



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### How did we get here? A perspective from IAMG President Ted Rose

The ICMG series that gave rise to IAMG has evolved both in name and style. The first meeting, in Seattle, USA, in 1994, was intended as a one-off one-day symposium, convened under the auspices of the Geological Society of America. However, its success led to a similar meeting in the UK, at the University of Warwick in 1996, under the auspices of the Geological Society of London. A half-day meeting in Toronto, Canada, in 1998, was back again under the auspices of the Geological Society of America. Each of these generated post-conference books, published by the respective geological societies (Underwood & Guth, 1998; Rose & Nathanail, 2000; Ehlen & Harmon, 2001).



In 2000, in the UK, the scope broadened from geology to terrain, attracting contributions from geographers and historians as well as geologists, and expanding to a three-day 'conference', sponsored by the University of Greenwich in association with the Imperial War Museum and the Royal Engineers Museum. The conferences adopted the title 'international' and expanded to four days in 2003, when the next was hosted again in the USA, at the US Military Academy, West Point, with an explicit geography and geology theme. Numbering was adopted with the similar 6th conference, convened at the University of Nottingham in the UK in 2005. The broader scope of these three conferences is reflected in the books they generated (Doyle & Bennett, 2002; Caldwell et al., 2004; Nathanail et al., 2008). The highly successful 7th conference was held at the Université Laval in Quebec, Canada, in 2007, but sadly the initial intention to publish a post-conference book was later abandoned.

With meetings thus alternating every couple of years between North America and Europe, in 2009 it was Europe's turn - and 'geology and geography' became embraced in 'geosciences' at the prestigious 8th conference, in Vienna (Häusler & Mang, 2011). The name was maintained when the series returned in 2011 to the USA for the 9th conference, based at the Desert Research Institute in Las Vegas (McDonald et al., in press), and when back again in Europe in 2013 for the 10th conference - based at Aviemore in Scotland although convened from Nottingham Trent University in England (plans for a post-conference book are currently in abeyance). Return to the USA in 2015 for the 11th conference, at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, followed the established pattern - but plans to hold the 12th conference, in 2017, in South Africa represent an innovation. This and the foundation and growth of IAMG indicate that interest in military geosciences, past and present, is growing rather than declining: a very encouraging situation for the enthusiasts involved.

## References

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- Häusler, H. & Mang, R. (eds) 2011. *International handbook: military geography*. Vol.2. Proceedings of the 8th International Conference on Military Geosciences, Vienna, Austria, June 15-19, 2009. Ministry of Defence, Vienna.
- McDonald, E.V. et al. (eds) in press. *Military Geosciences and Desert Warfare - past lessons and modern challenges*. Springer International Publishing, USA.
- Nathanail, C.P., Abrahart, R.J. & Bradshaw, R.P. (eds) 2008. *Military geography and geology: history and technology*. Land Quality Press, Nottingham.
- Rose, E.P.F. & Nathanail, C.P. (eds) 2000. *Geology and warfare: examples of the influence of terrain and geologists on military operations*. Geological Society, London.
- Underwood, J.R., Jr. & Guth, P.L. (eds) 1998. *Military geology in war and peace*. Reviews in Engineering Geology XIII. Geological Society of America, Boulder, CO.

## CONFERENCES PROCEEDINGS

### Update on the Publication of Proceedings

Prof Peter Guth has volunteered to act as Editor for the Proceedings volume for the Annapolis (2015) conference. However during the conference it agreed that several authors had historically missed out on account of the non-publication of proceedings for the Quebec (2007) or Aviemore (2013) conferences.

Therefore, if you presented at either Quebec (2007) or Aviemore (2013) and would like to have your paper submitted for consideration for inclusion as part of the Annapolis (2015) conference proceedings, please could you contact me to confirm your interest. I will then provide guidance on the submission of your paper to the editor of the 2015 proceedings.

## 12th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR MILITARY GEOSCIENCES

Stellenbosch, Western Cape, South Africa; 18 - 23 June 2017

A quick update on the 2017 dates and venue from the team in South Africa.

The dates will be 18 to 23 June 2017. This will follow the usual event format of the opening and registration on the Sunday with the conference program starting on the Monday. The post conference field trip will commence on Saturday the 24 June and end somewhere during that week - details are still to be confirmed.



At present, the conference venue will be STIAS conference center, Stellenbosch. This is not cast in stone, but a preliminary booking has been made to keep the venue available. More details in due course. An event has been created on the Facebook and LinkedIn Group pages.

## **MINUTES FROM THE ASSOCIATION BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING**

Annapolis, 19 June 2015

Minutes from the Association's Biennial General Meeting, held on 19 June 2015 at the US Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD, USA, are available via the following link.

PDF copy - [LINK](#)

## **CONSTITUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MILITARY GEOSCIENCES**

*Founded by registrants at the 10th ICMG, Aviemore, Scotland; Revisions agreed at end of 11th ICMG, Annapolis, USA.*

### **Article 1: Name**

This organization shall be known as the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MILITARY GEOSCIENCES (IAMG), hereafter called the Association.

### **Article 2: Objectives**

The main purpose of the Association is to encourage and support research and publication in military geosciences in general, more particularly through the organization of a biennial International Conference on Military Geosciences (ICMG). The Association shall seek to attract the largest possible number of researchers in the field of military geosciences and join with researchers from other fields to pursue certain common objectives and projects.

### **Article 3: Scope of Research**

Military geosciences, as they are understood here, comprise all disciplines that are interested in military activities within a geological, geographical or, more generally, spatial context, of which those listed below are but a few examples:

- Engineering Geology;
- Hydrogeology;
- Geospatial Sciences;
- Terrain Analysis;
- Archaeology;
- Historical Geography;
- Geomorphology;
- Environmental Science;
- Geophysics;
- Climatology; and
- Cognitive disciplines

### **Article 4: Organization**

The International Association for Military Geosciences is a not-for-profit organization, administered by its members and represented by a Coordinating Committee.

### **Article 5: Members**

Membership in the Association is free and open to researchers of all countries, with no distinction of religion, nationality, gender or language.

### **Article 6: Coordinating Committee**

The Coordinating Committee shall be composed of at least four (4) and not more than six (6) members:

- a) One representative of each of the Organizing Committees the last two conferences;
- b) One representative of the Organizing Committee of the upcoming conference; and
- c) Up to three other members to be elected by the General Assembly

Their responsibilities shall include:

- a) Representing the Association and liaising with other organizations;
- b) Representing the Association in the general public;
- c) Organizing or supervising the organization of the Association's activities; and
- d) Maintaining communications with the members, by means of an open website, and of a newsletter to be e-mailed quarterly to members.

The Coordinating Committee will also support the organization of the biennial Conference. Committee business will be conducted by and through a Secretary, appointed by its members.

#### **Article 7: Other Committees**

The Coordinating Committee may, from time to time, set up other committees to execute specific mandates. The existence of those committees shall be of a limited duration and their members shall be appointed by the Coordinating Committee.

#### **Article 8: Activities**

The activities of the Association are organized by its members or by those committees specially mandated to do so. Among those activities are:

- a) The biennial International Conference on Military Geosciences (ICMG);
- b) Special sessions and symposia on the theme of military geosciences at other meetings;
- c) Publications; and
- d) support and encouragement of research in military geosciences.

#### **Article 9: General Assembly**

The General Assembly of the members shall ordinarily be held during the biennial International Conference on Military Geosciences. Members of the Coordinating Committee shall be elected by the General Assembly to serve for two years. The General Assembly shall also discuss and may adopt resolutions submitted by IAMG members. Where the Coordinating Committee deems necessary, a general electronic consultation (email or conference call) shall be held in place of a Special General Meeting to adopt urgent resolutions.

#### **Article 10: Language**

English shall be the ordinary language of work of the Association, although any other language may also be used in certain presentations from time to time.

#### **Article 11: Constitution**

This Constitution may be amended by a two-third majority of the members present at the General Assembly.

#### **Article 12: Honorary President**

The General Assembly may elect an Honorary President, to serve for a term of four years, to liaise with the Coordinating Committee in achieving the objectives of the IAMG.

PDF copy (Final) download; edits in **red** - [LINK](#)

## **PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITY**

Pete Chirico (USGS) whom many of you will have met at the Roedown field trip on the last ICMG is looking for assistance with the following publication:

Authors with environment and military history background needed to write entries for **Armed Conflict and the Environment: A Global Perspective**. This reference guide is a collection of

case studies and cross-regional essays highlighting WWII to present-day conflicts from all world regions. Each entry is succinct and seeks to link the conflicts with their essential human and physical environmental influences, factors, and outcomes. In particular, the editors are seeking authors interested in contributing to the following sectional categories:

- Selected entries on WWII Eastern and Western front engagements
- Post-WWII China, Taiwan, and Tibet
- Decolonization in South Asia (India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka)
- The Korean War
- Cold War-era conflicts in Central America (Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador)
- South America (Chile, Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia, Falkland Islands)
- Somalia (Mogadishu)
- Operation Iraqi Freedom, Mosul, Falluja
- Afghanistan (Tora Bora and Korengal)

Authorship credit will be given to contributing writers. Target audience level: Upper-level high school and undergraduate, military academies, practitioners and laypeople. Contact: Pete Chirico ([pchirico@usgs.gov](mailto:pchirico@usgs.gov)) or Laura Jean Palmer-Moloney ([ljean.palmermoloney@gmail.com](mailto:ljean.palmermoloney@gmail.com)) for more information.

## NEWSLETTER & SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

You have received this newsletter as you have previously attended, or have previously expressed an interest in attending an **International Conference on Military Geosciences**. Or I might know that you have an interest in the Military Geosciences. In any case, I hope you'll enjoy reading the newsletter but if you do not want to receive this in the future, please use the **Unsubscribe** link in the footer below. Please also feel free to use the **Profile Update** link to keep us informed of your contact details.

Some of you might have noticed a new logo at the top of the newsletter. What do you think? This is just a prototype but I think might be along the lines of what we might have to help build our brand for both the Association and the Conference. I'd welcome comments and suggestions on whether this acceptable or perhaps what you'd like to see changed.

The **International Association for Military Geosciences** is a not-for-profit organization, administered by its members and represented by a Coordinating Committee. Membership in the Association is free and open to researchers and practitioners of military geology and geography and associated fields. Membership is open to all with no distinction of religion, nationality, gender or language.

If you have any recommendations or suggestions for the group and this newsletter, please get in touch. Equally, please feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone whom you know who might be interested.

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