

Dr. Bryan T. van Sweringen

Dr. Bryan van Sweringen is an Associate Lecturer in the Departments of History and Literature. Upon retirement from the U.S. Civil Service in May 2010, he was the representative of the Headquarters, U.S. Army, Europe in Washington, D.C., serving as a resource for: the Department of the Army, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Congress and other U.S. and Foreign Government agencies.

Dr. van Sweringen was born in Akron, Ohio in 1953. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from Ohio Northern University and the European-American Study Center (Basel, Switzerland) in 1974, and was awarded a Master of Arts Degree in Political Science from Kent State University in June 1975. Following doctoral studies at Georgetown University, he entered the Free University of Berlin and was awarded a Doctorate (*Dr.phil.*) in Political Science in October 1986. In 1995, he received a Master of Science Degree in National Security Strategy from the National War College of the National Defense University. He has also completed foreign language training at the *Goethe Institut* in Munich and at the *Sorbonne* in Paris.

Dr. van Sweringen entered the Civil Service of the United States as an Archives Technician in the Records Declassification Division of the National Archives and Records Service in 1976. Following professional training as an Archivist, he specialized in the review and declassification of U.S. and foreign government information created between 1944 and 1954. After resignation to pursue an advanced degree in the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. van Sweringen was contracted by the Bavarian State Archives, and the Institute for Contemporary History (Munich) to direct and assist academic researchers with the records of the U.S. Office of Military Government.

After completing graduate studies at the Free University of Berlin, Dr. van Sweringen reentered government service in 1984 as the Command Historian of the U.S. Naval Security Group Command and Director of the Rear Admiral Joseph N. Wenger Naval Cryptologic Museum, specializing in the history and use of communications intelligence. In August 1987, he transferred to the 21st Support Command of the U.S. Army, Europe and Seventh Army in Kaiserslautern, Germany. While serving as the Command Historian, he was selected to become the Regional U.S. Forces Liaison Officer for the Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland and BENELUX Countries. In this capacity, Dr. van Sweringen served the 21st Theater Army Area Command during the removal of chemical weapons from the Federal Republic of Germany (Operation STEEL BOX) and the deployment of U.S. Forces from Europe to Southwest Asia (Operation DESERT SHIELD). In January 1991, Dr. van Sweringen became the United States European Command Historian. As a member of the Command Group and Strategic Planning Group, he actively promoted the use of history as a resource for planning and current operations and was instrumental in the establishment of the Command Long-term Information On-line (CLIO) project. Under the sponsorship of the Lord-Mayor of Stuttgart, Manfred Rommel, he developed a film and lecture series commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Second World War, culminating in a major foreign policy address by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Dr. van Sweringen returned to liaison work in October 2000 as the Assistant U.S. Army, Europe Liaison Officer at the Embassy of the United States of America in Berlin, Germany, where he worked closely with both U.S. Mission Germany and the German Federal Government to resolve sensitive issues related to the stationing of U.S. Forces. He also served in a "joint" capacity as the first U.S. Forces Liaison Officer to the "New" German States of Berlin, Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, and Sachsen-Anhalt, as well as in a "combined" capacity as the Foreign Relations Advisor to the Chief of the U.S. Sending State Mission.

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In addition to his professional duties and responsibilities, Dr. van Sweringen has published and lectured on U.S./European Relations, in particular on the use of psychological warfare in the Cold War and U.S. Force Structure and Basing in Europe. Recent presentations and publications include:

“Militaerische Traditionspflege in den USA: History, Legend and a Case for Constructive Criticism”, Conference: “Militaerische Traditionen im Internationalen Vergleich”, Reichenau, Oktober 2011 (projected publication date 2013)

“Out On (and Behind) the Frontier of Freedom: Die US-Landstreitkraefte in Deutschland und Berlin von 1944 bis 1990”, Conference: “Freiheit und Sicherheit im 21. Jahrhundert”, Point Alpha Akademie, Geisa, Oktober 2011

“Foreign Policy at the State and Local Level: Von der Pfalz lernen heisst Siegen lernen”, Seminar: “Ramsteiner Gespraechen”, Ramstein, September 2011

“Foreign Policy at the State and Local Level: Europaeische Politiker, das Pentagon und die Presse: 2003-2010” and “Observations on the U.S. Congress and the Stationing of U.S. Forces in the Federal Republic of Germany,” Conference: “Die Rolle der Deutschen Laender und der US-States in den Internationalen Beziehungen: Das Beispiel Standortpolitik”, Atlantische Akademie, Berlin, April 2011

“The Origin and Development of the Radio in the American Sector of Berlin (RIAS)”, Conference: “American Media, Culture and Values in the 21st Century”, Checkpoint-Charlie-Stiftung, Berlin, March 2011

“Aircraft Carrier of the Nation: The Role of the Rhineland-Palatinate for NATO” in Entangling Alliance: 60 Jahre NATO Geschichte – Gegenwart – Zukunft, Atlantische Texte, Band 34, Trier 2010

With Christian Bienert (DeutschlandRadio Kultur), “Kabarettist an der Front des Kalten Krieges: Guenter Neumann, seine ‘Insulaner’, und der Rundfunk im Amerikanischen Sektor Berlins (RIAS)”, German Language Society of Washington, D.C., 2009

“Foreign Policy at the *Land* Level: The Pentagon, European Politicians and the Press,” U.S. Army, Europe Public Affairs Conference, Berlin, August 2009

“Stationing Within the State: The U.S. Army Presence in the Rhineland-Palatinate: 1945-2007,” in Die Amerikaner in der Rheinland-Pfalz, Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Trier, 2008

„Partners at Last? A Reverie on the Relationship Between the U.S. Army and the Federal Republic of Germany: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow“, U.S. Army, Europe and Seventh Army Public Affairs Conference, Berlin, August 2008

“‘To Accept the Gauge of Battle’: The United States of America Becomes a European Power (1917-1923),” Western Civilization Lecture, Ohio Northern University, May 2005

“Variable Architectures for War and Peace: U.S. Force Structure and Basing in Germany 1945-1990,” in The United States and Germany in the Era of the Cold War, 1945-1968, A Handbook, Vol. 1., Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt 2001/Cambridge University Press, 2004

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“The U.S. Army in the (German) Southwest Territory”, Fiftieth Anniversary of the German-American Institute (GAI), Tuebingen 2002

“From the Allied Expeditionary Force to Operation ALLIED FORCE: U.S. Forces for Europe 1944 – 1999,” XXVth International Congress of Military History, Military Alliances Since 1945, Brussels, August 1999

“Saving Private Roy Van (and Onkel Willie)”, *Stars and Stripes*, November 7, 1999

“The View from a U.S. Unified Command: A Historical Collection Architecture for Joint Operations”, Conference: The Society for Military History, Wheaton, Illinois 1998

“*Kabarettist an der Front des Kalten Krieges: Guenter Neumann und das politische Kabarett in der Programmgestaltung des Rundfunks im amerikanischen Sektor Berlins (RIAS) 1948-68*”, Inaugural Lecture of the Checkpoint-Charlie-Foundation, Berlin May 1997

“The U.S. European Command Operational Archives: Documenting the History of a Sea Change”, in ed. William W. Epley, International Cold War Military Records and History, U.S. Army Center of Military History, Washington, D.C. 1996

“Forging the Weapon of Laughter: The Origin of the Radio in the American Sector of Berlin, 1946-48”, “The Early Years of the Cold War”, Conference of Army Historians, Washington, D.C. 1996

Kabarettist an der Front des Kalten Krieges: Günter Neumann und das politische Kabarett in der Programmgestaltung des RIAS 1948-1968, wissenschaftsverlag richard rothe, 2nd. ed. 1995

Fast ein halbes Jahrhundert, in Tamara Domentat, *Jazz, Coca Cola und AFN: Berlin und die Amerikaner*, Schwarzkopf & Schwarzkopf Verlag, 1995

"American Forces in Rhineland-Palatinate: Installations and Functions" and "Living Together: Germans and Americans as Neighbors" in *Neighbor America: Americans in the Rhineland-Palatinate, 1945 to 1995*, WVT *Wissenschaftlicher Verlag* Trier, 1995

“The U.S. European Command Operational Archives: Documenting the History of a Sea-Change”, Conference of Army Historians, Washington, D.C. 1994

“The Case of Richard Sorge,” ed. John Mendelson, *Covert Warfare*, Vol. 7, 1989

“RIAS as a German-American Institution”, Seminar: American Institute for Contemporary German Studies, the Johns Hopkins University, Washington, D.C. 1987

“Records of United States Army War Crimes Trials: *United States of America v. Kurt Goebell et al* February 6 – March 21, 1946 and *United States of American v. August Haesiker* June 26, 1947, National Archives Microfilm Publication M1103, Washington, D.C. 1981

“The Aesthetics of Terrorism: Self-Identification Through Political Violence”, *The Left Review*, Winter, Kent, Ohio 1977

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Dr. van Sweringen wrote and assisted with the production of the documentary film “The Fiftieth Anniversary of the Naval Security Group Command” (1987) and served as a Technical Advisor (U.S. Army uniforms and equipment) for the German TV production *Deutschlandlied* (1994).

Dr. van Sweringen’s awards include the Berlin Airlift Memorial Scholarship of the Free University of Berlin (1982), the Department of the Army “Superior Civilian Service” Award (1994), the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Award for “Meritorious Civilian Service” (2000), and the Department of the Army “Meritorious Civilian Service Award” (2010).

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