

## International Journal of Naval History

---

August 2005

Volume 4 Number 2

### News from the Naval Historical Center, USA

#### 2005 Awards

**Morison Scholarship:** The Director of Naval History selected Lieutenant Christopher W. Adams, USN, to receive the \$5,000 Rear Admiral Samuel Eliot Morison Scholarship, which is open to serving officers of the Navy and Marine Corps who are pursuing a graduate degree in history or a related field. Lieutenant Adams is completing a Master of Arts degree in Diplomacy and Military Studies at Hawaii Pacific University and a Masters of National Security and Strategic Studies through the Naval War College's Fleet Seminar Program. Lieutenant Adams, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, surface warfare officer, and veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom, is currently serving on the staff of Commander Navy Region Hawaii/Commander Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific. In his graduate studies, Lieutenant Adams plans to focus on the U.S. Navy's historic presence in the Pacific.

**Eller Prize Article:** The Director of Naval history has awarded Robert S. Burrell, a U.S. Marine Corps captain and instructor at the U.S. Naval Academy, the 2004 Rear Admiral Ernest M. Eller Prize in Naval History for a superlative article published in a professional journal. "Breaking the Cycle of Iwo Jima Mythology: A Strategic Study of Operation Detachment," appeared in the October 2004 issue of the *Journal of Military History*. Burrell presents in his article a fresh interpretation of the World War II struggle for Iwo Jima, undoubtedly the event most often associated with modern Marine Corps history. Burrell argues that the strategic requirements of the Army and the Navy for seizing the volcanic island southeast of Japan did not mesh. He contends that even though the Marine divisions suffered the heaviest casualties in the operation, Marine leaders were

given little opportunity to influence strategic decision-making beforehand. He concludes that U.S. leaders emphasized the value of Iwo Jima as an emergency landing site for B-29 bombers returning from raids on Japan to rationalize their previous decision to capture the island as a base for fighter aircraft, which proved impractical. Burrell observes that “as the myths about the flag raisings on Mount Suribachi reached legendary proportions, so did the emergency landing theory in order to justify the need to raise that flag.”

Receiving Honorable Mention in the competition was an article entitled “ “The Magic Touch of Reform”: Samuel Francis DuPont and the Efficiency Board of 1855,” published in the April 2004 issue of the *Journal of Military History*. The author, Kevin J. Weddle, a colonel in the U.S. Army currently on the staff of the Army War College, concludes that many of the personnel reforms instituted by the Navy’s Efficiency Board of 1855, and championed by its chair, Samuel Francis DuPont, did not long survive opposition from key Congressman and senior naval officers. However, the debate did ultimately convince naval leaders of the worth of promotion based on merit rather than seniority. The nation and the Navy benefited from the work of the 1855 board because it enabled David Farragut, David Dixon Porter, and other gifted mid-level officers to ascend to leadership roles in the Civil War and postwar eras.

For information and application forms relating to these award programs, consult the Naval Historical Center’s Web site, [www.history.navy.mil](http://www.history.navy.mil), or contact the Center’s Senior Historian, Dr. Edward J. Marolda, at (202) 433-3940.

### **Naval History Seminar Program for 2005-2006**

Where: Each of the seminars will be held in The United States Navy Museum, Bldg. 76, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC. For additional information on the program contact the Senior Historian, Naval Historical Center, Dr. Edward J. Marolda, at (202) 433-3940 or [Edward.Marolda@navy.mil](mailto:Edward.Marolda@navy.mil)

---

**Lecture: “The Story within the Pearl Harbor Story”** by Tom Kimmel, USNA '66, LCDR, USNR, retired FBI agent, grandson of Rear Admiral Husband E. Kimmel, Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, at Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. Agent Kimmel will investigate and determine true accountability for the success of the Japanese attack, and describe his grandfather's successes and failures to expose the facts about Pearl Harbor to the American public. Kimmel will also address what's new in the Pearl Harbor story including information declassified more than fifty years after the attack that sheds new light on what was known in Washington about Japanese intentions, but was withheld from the Hawaiian Commanders.

**When:** 12:00-1:00 on Tuesday 20 September 2005

---

**Lecture: “Leadership of U.S. Naval Forces in Europe during World War I”** by Dr. William N. Still Jr., East Carolina University Emeritus and author of a forthcoming University of Florida Press book on the U.S. Navy in the First World War. Dr. Still is a former holder of the Secretary of the Navy’s Research Chair at the Naval Historical Center. He will discuss the impact of Admiral William S. Sims, Commander in Chief of U.S. Naval Forces in Europe, and other naval leaders on the American navy’s contribution to the war effort. He will also assess the influence on the Navy of World War I, which represented a watershed in its history.

**When:** 12:00-1:00 on Tuesday 18 October 2005

---

**Lecture: “Jocko Clark the Cherokee and the Other Admirals in the Great Carrier War”** by Clark G. Reynolds, distinguished historian of the Navy in World War II. He will discuss America’s most senior part-Indian flag officer when he was Admiral Marc Mitscher’s top fast carrier task group commander during the Central Pacific counteroffensive of 1944-1945. He will emphasize Clark’s relationship with seniors (Nimitz, Spruance, Towers, Halsey, Pownall, McCain) and his peers (Radford, Montgomery, Bogan, Davison, the two Shermans, Harrill). And, why the likes of Jocko

have not and never will be seen again. The author will be available to sign copies of his recently published book.

**When:** 12:00-1:00 on Tuesday 15 November 2005

---

**Lecture: “The Union’s Forgotten Admiral, Samuel Francis Du Pont”** by Army Colonel Kevin Weddle, Ph.D., Deputy Dean of Academics at the United States Army War College and author of *Lincoln’s Tragic Admiral: The Life of Samuel Francis Du Pont*. He will discuss the antebellum and wartime contributions of Rear Admiral Samuel Francis Du Pont, emphasizing the officer’s role in the pre-war Navy and in planning and executing the Union blockade. He will finish with an overall assessment of Du Pont and his legacy. The author will be available to sign copies of his recently published book.

**When:** 12:00-1:00 on Tuesday 13 December 2005 [NOTE NOT THIRD TUES]

---

**Lecture: “The Dilemmas of Command at Sea: From Toulon to Leyte Gulf, 1744–1944”** by Dr. Michael A. Palmer, Professor and Chairman, Department of History, East Carolina University. Naval commanders in battle have adopted one of two approaches to control of their assets—centralized systems relying on visual or wireless communications or decentralized systems relying on doctrine, be it formal or personal. Palmer will discuss the approaches of selected naval warriors from Admiral Thomas Mathews at Toulon (1744) to Admiral William Halsey at Leyte Gulf (1944). Palmer will argue that decentralized systems, although by no means foolproof, generally proved superior to the centralized. He will also address the enigma of the British Royal Navy’s embrace of the centralized tactical system developed by its oft-defeated French foe after the Seven Years’ War. The author will be available to sign copies of his recently published book.

**When:** 12:00-1:00 on Tuesday 17 January 2006

---

**Lecture: “Sam Gravely, Pioneer and Role Model”** by Paul Stillwell, former oral historian for the U.S. Naval Institute. The talk will highlight Vice Admiral Samuel L.

Gravely's groundbreaking role as one of the early black officers in the U.S. Navy and eventually its first African-American flag officer. Gravely overcame prejudice by succeeding within the Navy system that rewarded excellence in service at sea.

Commissioned near the end of World War II, he served in ships during both the Korean and Vietnam wars; he commanded a radar picket ship, a destroyer, and guided a missile frigate. Through his success, Gravely blazed the trail for the thousands of black officers who followed by serving as an example and an inspiration.

**When:** 12:00-1:00 on Tuesday 21 February 2006

---

**Lecture: "Ruff's War: A Navy Nurse on the Frontline in Iraq"** by Commander Cheryl L. Ruff, NC, USN (Ret). The co-author of a new book, Commander Ruff will share her personal eyewitness account of the 122 days she served as the only female Navy nurse anesthetist deployed to Kuwait and Iraq during the onset of Operation Iraqi Freedom. A member of the Bravo Surgical Company known as the "devil docs," Commander Ruff and her company followed directly behind the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Force as it entered Iraq in March 2003. She will describe the horrific living and working conditions, coupled with the gruesome images of shredded bodies and the cries of wounded children that became her world. The author will be available to sign copies of her recently published book.

**When:** 12:00-1:00 on Tuesday 21 March 2006

---

**Lecture: "The U.S. Sloop-of-War *Decatur* in the Pacific Squadron, 1854-1859"** by Dr. Lorraine McConaghy, historian, Museum of History and Industry, Seattle, Washington, and recipient of a Vice Admiral Edwin B. Hooper Research Grant for 2005-2006. The first known drawings of the settlement of Seattle were made by Lieutenant Thomas S. Phelps from the deck of USS *Decatur* during the Treaty War in Washington Territory, 1855-1856. McConaghy's research explores the larger narrative of this ship's Pacific Squadron cruise, and the biography of her officers and men. The *Decatur's* cruise

was contextualized by the 1855 Act to Promote the Efficiency of the Navy, by a generational struggle between the veterans of the War of 1812 and their successors, by a service-wide disciplinary crisis, by dramatic technological changes, by diminishing autonomy for naval commanders on distant stations, and by antebellum tensions in America.

**When:** 12:00-1:00 on Tuesday 18 April 2006

---

**Lecture: “Why These Five? Identifying the Milestone Naval Battles of American History”** by Dr. Craig L. Symonds, recently retired from the U.S. Naval Academy History Department and now Chief Historian for the *Monitor* Center at the Mariners' Museum. Symonds will discuss his new book, *Decision at Sea: Five Naval Battles that Shaped American History*, and explain the criteria he used in selecting those five battles, why he thinks they were milestones, and hopefully provoke a discussion about naval battles and history. The author will be available to sign copies of his recently published book.

**When:** 12:00-1:00 on Tuesday 16 May 2006

---

**Lecture: “Marines in the First Phase of Operation Ira qi Freedom”** by Colonel N. E. Reynolds, USMCR (Ret.), who was head of Field History for the United States Marine Corps. Field History Marines deployed to Kuwait and Iraq in 2003 to conduct interviews and preserve official data. The results went into Colonel Reynolds' book, *Basrah, Baghdad, and Beyond: The U.S. Marine Corps in the Second Iraq War*, published by the Naval Institute Press in 2005. He will speak about field history in the context of the war in 2003, making points both about the process and about Marine operations in Iraq. The author will be available to sign copies of his recently published book.

**When:** 12:00-1:00 on Tuesday 20 June 2006



The Editors  
International Journal of Naval History  
[editors@ijnhonline.org](mailto:editors@ijnhonline.org)

© Copyright 2005, International Journal of Naval History, All Rights Reserved