

Robert F. Williams

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EMPLOYMENT

Historian, Army University Press, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas	2023–Present
Lecturer, Department of History, The Ohio State University	2023
Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of History, The Ohio State University	2019–2022

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Department of History, The Ohio State University	2023
M.A., Department of History, The Ohio State University	2020
B.A., Department of History, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill <i>Highest Distinction</i> , Phi Beta Kappa, second major in Peace, War, and Defense	2018

PUBLICATIONS

Book

The Airborne Mafia: Culture and Change in the US Army (Under review at Cornell University Press)

Peer Reviewed Articles

- 2023 ““Our Problem Children”: Masculinity and its Discontents in American Parachute Units in World War II,” *Journal of Military History*, vol 87 (July 2023): 657–702. Available [here](#).
- 2022 “All Blood Runs Red: Triple Nickle Paratroopers Jump Start Integration,” *Proceedings of the Ohio Academy of History Annual Meetings 2020-2022*, October 2022. Available [here](#).
- 2022 “STRAC: U.S. Army Strategic Response Forces and Maintaining Relevance in the Atomic Age,” *On Point: The Journal of Army History* vol. 27 no. 3 (Spring 2022): 35–44. Available [here](#).
- 2021 “The Development of Airfield Seizure Operations in the United States Army,” *Military Review* Online Exclusive, (November 18, 2021). Available [here](#).
- 2019 “Focus on Failure: The Failure of Che Guevara’s Foquismo,” *The Internationalist: Undergraduate Journal of Foreign Affairs*. Volume III (April 2019): 44-55.

Book Chapters

“Prop Blast: One Paratrooper’s Jump into the Academy” in *Veterans in Academia*, edited by Luke McClees and Mariana Grohowski, (under review with University Press of Kentucky)

Refereed Blog Posts

- 2022 “The Rise and Fall of the Pentomic Army,” *War on the Rocks*, November 25, 2022. Available [here](#).
- 2022 with Carson Teuscher, “Torch: The Allied Invasion of French North Africa, 1942.” *Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective*, September 29, 2022. Available [here](#).
- 2022 “British Strategy in the First Anglo-Afghan War, 1838–1842,” *Military History Online*, August 16, 2022. Available [here](#).
- 2021 “Bring Back the Sightseeing Sixth: The Case For An Arctic Division,” *Modern War*

Institute, December 14, 2021. Available [here](#).

- 2021 “Renaming Southern Army Bases is Nothing New,” *Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective*, January 18, 2021. Available [here](#).

Commentary

- 2021 “Gavin, ‘Triple Nickles’ at Forefront of Army Integration,” *ARMY Magazine* vol. 71, no. 11 (November 2021): 14–15. Available [here](#).
- 2021 “The Warrior Problem and the American Veteran,” *Stars and Stripes*, July 2, 2021. Available [here](#).
- 2020 “The ‘Triple Nickles’: Jim Crow Was an Elite Black Airborne Battalion’s Toughest Foe.” *History News Network*, September 6, 2020. Available [here](#).
- 2020 “Using Grief to Bridge The Civilian-Military Divide.” *VFW Magazine*, May 2020, 20–21. Available [here](#).
- 2020 “Camas Coach’s Lessons Help Soldier Face Adversity in Combat Zone, Life.” *Camas-Washougal Post Record*, January 30, 2020. Available [here](#).
- 2019 “Presidential Pardons Send Wrong Message to Our Military.” *The Columbus Dispatch*, December 31, 2019. Available [here](#).

Book Reviews

- 2023 Review of David W. Bath, *Assured Destruction: Building the Ballistic Missile Culture of the U.S. Air Force* (Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 2020), *War in History* vol. 30, no. 2, (Summer 2022): 229–230.
- 2023 Review of Ben Kesling, *Bravo Company: An Afghanistan Deployment and its Aftermath* (New York: Abrams Press, 2022), *ARMY Magazine* vol. 73, no. 2, (February 2023): 67–68.
- 2022 Review of Brooke King, *War Flower: My Life after Iraq* (Lincoln, NE: Potomac Books, 2019), *Marine Corps History* 8, No. 1 (Summer 2022): 78–79. Available [here](#)
- 2022 Review of Michael J. Lyons and David J. Ulbrich, *World War II: A Global History* 6th Edition (London: Routledge, 2021), *International Journal of Military History and Historiography* 42 (2022): 242–244.
- 2022 Review of Frank A. Blazich, Jr., *An Honorable Place in American Air Power: Civil Air Patrol Coastal Patrol Operations, 1942-1943* (Maxwell AFB: Air University Press, 2020), *Journal of Military History* 86, No. 1, (January 2022): 209–11.
- 2021 Review of Werner T. Angress, *Witness to the Storm: A Jewish Journey from Nazi Berlin to the 82nd Airborne, 1920–1945* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2019), H-War, H-Net Reviews. February 2021. Available [here](#).
- 2020 Review of Patrick K. O'Donnell, *First SEALs: The Untold Story of the Forging of America's Most Elite Unit* (Boston: De Capo Press, 2014), H-War, H-Net Reviews. July 2020. Available [here](#).
- 2020 Review of Giles Milton, *Soldier, Sailor, Frogman, Spy, Airman, Gangster, Kill or Die* (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2018). *Journal of Military History* 84, No. 2, (April 2020), 639–640.
- 2019 Review of Joel Bius, *Smoke ‘Em If You Got ‘Em: The Rise and Fall of the Military Cigarette Ration* (Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2018). *On Point: The Journal of Army History* 25 no. 2 (Fall 2019), 60.

AWARDS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2022 Second Prize, Cold War Essay Contest, Adams Center for Military History and Strategic Analysis, Virginia Military Institute
- 2022 Fellow at the Summer Seminar in Military History, Jenny Craig Institute for War and Democracy and Society for Military History
- 2022 Bradley Foundation Writing Seminar Fellowship, Autumn 2022
- 2022 Dr. Robert H. Bremner Memorial Award, Department of History, The Ohio State University
- 2022 Retrieving the American Past Award, Department of History, The Ohio State University
- 2022 World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship, Smith Richardson Foundation
- 2022 Ray Travel Award, The Ohio State University Council of Graduate Students
- 2022 Runner-Up, Russell F. Weigley Award for Best Military History Paper, 27th Annual James A. Barnes Conference
- 2022 Russell F. Weigley Graduate Student Travel Grant Award, Society for Military History
- 2021 Research Grant, The Harry S. Truman Library Institute
- 2021 Eisenhower Foundation Research and Travel Grant, Dwight D. Eisenhower Foundation
- 2021 Honorable Mention, Cold War Essay Contest, Adams Center for Military History and Strategic Analysis, Virginia Military Institute
- 2021 SALUTE National Veterans Honor Society Gold Scholarship
- 2021 Society for Military History Best Graduate Student Paper Prize, 56th Annual Northern Great Plains History Conference
- 2021 John H. Kauffman Family Graduate Support Scholarship in American History, The Ohio State University
- 2021 Warner Woodring Award for Graduate Research, The Ohio State University
- 2020 Graduate Research Fellowship, Mershon Center for International Security Studies
- 2020 Scholarship Grand Prize, Combat Infantry Badge Association
- 2020 Micro Grant, Society for Military History
- 2019 Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation Fellowship, 2019–2020
- 2019 The Ohio State University Fellowship (full tuition and stipend)
- 2018 Research and Travel Grant, Department of History, UNC Chapel Hill
- 2018 Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society
- 2017 Dean's List, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2017–2018
- 2013 Audie Murphy Leadership Award, United States Army

TEACHING

Instructor of Record

History of War (Summer 2023)

US History since 1877 (Spring 2023)

Discussion Section Leader

Launching America, US History to 1877—Dr. Randolph Roth (Spring 2022)

Western Society to 1600—Dr. Geoffrey Parker (Spring, Summer, and Autumn 2021)

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Making America Modern, US History 1877 to Present—Dr. Bartow Elmore (Autumn 2022)

The History of War—Dr. Mark Grimsley (Autumn 2020)

Mentorship

Ambassador, Service to School Program (2017–2019)

Mentored veterans applying to highly selective colleges and universities through the application process

Co-Facilitator, NC Vets for Words Reading Group, Chapel Hill Veterans Book Group (2018)

Led a cross-generational group of ten veterans through various readings about the experience of war

Assistant Coach, Men's Club Rugby, UNC Chapel Hill (2017–2019)

Helped coach a team of thirty college rugby players, focused on character development

Non-commissioned Officer, United States Army (2003–2017)

Coached and mentored seniors, peers, and subordinates alike throughout career

PRESENTATIONS

Conferences Organized

2023 2023 Military Frontiers Graduate Student Symposium, Mershon Center for International Security Studies and the America in the World Consortium, Columbus, OH, April 21, 2023.

Panels Organized

2023 "Masculinity and its Discontents: The Effect of Masculine Identities on Service Culture in Elite Units," 89th Annual Society for Military History Conference, San Diego, CA, March 23-26, 2023.

Papers Presented

2023 "New Frontier Military Masculinity: The Green Berets and the Return of the Cavalry," Ohio Academy of History Conference, Ohio Northern University, April 15, 2023.

2023 "The Airborne Way of War: Crafting an Expeditionary Mindset in World War II," Missouri Valley History Conference, Virtual Conference, March 18, 2023.

2022 "Freed from the Tyranny of Terrain": The Cold War Reincarnation of Cavalry," 88th Annual Society for Military History Conference, Fort Worth, TX, April 30, 2022.

2022 "'All Blood Runs Red:' Triple Nickle Paratroopers Jump Start Integration," Ohio Academy of History Annual Meeting and Conference, University of Akron, Akron, OH, April 8, 2022.

2022 "'Our Problem Children:' Masculinity in the United States Army Airborne in World War II," 27th Annual James A. Barnes Conference, Temple University, March 19, 2022.

(Runner-Up, Russell F. Weigley Award for Military History Paper)

- 2021 “‘Good landing, good fight, and good luck’: Proving the Efficacy of Large-Scale Airborne Operations during Operation Husky, July 1943,” 56th Annual Northern Great Plains History Conference, Eau Claire, WI. September 24, 2021. (Earned Best Graduate Student Paper Prize)
- 2021 “How the Airborne Mafia turned the Paratrooper into a Strategic Asset,” 87th Annual Society for Military History Conference, Norfolk, VA, May 28, 2021.
- 2020 “Getting the Bayonet There on Time: The Airborne and Strategic Mobility in the Eisenhower Era,” 25th Annual James A. Barnes Graduate History Conference, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, March 21, 2020.

Invited Talks and Lectures

- 2023 “Masculinity in the Airborne in World War II,” World War II Emerging Scholars Symposium, Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, Abilene, KS, June 9, 2023.
- 2023 “The US Army and the Origins of Integrated Deterrence in the Early Cold War,” Institute for Strategic and Defense Studies (IESD), at Jean Moulin Lyon 3 University, Lyon, France, February 1, 2023.
- 2022 “Restrepo: Personal Experiences in the Korengal Valley,” Literature and War course, Dr. Hilary Lithgow, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, April 12, 2022.
- 2018 “Grief is Grief: Relating Combat Experience to Students,” Literature and War course, Dr. Hilary Lithgow, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. November 18, 2018.

Podcasts

- 2023 “Airborne Culture and the Reinvention of the US Army,” [The Modern Scholar Podcast](#), Podcast, Season 3, Episode
- 2021 “Rob Williams Interview,” [Veterans in Academics](#), Podcast, Season 1, Episode 11, hosted by Eric McClees, March 4, 2021.
- 2021 “To Close a Chasm,” [No Sh*T, There I Was](#), Podcast, Season 2, Episode 1, hosted by Joey Snowden, February 12, 2021.

SERVICE

2023–present	Editorial Board Member, Army University Press
2022–2023	Department Delegate, Ohio State University Council of Graduate Students
2022–2023	Facilitator, Society for Military History Graduate Student Peer Review Group
2021	Deputy Director, The Ohio State University National Security Simulation
2021–present	Article Referee, <i>Journal of Veterans Studies</i>
2021–present	Chair, Combat Infantryman’s Badge Association Prize Committee
2020–2022	Judge, Ohio History Day Competition, Columbus, Ohio
2020–2021	Host, Virtual Conference Panels, Society for Military History
2020	Inject Writer, The Ohio State University National Security Simulation (November 2020)

2019	Outreach Coordinator, Veterans Writing Workshop, UNC Chapel Hill
2017–2019	Undergraduate Ambassador, Service to School program, 2017–2019
2017–2018	Community Outreach Coordinator, Carolina Veterans Organization, UNC Chapel Hill
2019	Co-Facilitator, NC Vets for Words Reading Group, Chapel Hill Veteran’s Book Group

WORK EXPERIENCE

2022	Archival Assistant, Dr. Geoffrey Parker
	Assisted in preparing papers for deposit at the University of St. Andrews
2018	Student Veterans Liaison, Office of Undergraduate Retention, UNC Chapel Hill
2017–2019	Assistant Coach, Men’s Club Rugby, UNC Chapel Hill
2000–2017	Infantryman, United States Army

LANGUAGES

German: Intermediate speaking, writing, and reading.

Italian: Elementary speaking.

French: Elementary reading.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for Military History

Army Historical Foundation

American Historical Association

Organization of American Historians

Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations

Ohio History Connection

United States Commission on Military History

Phi Alpha Theta

Phi Beta Kappa

Association of the United States Army

Combat Infantryman Association

National Infantry Association

Veterans of Foreign Wars