SMH Candidate Worksheet

Name: Christine Cook, PhD

Present position and affiliation: Adjunct Professor, Wayne State University, Washtenaw Community College, and contracting with Brackish as an Adjunct Professor for the US Navy War College

Education: PhD in History, Wayne State University, December 2021; Masters of Arts in Women's and Gender Studies, Eastern Michigan University, 2016; Masters of Strategic Studies, US Army War College, 2008; Arts Bachelors in English Literature, Princeton University, 1986

Area(s) of historical specialization: Major Fields: American History 1877-Present, World History; Minor Field: History of Gender, Sexuality, and Women

Relevant special appointments: Title 10 Department of the Army (DA) Civilian for the US Army War College (2022-2026)

SMH conference attendance, participation, and committee service: Attended 2019 (Columbus); Selected to present on a traditional panel 2020 (presented virtually in May 2021 [Norfolk]); Roundtable participant March 2025 (Mobile); Traditional Panel participant March 2026 (DC)

Significant publications: "'Valuable Transferable Skills': Military Women's Perceived Contribution to the Postwar Labor Pool," Routledge *Book of International Women in the Labor Movement*, Forthcoming

"Nostalgic Virility: Book Review," *Parameters*--Forthcoming

"Valiant Women: Book Review," *Parameters* Winter 2025

"Women's Army Corps in Vietnam," New York Historical Society blog, November 2023

"Why did D-Day take so long to plan, execute?" in *The Detroit News*, June 5, 2023

Personal statement:

I am a scholar of US history since 1877 and world history, with a special focus on military cultural history and the history of women in the military. I am also a retired colonel, US Army Reserve, having served 30 years in the reserve and National Guard. My branch was Adjutants General (AG). As both a retired military officer and a historian,

I have found that both fields of expertise inform each other. I went back to get a PhD in history after military retirement, writing a dissertation on the Women's Army Corps (WAC) during the Cold War, with the hope of becoming a professor at the US Army War College. I realized this dream, and had the honor to serve as professor of Theories of War and Strategy at the US Army War College Department of Distance Education (DDE) for more than three years in February 2026. I was also the Military Historian for the DDE during that same time. I believe my skills in personnel management and command leadership from the military, along with my broad knowledge of military history topics, especially in the areas of the US Army Reserve and National Guard as well as women's military and military-adjacent service over the past 100+ years, give me a breadth of knowledge that would be useful to the SMH.

I have spent my entire life connected to the military in some form or fashion. Starting as a military brat from birth to my teen years, I entered the ROTC in college, served for 30 years, then studied military history for my PhD. I worked for the US Army War College a total of 11 years, first as a member of the military and then as a Department of the Army civilian. I now work as an adjunct professor for the US Navy War College, and my research projects are all on various aspects of military history, mostly from the 20th century.

Candidacy Statement

As someone who earned her PhD during the dark years of the COVID-19 pandemic, I believe strongly in the right of all military historians to have access to the historical records, both digitally and perhaps even more importantly In physical military archives. Since I received my PhD, I have witnessed the threat of closure of some of the archives I have personally spent many hours in, and know that my research now is sometimes very difficult to access. I believe this is a passion for the SMH, too. During my last year at the Army War College, and in the time since I left my position, I know first-hand how important travel grants and the other SMH awards can be to supporting and encouraging not just early career but also mid-career scholars, especially during this time when federal funding is hard to come by. The continued encouragement for military history research from the SMH, both monetary and otherwise, is something I hope to contribute for the rest of my life.

Working as the History Graduate Students Association as both the president and secretary during my time at Wayne State University, and in my service and scholarship at the US Army War College, I have experienced firsthand how scholarly associations like the SMH support the work of scholars and students. My career as an administrator in the military, has given me experience working in and across organizations, listening to

stakeholders who have different points of view, and synthesizing solutions that can bring consensus. As both research and teaching enterprise become more difficult, and as history—especially the military history of women and minorities—faces existential threats, it is extremely important to prove the worth of history and the humanities to building a better future for this country and the world. Serving as a trustee would let me be one of the ambassadors for the the value of military history and the importance of continued access to the full military archive.