

2023-2025 SAA Section Annual Reports

<https://www2.archivists.org/groups/military-archives-section>

Please complete the following Annual Report form by September 1.

Questions? Contact governance@archivists.org.

1. Name of Section

Military Archives Section

2. Council Liaison

Selena Ortega-Chiolero

3. Chair (Report Submitter) Information

Name: Andrew Harman

Email: aharman@ucsb.edu

4. Roster Updates: Please list all newly elected or appointed steering committee members. Include full name, position title, and term end date for each.

- Jeff Kozak, Chair (2025-2026)
- Jane Bartley, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect (Vice Chair, 2025-2026 & Chair, 2026-2027)
- Tarien Mitchell, Secretary, 2025-2027
- Amy Mondt, Communication Liaison, 2023-2026

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

SAA's sections are integral to SAA's work on behalf of our members and the profession. For many members, sections represent their primary experience with SAA. Please indicate all projects and activities that your section has completed this year, continues to work on, or plans to implement in the next year.

5. Completed:

- Continued discussion of group health started the previous year and continued our program of coffee chats. The coffee chats were intentionally pared down, though due to a lack of speakers and some vacations of committee members only one was done this year.
- Coffee Chat, February 11, 2025 – Working with Actors and Movie Production Companies
 - This coffee chat spotlights how archival research underpins historical portrayals in film (actor Will Roberts as Gen. George C. Marshall in Oppenheimer, with Melissa Davis, George C. Marshall Foundation), demonstrating archives’ public value and boosting visibility of archivists’ expertise.
 - Attendance: approx. 45
- Hosted the MARS annual section meeting which featured a presentation about legal issues in archival work and access—practical takeaways on collaborating with external partners and navigating access/rights.

6. Ongoing:

- Utilizing SAA Connect MARS Steering Committee library as the place of record for shared MARS documentation, including historical meeting minutes and annual reports.
- Held monthly MARS steering committee meetings to discuss section plans, activities, and elections.

7. New:

- In process.

8. Goals:

- Expand membership through outreach to military archives groups outside of SAA.

SAA STRATEGIC PLAN

SAA's Strategic Plan is the guiding document for the association. Please review the current Strategic Plan and indicate below how your section has contributed to each of the 4 main goals.

8. Goal 1: Advocating for Archives and Archivists

The **Directory of Military Archives**, hosted on the MARS microsite and created through collaboration by our members, provides an opportunity for organizations that preserve military collections to promote their holdings, helping archivists and the public connect with them to conduct research and donate materials.

9. Goal 2: Enhancing Professional Growth

MARS coffee chats facilitate knowledge sharing and collaborative learning among our members. MARS members are invited to present, offering an opportunity to build public speaking skills and confidence with a friendly and encouraging audience.

10. Goal 3: Advancing the Field

Speakers invited to present at the **MARS coffee chat** facilitated cross-sector exchange (archives + film production), surfacing approaches to description, research support, and stakeholder communication that members can adapt in their repositories. Additionally, the annual meeting included a discussion pertinent to members and others in the field. As a result, these briefings are attended by SAA members from a wide array of sections.

11. Goal 4: Meeting Members' Needs

The purpose of the Military Archives Section is to create a forum for SAA members to facilitate collaboration and information sharing among archival institutions, universities, governments, legal bodies, and nongovernment agencies that are documenting and preserving records of issues related to the military and military service.

Many of our members are lone arrangers with limited funding for professional development, or who come from non-traditional organizations and backgrounds that are not otherwise represented in SAA sections. We offered accessible, no-travel virtual programming and an open forum at the annual meeting, creating space for participation, networking, and timely peer problem-solving on legal/access topics. In addition to fostering professional interaction among our members, MARS provides a forum for open discussion where attendees share tips and advice for addressing challenges unique to military archivists. Discussions foster a better understanding of the needs and perspectives of communities we serve and document, including troops, veterans, and their families.

2024 SAA ANNUAL MEETING – SECTION MEETING

12. Number of Attendees

Approx. 30

13. Provide a summary of meeting activities and highlights. (No minutes, please, just notes.)

Section Business

- Steering Committee introduction and election results.
- Discussion about the future of MARS and the pros and cons of transitioning to a discussion group (continued; no decisions made)

Keynote Speaker

- **Amy Mondt, Archivist, Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University**

Led discussion on legal issues in the archives, centered on her experience with a collection of materials related to Agent Orange use and its effects during and after the Vietnam War.

14. Link to meeting minutes on the section's microsite (optional):

SELF-ASSESSMENT

15. How would you describe the health or energy of your section? How engaged are your members?

MARS is an active group that fosters a sense of community among its members and provides opportunities for networking and professional development. Originally formed as a "roundtable" within SAA that met only once a year during the annual meeting, the section has flourished in the virtual environment, with more than 70 people attending our coffee chat and annual meeting in 2024-2025. We have established a strong steering committee that meets monthly.

Since the establishment of our highly successful "coffee chat" series in 2020, we now meet frequently throughout the year for briefings and discussions.

QUESTIONS FOR THE COUNCIL

16. Does your section have questions or concerns for the SAA Council?

No questions at this time.