

Military Archives Section

Candidates 2017-2019

The biographies and statements of those running for office are listed below under the office they are seeking, in alphabetical order:

Chair:

Beth Ann Koelsch, Betty H. Carter Women Veterans Historical Project, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Beth Ann Koelsch has been the curator of the Betty H. Carter Women Veterans Historical Project (WVHP) at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro since 2008. The WVHP collects oral histories and other materials that document the contributions of women in the U.S. military and the American Red Cross (<http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/WVHP/>). Koelsch previously worked as a project archivist at the Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture at Duke University, Durham, NC. She received her Master's in Library Science (MSLS) degree from the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2007 and earned her undergraduate degree from Duke University in 1990.

Statement of Purpose:

As an archivist at an academic research repository I field many research queries about a wide variety of military history topics, about all branches and all time periods. I hate not being able to help researchers and become frustrated because I know, deep in my information specialist heart, that the resources might very well be somewhere that I cannot find via Google.

MARS is made up of different types of repositories such as federal, state, military, academic, museums, and non-profits, but we have in common a mission to preserve history and make it as accessible as we can within our strictures and resources. I would like to be a part of furthering our efforts to make our collections more visible to each other and the general public.

I am fortunate to be a faculty member at a large research university and, as such, be charged with service to the profession. I would like the opportunity to work with fellow MARS members and focus my service on MARS initiatives.

Goals:

I am interested in establishing working groups to take on projects such as:

1. Working with the developing MARS directory that will help other MARS members learn about the resources in other repositories.
2. Utilizing the information in the directory to create a publicly available resource page;
3. Establishing a set of consistent terms/thesaurus to enable search engines to search multiple databases simultaneously with a single query; and
4. Enhancing visibility of our collections using social media platforms.

Vice-Chair:

Laura Jowdy, Congressional Medal of Honor Society

Laura Jowdy, CA, has worked for the Congressional Medal of Honor Society since 2006, where she is responsible for all aspects of the archives, research library, and museum collections. (And, yes, the Society has “Congressional” in front of it as it’s chartered by the Congress.) She graduated with a B.A. in history from Hiram College in Hiram, Ohio, and holds a Masters in Library and Information Science from the University of South Carolina with a graduate certificate in archival science and preservation. She became a Certified Archivist in 2007. In the past, she has served as the Secretary for the South Carolina Archival Association and has served as the Secretary for SAA’s Military Archives Roundtable/Section for the past two years.

As Vice-Chair of MARS, I hope to continue driving forward the goals of the Section. I would like to continue outreach to traditional and non-traditional military archives; enhance visibility and use of military archives; enhance communication among ourselves; and hopefully, have MAS become an agent of expertise that non-traditional military archives can reference. I believe we

can achieve these goals by continuing the Military Archives directory project; growing our social media presence; and reaching out to other SAA Sections to propose collaborative efforts and offer assistance to their members.

Karolina Lewandowska, Naval History & Heritage Command

I have been with Naval History & Heritage Command for the past two years. I received a promotion to Processing Archivist position after having worked as the Digital Archivist. Prior to coming to the Navy, I spent a decade in Corporate America working in primarily digital Archives. My last position was with Merck, Sharp & Dohme where I not only helped to manage a digital repository and assisted staff with complex copyright problems but also lead a metadata initiative that resulted in a 38% increased of use to the digital repository. Currently, I am working on establishing digitally born deck logs. At present, deck logs come in on paper. Going forward the Navy would like these to be created digitally and I am leading the charge of that initiative.

I have Masters of Library Science from the University of Pittsburgh as well as a Masters of History in from Claremont Graduate University. I am involved with a number of regional and national organizations including the Society of American Archivists; Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC), currently serving on the Hershey Program Committee for the spring 2018 Meeting; American Library Association, serving on the Committee on Membership Meetings.

Being a part of the Military Archives Section offers me the opportunity to confer with other colleagues who have the same challenges. While we spend a lot of time on the common gaps in support (financial, administrative, cooperative, or educational), we need to do much more in terms of the declassification dialog that I see as being vital to our group. I am acutely aware of how important the understanding and education of declassification is for the future of our specific group. As part of the leadership team, I hope to be able to contribute to the dialog to find solutions to help address the complicated and convoluted declassification process.

Secretary:

Amy Mondt, Vietnam Center and Archives, Texas Tech University

Amy Mondt, CA, is the Associate Director of the Vietnam Center and Archive at Texas Tech University. In 2008, she began her time at the VNCA as the reference archivist, helping patrons with their research, working on outreach programs, and creating exhibits. In 2012, she became the collection development archivist and had the privilege of working with the archive's donors, mostly Vietnam veterans. Amy is now the Associate Director of the archive, where she works with the other archivists on her team to help preserve the record of the Vietnam War. Amy graduated from Texas Tech University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology in 1997 and a Master of Arts degree in Museum Science in 2000. She became a Certified Archivist in 2007. Before joining the VNCA, Amy was the Director of Collections and Archives at the Petroleum Museum in Midland, Texas.

I have enjoyed being a member of MARS. This group has been so helpful with answering questions and connecting donors to the appropriate repository. I would like to see this camaraderie continue to grow and develop something more formal like professional development workshops and guides for handling military collections that can be used by our members and other archivists across the country.