knocks: Combat Leadership in the American Expeditionary Forces* (Texas A&M Press, 2012), which was the recipient of the Society for Military History's 2013 "Distinguished Book Award." His second book, *Pershing's Crusaders: The American Soldier in World War I* (University Press of

Kansas, 2017) received the World War I Association's 2017 "Norman B. Tomlinson, Jr. Prize" for the best work of history in English on World War One, the Organization of American Historians' 2017 "Richard W. Leopold Prize," and the Army Historical Foundation's 2017 "Excellence in U.S. Army History Book Award."

The CGSC Department of Military History hosts the General of the Armies John J. Pershing Great War Centennial Series with support from the CGSC Foundation. The lecture series is intended to foster understanding of this world-changing conflict during its 100-year commemoration. More than any other single event, World War I was the decisive, shaping experience of the Twentieth Century. It was a brutal war that brought down four empires, led to revolution in Russia, and eventually brought the United States onto the world stage as a major power. We live with its results to this day.

Faulkner's lecture was the 16th in the General of the Armies John J. Pershing Great War Centennial Series hosted by the CGSC Department of Military History and supported by the CGSC Foundation, and the first Pershing Lecture to be held in academic year 2019. The CGSC Foundation has received support for all Pershing lectures in academic year 2019 from First Command Financial Services in Leavenworth, Kansas.

- CGSC Foundation, Inc.

Guardsman, civilians and agencies fighting wildfires

The 2018 wildfire season has consumed more than two million acres of land, with more than 100 fires burning as of mid-August. This comes after another two million acres of land burned in 2017.

Over 30,000 personnel – including firefighters from the U.S., Australia, and New Zealand as well as soldiers and airmen of the National Guard – are battling the flames. Said one California guardsman, "We live and serve in the communities that have been devastated by these fires. We train year-round to come to the aid of our neighbors when tragedy strikes."

In response to the devastating wildfires, the U.S. Forest Service has put forth a plan that calls for increased wildfire mitigation efforts, to include road maintenance, increased logging, and the removal of dead plants.

According to a Forest Service report, "catastrophic wildfires and the corresponding loss of lives, homes and natural resources have continued to grow, partly because our treatments have been uncoordinated and not at the right scale." The report goes on to stress the importance of "shared responsibility" for managing fire risks.

- Department of Defense

National security professionals move to save PKSOI

An open letter published in early August argues against the elimination of the U.S. Army War College's Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute (PKSOI). Secretary of the Army Mark Esper has called for the elimination of PKSOI, and Secretary of Defense James Mattis is expected to make a decision on the matter as early as this week.

PKSOI was established in 1993 to respond to the changing post-Cold War geopolitical situation, and according to Dr. Tammy S. Schultz, professor of strategic studies at the U.S. Marine Corps War College, "PKSOI is just as critical in today's geostrategic environment as it was in the 1990s..."

In the twenty-five years since its establishment, PKSOI has acted as a bridge between the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International