

Robert F. M. Williams

Department of History, The Ohio State University, 106 Dulles Hall, Columbus, OH 43210

williams.6859@osu.edu | 919-895-1982 | www.rfmwilliams.com | [@rfmwilliams](https://twitter.com/rfmwilliams)

EDUCATION

- 2024 **The Ohio State University**
PhD Candidate, History, Expected completion May 2024
Fields: Military History, Modern U.S. History, Diplomatic History
Dissertation: "The Airborne Mafia: Organizational Culture and Institutional Change in the U.S. Army, 1940–1965"
- 2020 **The Ohio State University**
MA, History
- 2018 **University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill**
Bachelor of Arts, with *Highest Distinction*, *Phi Beta Kappa*
History and Peace, War, and Defense

PUBLICATIONS

Articles and Essays

- In Press "Prop Blast: One Paratrooper's Jump into the Academy" in *Veterans in Academia*, Edited by Luke McClees and Mariana Grohowski, under contract with University Press of Kentucky
- 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 Reviews

- In Press Review of Brooke King, *War Flower: My Life after Iraq* (Lincoln, NE: Potomac Books, 2019), *Marine Corps History* (2022) [Forthcoming]
- In Press 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* (2022) [Forthcoming]
- 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.

Manuscripts in Submission

- 2022 "STRAC: U.S. Army Strategic Response Forces and Maintaining Relevance in the Atomic Age" *On Point: The Journal of Army History* (Accepted, pending publication, March 24, 2022).
- 2022 "Our Problem Children": Masculinity in the United States Army Airborne in World War II," *Journal of Military History* (Submitted February 22, 2022).

Web-Based Publications

- 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](#).

- 2020 “The “Triple Nickles”: Jim Crow Was an Elite Black Airborne Battalion's Toughest Foe.” *History News Network*, September 6, 2020. Available [here](#).

Other Publications

- 2021 “Gavin, ‘Triple Nickles’ at Forefront of Army Integration,” *ARMY Magazine*, November 2021, 14–15. Available [here](#).
- 2021 “The Warrior Problem and the American Veteran,” *Stars and Stripes*, July 2, 2021. 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](#).

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 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
- 2022 Ray Travel Award, The Ohio State University Council of Graduate Students
- 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
- 2020 Scholarship Grand Prize, Combat Infantry Badge Association
- 2019 Intelligence Center of Academic Excellence Scholar, Triangle Institute for Security Studies
- 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

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 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 Arts and Humanities Graduate Travel Grant, The Ohio State University
- 2021 Research Grant, The Harry S. Truman Library Institute
- 2021 Conference Travel Grant, History Department, The Ohio State University
- 2021 Eisenhower Foundation Research and Travel Grant, Dwight D. Eisenhower Foundation
- 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 Micro Grant, Society for Military History
- 2020 Conference Travel Grant, History Department, The Ohio State University
- 2019 Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation Fellowship, 2019–2020
- 2019 The Ohio State University Fellowship (full tuition and stipend)
- 2019 Arts and Humanities Graduate Research Grant, The Ohio State University
- 2018 Research and Travel Grant, Department of History, UNC Chapel Hill

CONFERENCES

Papers Presented

- 2022 “‘Our Problem Children’: Hegemonic 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 27–30, 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.
- 2020 “Maintaining Relevance in the New Look Army: The Development of the Strategic Army Corps,” 15th Annual Ohio University History Graduate Conference. Athens, OH. March 28, 2020. [Cancelled due to COVID-19 Pandemic].

INVITED TALKS

- 2021 “Rob Williams Interview.” [Veterans in Academics](#). 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.
- 2018 “Grief is Grief: Relating Combat Experience to Students,” Literature and War course, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. November 2018.
- 2018 “Green Zone Training” with Veronica O’Kelly and Frankie Burgos. Carolina Veterans Resource Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. May, June, and July 2018.

DEPARTMENTAL TALKS

- 2021–present Panelist, Admitted Students Day, various topics, Department of History, Ohio State University
- 2021 Panelist, “Candidacy Exams.” Department of History, Ohio State University, May 25, 2021.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Discussion Section Leader

- Launching American, US History to 1877—Dr. Randolph Roth (Spring 2022)
- Western Society to 1600—Dr. Geoffrey Parker (Spring, Summer, and Autumn 2021)

Graduate Teaching Assistant

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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2021 Deputy Director, The Ohio State University National Security Simulation (November 2021)
- 2021–present Article Referee, *Journal of Veterans Studies*
- 2021–present Chair, Combat Infantryman’s Badge Association Prize Committee
- 2020–present Judge, Ohio History Day Competition, Columbus, Ohio
- 2020–2021 Host, Virtual Conference Panels, Society for Military History Conference (November 2020 and May 2021)
- 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

MEDIA COVERAGE

- 2019 Alex Horton, “‘Our friends didn’t have to die’: Afghanistan Papers surface pain and familiar frustrations,” *Washington Post* December 9, 2019. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2019/12/09/our-friends-didnt-have-die-afghanistan-papers-surface-pain-familiar-frustrations/>

NON-ACADEMIC WORK

- 2018 Student Veterans Liaison, Office of Undergraduate Retention, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
- 2017–2019 Assistant Coach, Men’s Club Rugby, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2000–2017 Infantryman, United States Army

TEACHING AREAS/COURSES PREPARED TO TEACH

War and American Society to 1902
War and American Society 1903 to Present
United States History to 1877
United States History, 1877–Present
US-Latin American Relations
Security Studies

LANGUAGES

German: Intermediate speaking, writing, reading
Italian: Elementary speaking
French: Elementary reading

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS

Ohio History Connection
Army Historical Foundation
American Historical Association
Organization of American Historians
Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations
Society for Military History
United States Commission on Military History
Phi Beta Kappa
Phi Alpha Theta
Association of the United States Army
Combat Infantryman Association
National Infantry Association
Veterans of Foreign Wars