The Mershon Center for International Security Studies and the Department of History are proud to announce that they have selected Col. Peter R. Mansoor as the next Raymond E. Mason Jr. Chair of Military History.

Mansoor, currently serving as executive officer to Gen. David Petraeus in Iraq, will begin his duties at Ohio State in September 2008. He will assume a joint appointment between the Mershon Center and the History Department, teaching classes, conducting research, and organizing speaking and conference events in the fields of military history and national security studies.

Mansoor is a highly decorated officer with more than 25 years of distinguished military service. He currently serves as a key advisor to Petraeus, commander of Multi-National Force-Iraq. In this position, Mansoor assists Petraeus with strategic planning for the U.S. war effort in Iraq, and helps to prepare Petraeus for key meetings with top leaders in the Executive Branch, Congress, and in the Iraqi government. Mansoor was one of the major authors of the report on the situation in Iraq, delivered by Petraeus to Congress on Sept. 10-11, 2007.

While working for Petraeus in his previous assignment, Mansoor was hand-picked in the fall of 2006 to serve on a “Council of Colonels” that assisted the Joint Chiefs of Staff in reassessing the strategy for the Iraq War. The outcome of this effort was the “surge” strategy currently being employed in Iraq.

Mansoor is also the founding director of the U.S. Army/Marine Corps Counterinsurgency Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Under his leadership, the Counterinsurgency Center helped to revise the final version of the new Counterinsurgency Field Manual 3-24, which was published jointly by the Army and Marine Corps in December 2006. This document was the first revision of U.S. counterinsurgency operations in more than 20 years, incorporating lessons learned during conflicts throughout the 20th and 21st centuries.

Mansoor is author of The GI Offensive in Europe: The Triumph of American Infantry Divisions, 1941-45 (University Press of Kansas, 1999), which won the Society for Military History Distinguished Book Award and the Army Historical Foundation Distinguished Book Award.

He has also completed Baghdad at Sunrise: A Brigade Commander’s War in Iraq, to be published by Yale University Press. The book recounts his experiences as Commander of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Army Division, in Iraq during the “surge.”
Armored Division, in Iraq. After the April 2004 uprising of militia loyal to the Shiite cleric Muqtada Al-Sadr, Mansoor’s brigade combat team restored the holy city of Karbala to coalition control within three weeks, an operation that earned the organization a Presidential Unit Citation for collective valor in combat.

Mansoor graduated first in his class from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1982, and received master’s and doctoral degrees in military history from The Ohio State University in 1992 and 1995. He also has a master’s in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College. In 2005-06, Mansoor served as a Senior Military Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

Chinese trade delegation to visit

The China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC) is the most important arbitration institution in China. CIETAC independently and impartially resolves economic and trade disputes by means of arbitration and mediation. Since it began in 1956, CIETAC has administered more than 10,000 international arbitration cases. More than 700 cases are filed each year, most of which are international. CIETAC arbitration is marked by its unique combination of arbitration with mediation, which not only resolves disputes, but also renews positive business and personal relations between the parties.

On Thursday, December 6, a 13-member delegation from CIETAC will conduct a seminar on International Commercial Arbitration in China from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Columbus Renaissance Hotel, 50 N. Third St. Among those speaking are Dong Songgen, Vice Chairman of CIETAC and Vice Chairman of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), and Yu Jianlong, Vice Chairman and Secretary General of CIETAC.

On Friday, December 7, the delegation will attend a reception for leaders, faculty, staff and students at The Ohio State University at 4:30 p.m. at the Mershon Center for International Security Studies, 1501 Neil Ave. For more information, please see the event web page.

Online journal puts events in historical context

The Department of History has launched a new monthly online news magazine, Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective, published jointly by the department’s Public History Initiative and its online historical resource site, eHistory. In light of many Americans’ dissatisfaction with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the current issue features the essay “Conflict termination and the end to insurgencies,” by Ohio State history professor Joe Guilmartin, who flew helicopters in two tours during Vietnam, including during the evacuation of Saigon. View the current issue. Subscribe to the rss feed or podcast at http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/about.cfm#rss

Kirwan Institute holds national conference

The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity has extended the registration deadline to Monday, Nov. 26, for its upcoming national conference, “Toward a Transformative Agenda around Race,” expected
to bring more than 600 people to the Columbus Hyatt Regency on Friday-Sunday, Nov. 30-Dec. 2. Four plenary sessions will include notable scholars from Columbia, Emory and Arizona; **John A. Powell**, executive director of the Kirwan Institute; actors **Danny Glover** and **Felix Justice**; and former **Sen. Bill Bradley**. Read the onCampus article online. [Register online](http://www.osu.edu).

## 2008 Midwest Slavic Conference

The Midwest Slavic Association and Center for Slavic and East European Studies are proud to announce the 2008 Midwest Slavic Conference, to be held at the Blackwell Hotel and Conference Center, The Ohio State University, on April 17-19, 2008.

Conference organizers invite proposals for panels or individual papers addressing all disciplines related to Russian, East European, Central Asian, and Caucasian anthropology, business, contemporary culture, economics, history, linguistics, literature, political science, security studies, sociology, and other fields. The conference will open with a keynote address and reception on the evening of Thursday, April 17, followed by two days of academic and business-related panels.

Please send a one-paragraph abstract, along with a brief c.v. to [csees@osu.edu](mailto:csees@osu.edu) by **February 1, 2008**. Persons proposing papers must be willing to be scheduled either Friday or Saturday. Undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to submit presentations. Limited funding will be available to subsidize graduate hotel lodging. Foreign travel cannot be supported. For more information, contact the Center for Slavic and East European Studies at (614) 292-8770 or [csees@osu.edu](mailto:csees@osu.edu).

## Feature group: RAND Corporation

*Editor’s note:* Mershon Memo will periodically feature stories about peer groups and organizations that engage in scholarly and academic study of issues related to national security. If you would like to see a particular organization discussed, please email [Laura Tompkins](mailto:tompkins.46).  

The **RAND Corporation** is a nonprofit global policy think tank first formed to offer research and analysis to the United States armed forces. The organization has since expanded to working with other governments, private foundations, and international and commercial organizations.

RAND is known for rigorous, often-quantitative, and non-partisan analysis and policy recommendations. It is also the home to the Frederick S. Pardee Graduate School, one of the original graduate programs in public policy and the first to offer a Ph.D.

RAND has about 1,600 employees and four principal locations: Santa Monica, Calif. (headquarters); Washington, D.C.; Pittsburgh; and Cambridge, U.K. (RAND Europe). It also has several smaller offices in the United States, including the RAND Gulf States Policy Institute in Jackson, Miss., and New Orleans, La. In 2003, it opened the RAND-Qatar Policy Institute in Doha.

RAND claims important contributions in space systems and the United States' space program, computing and artificial intelligence. Current areas of expertise are broad, ranging from child policy, the arts, and civil
and criminal justice, to crisis management and disaster preparation, population and regional studies, and
science and technology.

For more information, see: www.rand.org

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