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National Defense University, Woodrow Wilson Center Partner to Study Iran-Iraq War
Saddam Tapes, Intelligence Reports, and other Captured Records
Reveal Iraqi Decision-Making

Washington, DC – Today National Defense University President Vice Admiral Ann E. Rondeau and Woodrow Wilson Center President, Director, and CEO Jane Harman signed a Memorandum of Agreement for a joint conference program on records from Saddam Hussein’s regime captured in the wake of the 2003 invasion.

The first step in the joint research project consists of co-organizing an October 25-27, 2011 conference on the Iran-Iraq War. Studying recordings of Saddam Hussein’s conversations with his top generals, Iraqi intelligence assessments, and other Iraqi documents will shed new light on Iraqi decision-making during the eight-year war.

“We’re absolutely thrilled to partner with the Wilson Center in sponsoring this Conference and to work together to foster research in the captured records,” Admiral Rondeau said.

“We need to review the relevant historical record carefully. Thanks to the Iraq materials at NDU, we now have a chance to find out about the Iraqi side of the story,” President Harman said.

In conjunction with the conference, the National Defense University’s Conflict Records Research Center and the Wilson Center will release copies of 40 captured records from Saddam’s regime, along with full English translations, via their respective web sites. Through their joint research program both institutions aim to enlarge the universe of readily accessible Iraqi documents, and to encourage academics and policy-makers to draw on insights from these records in their work.

The National Defense University is the nation’s premier center for joint professional military education. The university is an accredited graduate-level institution that provides an educational and research environment to prepare future leaders of the armed forces and other civilian agencies for high-level policy, command, and staff responsibilities. The Conflict Records Research Center (CRRC) was established to facilitate research into captured records with “complete openness and rigid adherence to academic freedom and integrity.” The CRRC currently makes digital copies of roughly 1,200 records from Saddam’s regime (Iraq) and from al-Qaeda and Associated Movements (Afghanistan) available to scholars, along with full English translations.

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars aims to unite the world of ideas to the world of policy by supporting pre-eminent scholarship and linking that scholarship to issues of concern to officials in Washington. Congress established the Center in 1968 as the official,

national memorial to President Wilson. Within the Wilson Center, the History and Public Policy Program (HAPP) focuses on the relationship between history and policy making and seeks to foster open, informed and non-partisan dialogue on historically relevant issues. The Program is a hub for a wide network of scholars, journalists, policy makers, archivists, and teachers focused on the uses and lessons of history in decision making.

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