

United States Army Heritage and Education Center

Discussions on Military History Roundtable

A quarterly forum on military history

American Intelligence Activities in the Revolutionary War

Mr. Kenneth A. Daigler

Author, Former Career Operations Officer for the CIA

Spies, Patriots, and Traitors: American Intelligence in the Revolutionary War

Dr. James H. Broussard

Professor of History
Lebanon Valley College

Ms. Jessica Sheets

Archivist
U.S. Army Heritage
and Education
Center

Mr. Scott S. Hill

Chief of Interpretation
George Washington Birthplace
National Monument

Although the Revolutionary War is widely taught and written about, the important role of intelligence activities in the conflict is underreported by authors and educators. In his 2014 book, *Spies, Patriots, and Traitors: American Intelligence in the Revolutionary War*, professional intelligence officer Kenneth A. Daigler posits that American intelligence during this period is a new lens from which to study the Revolutionary War era and colonial independence. He explores the tradecraft of intelligence collection through multiple groups. For example, the United Front Organization was essential to inter-colonial communication, coordination, and spreading political action through propaganda. Other organizations, such as Hortalez and Company, aided intelligence efforts through weapons contributions and technical expertise. The renowned General George Washington led American military intelligence activities with his skills of observation, tactical and strategic deception, elicitation, and defensive counterintelligence. Key battles, from the Battle of Trenton to the Battle of Yorktown, succeeded because of intelligence operations.

In the second roundtable of the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center's (USAHEC) quarterly "Discussions on Military History," Mr. Daigler will discuss how intelligence played a major role in Revolutionary War events using his unique point of view as a former Career Operations Officer for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). He will cite several examples of intelligence collection and provide an overview of the major American intelligence activities during the Revolutionary War era. After the talk, our esteemed panel of experts will examine the implications of intelligence and how this lens changes the understanding of the Revolution.

Mr. Daigler, alongside his career with the CIA, consulted for the Department of Defense in the counterintelligence field. He is also a Veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and the Vietnam War. Daigler is the author of numerous articles for journals on the subject of intelligence, such as *Studies in Intelligence* and *The Intelligencer*. His writing and research concerns American intelligence activities in the period between 1765 through 1865.

DATE: Saturday, June 27, 2015, 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Place: USAHEC, Visitor and Education Center, Multi-Purpose Room

For updates and any last-minute changes meeting times and places, please check the USAHEC homepage: www.USAHEC.org or call the Information Desk: (717) 245-3972.