



SOUTH BAY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

South Bay Civil War Roundtable Meeting Minutes June 28, 2022

Meeting Location: Holder's Country Inn – Cupertino, CA and via ZOOM

Special Activities & Events:

None

Officer Reports

President

History and Use of War Games (Jim Rhetta)

- Invented in the 1820s by the Prussian General Staff
- Used to test the feasibility of its war plans
- Identify and correct strategic/tactical problems in advance
- **General Staff Elements**
 - Builds Operational Plans (OPLAN) for a real or possible conflict
 - Builds Contingency Plans (CONPLAN) for possible events.
 - Runs Command Post Exercises (CPX) to War Game plans.
- **US General Staff: Mission of US Army 1866 - 1890**
 - 1 -Defend Harbors from foreign attack
 - 2 -Keep Native Tribes on Reservations
 - Purchased what is required and ship to Garrisons
 - Local commanders made Operations Plans as required
 - NO plans for foreign involvements
- **General Staff Planning: Railroad Management in Franco-Prussian War 1870-71**
 - Prussian Planning:
 - Studied use of railroads in US Civil War – first use in wartime
 - In time of war, Army takes control of national railroad system
 - Coordinates rail movements to support Army Operations Plan
 - Can load a troop train in 90 seconds

- No disruptions to strategic plans
- French Planning:
 - Unit commanders seize trains needed to move their unit
 - No centralized control of railroads planned
 - Entire national rail network disrupted
 - No movements on-time
 - Combat plans disrupted
- **Higher Fidelity Factors to Simulate**
 - Combat strength after attrition – true combat strength after losses
 - Impact of leaders and their loss – Command & Control Disrupted?
 - Personnel Condition: Dehydration Unfed Poor sleep long march
 - Movement factors: vegetation, hills, vehicles, road conditions
 - Combat Proficiency – Training Level, veteran unit, corruption!
 - Weapons Effectiveness - Impacts to operations
- **Historically Accurate War Games(Attack on Pearl Harbor)**
 - 1st War Game – Japanese Fleet Advanced from the Southwest
 - 2nd War Game – Japanese Fleet Advanced from the Northwest
- **Historically Accurate War Game: China conducts Wargame of Korean War**
- **War Game Experiences**
 - BUSY PRARIE '80 - Strategic Air Command CPX & FTX
 - TEAM SPIRIT '85 – Korean War FTX and CPX
 - ULCHI FOCUS LENS '85, 92-'03 – Korean War CPX
 - FLINTLOCK '86 – NATO Spec Ops FTX
 - WINTEX/CIMEX '89 – NATO CPX
 - KEEN EDGE '91 - CPX on Defense of Japan
 - BLUE ADVANCE '2000 - CONPLAN for collapse of Columbia
 - ARCADE FUSION '10 – NATO CPX
 - ELLIPSE CHARLIE '11 - FTX for new sensors

Military War Games (Board Games)

- **War Game Unit Markers**
 - Movement Phase:
 - Move units within their Distance Limit.
 - Distance Limit is Reduced by forest, cross-county, urban area, weather
 - Combat Phase:
 - Add up attacking units combat strength against Defenders combat strength.
 - Defenders combat strength increased if in fortifications, trenches

Vice President

No Report

Treasurer

No Report

Note: Wells Fargo account balance as of May 2022: \$1,639

Secretary

- Civil War Quiz: Rescheduled to July 2022 Meeting
- Book Raffle: \$0
- Meeting Attendance: Total: 13 (9 in-person; 4 via ZOOM)

Preservation

No Report

Historian

Position of Military Chaplain

- The precedent of having religious personnel in military uniform dates to the first crusade in the 13th Century as most soldiers were monks easily identified by a large cross on their tunics; Pope Urban II called for courageous volunteers who were not family men
- The Continental Congress approved post of full time Officer Chaplain to the army on July 27,1775
- Gradual changing role of chaplain over a 243-year period, change brought about by ongoing education of the population of military and civilian personnel that a chaplain serves
- Abraham Baldwin:
 - Educated as minister at Yale, enlisted in 1779 in Connecticut's Militia as a full-time chaplain; worked with 1500 soldiers who had little or no education conversation; served as political adviser to brigade officers
 - There were 174 Continental Army chaplains; General George Washington had a personal chaplain at Valley Forge
- In the War of 1812, many Army chaplains fought alongside soldiers they served. Most chaplains (over 200) were militia chaplains
- Only 13 official regular army chaplains served during the war, either directly with units or headquarters
- Regular army chaplains were classified as "those of the rank of major and captain" and "received the same pay, rations and forage as a surgeon."
- All U.S. Army ministers were Protestant, and they came from all over the United States; two chaplains, Rev. Carter Tarrant and Rev. James Wilmer, died while serving as military chaplains.

- During World War I, a chaplain named John Mitty served in General John Pershing's armed forces in France; Mitty, an ordained Roman Catholic priest was chaplain to the military academy at West Point and eventually became Archbishop of San
- Mitty built an empire of churches, among them Mitty High School in San
- The military cemetery in the former Presidio of San Francisco has burial plots of WWI soldiers some of whom are chaplains
- During World War II, 8,896 chaplains were militarily commissioned with added tasks of communicating with the families of the wounded and deceased; often conducted overseas burials
- Numerous stories of heroism and courage performed by chaplains.
- During WWII, the US was not the only country with military chaplains. Germany had 560 military chaplains who were allowed by Hitler to function only as medical personnel; However, Herman Goring forbid any in the German Air Force

Medal of Honor Army Chaplain Emil Kapaun

- Became an Army chaplain and served during World War II in the China-Burma-India theater.
- Rejoined the Chaplain Corps in 1948 as a captain; when the war in Korea broke out, was deployed with the 1st Cavalry Division
- During the fight, Kapaun calmly walked through the battle zone, offering comfort and medical aid to the injured and helping to pull men out of an area considered no-man's land.
- Those who were injured were trapped, and Kapaun chose to stay behind with them, despite knowing he would likely face capture or death. He continued to make his rounds
- When he noticed injured Chinese officer near his men, pleaded with officer to negotiate safe surrender; most of the men were spared.
- His actions eventually earned him the nation's highest military honor, as well as a potential path to sainthood

This Day in the Civil War: Not Scheduled

Place of the Month: Not Scheduled

Wargames Presentation: Board Game Demo (Alan Sissenwein and Nick Stern)

- Battle off Palo Alto:
 - Battle of Palo Alto, (May 8, 1846); first clash in the Mexican War
 - At small site in southeastern Texas 9 miles NE of Matamoros, Mex
 - Mexican troops had crossed the Rio Grande to besiege Fort Brown and to threaten General Zachary Taylor's supply center

Other Topics

None

June Presentation

Speaker: Jim Rhetta, Alan Sissenwein and Nick Stern

Topic: “Wargames: Fighting the Battle Before Firing a Shot”

July Presentation

Speaker: Mark Costin

Topic: “Confederate Campaign to Invade New Mexico, Battles of Valverde, and Glorieta Pass”

August Presentation

Speaker: Tom Roza

Topic: “New York City Draft Riots”