

**PhD-Panel 38th Congress of the International Commission of Military History
in Sofia 2012 August 18 – 25**

Call for Papers

The use and the development of technical and technological means have characterized the possibilities of organized warfare since antiquity: weapons, communications and transport means, constructions and fortifications, orientation devices and chronometers as well as information processing systems. “Civil” and “military” development projects stimulate each other, take up important impulse and implement technological advances that serve civilian as well as military purposes.

In this context it is wise to distinguish between invention and innovation (introduction of invented things) and, as far as weapons are concerned, between effect and protection, since individual or collective military decision makers are often doggedly resistant to innovation or, conversely, euphoric about it – depending on cultural, political or conservative contexts. The opposing tensions between invention and innovation play an important role as to their likely influence on tactics, operations and doctrine. The same holds true for planning as well as the equipment and training of military formations, which are often to be considered as dependant on the financial possibilities and the opportunity costs of developments and acquisitions.

Particular importance is attached to the combination of advanced technological means, particularly in the area of mobility and weapons: stirrups and bows/lances, vessels and guns, horse carriages and guns, railway guns, tanks, combat and reconnaissance aircraft, nuclear devices and aircraft/rockets, missiles/grenades and information technology.

We welcome in particular contributions on the relationship between technology and warfare since the 1970s: AirLand Battle concepts, Star Wars (SDI) as well as technologies and concepts considered to be elements of Revolution in Military Affairs: satellites, precision-guided munition and effects-based operations.

Please send your paper proposal, which should respect the following **guidelines, by 1th February 2012** to Prof. Rudolf Jaun, president of the Educational Committee of the International Commission of Military History: rjaun@hist.uzh.ch.

Guidelines for paper proposals

- Length: between 2 to maximum 3 pages
- Content: Description of topic; explanations regarding methodical and theoretical approach; perspectives and issues; agenda
- CV: ½ page.

The enlarged Board of the Educational Committee will make a first selection in February 2012, and its final selection in May and have it reconfirmed by the national Commissions of your country.

The Bulgarian Commission of Military History offers the accepted PhD Candidates a single room for 35 Euro in the Kempinski Hotel Zografski and a reduced Conference Fee of 100 Euro. National Commissions of Military History may grant travel allowances.