Faculty Spotlight

Use of Force and Diplomacy

Ideas, Identities and Decisional Processes that Affect Security

Institutions that Manage Violent Conflict

Graduate Student Research

Peter Mansoor

Peter Mansoor is the new Raymond E. Mason Jr. Chair in Military History, a joint appointment between the Mershon Center for International Security Studies and the Department of History at The Ohio State University. His research interests include modern U.S. military history, World War II, and counterinsurgency operations.

Mansoor is a highly decorated officer with more than 26 years of distinguished military service. Prior to coming to Ohio State, he served as Executive Officer to Gen. David Petraeus, commander of the multinational forces in Iraq.

In this position, Mansoor assisted Petraeus with strategic planning for the U.S. war effort in Iraq and prepared him for meetings with top leaders such as President George W. Bush, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, and the National Security Council. 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, and he also helped prepare the general for testimony before Congress about the state of the Iraq War in April 2008.

Prior to his most recent deployment, Mansoor served on a Council of Colonels that enabled the Joint Chiefs of Staff to reassess the strategy for the Iraq War. Based in part on this group’s deliberations, the United States began the “surge” strategy in 2007-08.

Mansoor is also founding director of the U.S. Army/Marine Corps Counterinsurgency Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Under his leadership, the Counterinsurgency Center helped to revise the final version of 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 doctrine in more than 20 years, incorporating lessons learned during conflicts throughout the 20th and 21st centuries.
Besides his military service, Mansoor also has a long record of scholarship. He is author of *The GI Offensive in Europe: The Triumph of American Infantry Divisions, 1941-45* (University Press of Kansas, 1999), a comprehensive study of America’s infantry combat performance in Europe during World War II. Mansoor argues the Army succeeded by developing effective divisions that could not only fight and win battles but also sustain that effort over years of combat. It won the Society for Military History Book Award and the Army Historical Foundation Distinguished Book Award.

Mansoor’s most recent publication is *Baghdad at Sunrise: A Brigade Commander’s War in Iraq* (Yale University Press, 2008). This memoir is based on his 2003-04 command of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, in Baghdad, 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, an operation for which the organization was awarded 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.

The Mason Chair in Military History is endowed by Maj. Gen. Raymond E. Mason Jr., a 1941 graduate of The Ohio State University who retired from military service in 1976. The previous holder of the Mason Chair was Allan R. Millett, now director of the Eisenhower Center for American Studies at the University of New Orleans.