SMH Trustees Candidate Application

Name: Heather M. Haley, Ph.D.

Present position and affiliation: Historian, Naval History and Heritage Command

Education:

Doctor of Philosophy, Auburn University	**12/2021**
Master of Arts, Texas State University	**5/2016**
Bachelor of Arts, Texas State University	**12/2012**

Area(s) of historical specialization: 20th C. American history, Cold War-era United States, naval and maritime history, women's and gender studies, public history

Relevant special appointments: The Joint History and Research Office selected me for a competitive detail to the Pentagon as the Historian-in-Residence tasked with researching and writing a classified historical study commissioned by Gen. J. Daniel Caine (CJCS, USAF) on counter-Houthi operations in the Red Sea.

SMH conference attendance, participation, and committee service: I have attended the Society for Military History Annual Meeting as a presenter, panel chair, or commentator every year since 2013, except in 2022 and 2025, when I could not attend due to financial constraints. I participated in SMH's three-week summer seminar when the World War II Museum in New Orleans hosted it in 2022. I have since served as a mentor in the graduate student mentorship program and maintained strong relationships with my international and domestic mentees. As a graduate student, I served as a post-COVID-19 tech volunteer at the Norfolk meeting, and more recently served on the Program Selection Committee for the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Significant publications:

BOOKS	
Queer in the Cold War: The Civil-Military Battle Over the Lavender Scare (New York: Cornell University Press).	***forthcoming***
Book Chapters and Edited Volumes	
"A New ERA for Women in the Navy: Zumwalt, Z-Grams, and the All-Volunteer Force." In *Stormy Seas: The U.S. Navy and the End of the Vietnam War*, ed. Edward Marolda (Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2026).	**2026**
"Establishing Bobcat at Bora Bora." In *Contested Logistics: Sustaining the Pacific War* with Peter C. Luebke and Timothy L. Francis (Washington, D.C.: NHHC): 27-37.	**2023**
***SEXTANT* PUBLICATIONS**	

"To Make 'The Navy Ready to Strike': The Fantastic Voyage of USS *Oregon*"	**2/2023**
"'Reduced to Starvation': The Japanese Evacuation of Guadalcanal, January-February 1943"	**1/2023**
"Daisy Chains and Torpedoes at Tassafaronga, 30 November 1942"	**11/2022**
"Radio over Radar: Night Fighting Chaos at Guadalcanal, 12-13 November 1942"	**11/2022**
"Variation on a Theme: Groping Blindly in the Dark at Savo Island and Cape Esperance"	**10/2022**
"'Shoot 'Em Up': Operation Lion's Den, 27 August 1972"	**8/2022**
DIGITAL ENCYCLOPEDIA AND BIOGRAPHICAL ENTRIES	
"Operation Homecoming," Wars, Conflicts, and Operations, Naval History and Heritage Command	**3/2024**
"*Liscome Bay* (CVE-53)," Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships, Naval History and Heritage Command	**11/2023**
"Jesse Leroy Brown," Naval History and Heritage Command	**10/2023**

Personal statement: My commitment to the Society for Military History's mission to advance the scholarly study of military history, support historians across disciplines, and strengthen the intellectual community that sustains our field is the foundation upon which I desire to serve as a trustee. As a federal historian with the Naval History and Heritage Command and formerly the historian-in-residence with the Joint History Research Office, my work centers on producing rigorous and operationally relevant applied history that informs senior leaders, preserves institutional memory, and contributes to the broader scholarly understanding of military operations.

My scholarly record demonstrates a sustained engagement with naval and maritime history, operational analysis, and the social dimensions of military institutions. I have published peer-reviewed articles, contributed book chapters to edited volumes, authored encyclopedia entries, and produced numerous historical essays for NHHC's Sextant. My recent chapter, "A New ERA for Women in the Navy" in Stormy Seas: The U.S. Navy and the End of the Vietnam War, reflects my interest in bridging institutional history with cultural change—a perspective I believe strengthens SMH's commitment to inclusive, multifaceted scholarship.

I have also been an active participant in the military history community through presentations at SMH's annual meeting, the McMullen Naval History Symposium, and the Military Classics Seminar, as well as podcast appearances that help bring naval history to wider audiences. These engagements reflect my belief that military history thrives when scholars share their work broadly, mentor emerging historians, and contribute to a vibrant professional community.

If selected as a trustee, I would bring disciplined judgment, transparent communication, and a strong sense of stewardship. My experience supporting senior

leaders, managing complex research efforts, and collaborating across commands has prepared me to contribute meaningfully to SMH's governance. I am committed to strengthening the Society's role as the premier professional organization for military historians and ensuring its programs, publications, and conferences continue to reflect the highest standards of scholarly excellence.

I would be honored to support SMH's mission and to help guide the Society's future with integrity, enthusiasm, and a deep respect for the field we serve.