



U.S. ARMY COMMAND & GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE
100 STIMSON AVENUE
FORT LEAVENWORTH, KS 66027-2301

June 10, 2011

Dear Mr. Cunningham:

On behalf of the Commandant and the staff and faculty of the Command and General Staff College, I want to congratulate you on being selected as the winner of The Simons Center Interagency Writing Award for the class of 2011-1.

Your abilities and efforts set you apart from the other nominees; this is a well deserving honor and reflects greatly on your professionalism as a leader of our United States Army. Congratulations on your accomplishment.

Sincerely,

Sean B. MacFarland
Brigadier General, US Army
Deputy Commandant

Tyron Cunningham, Staff Group 9A
United States Student Division
Command and General Staff School
Command and General Staff College
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas 66027-2301

28 April 2011

TO: Simons Center Interagency Writing Award Committee
FROM: Dr. Mark M. Hull
RE: US Marshal Tyron Cunningham

I am writing to nominate US Marshal Tyron Cunningham, Class 2011-01, for the Simons Center Interagency Writing Award. His singular abilities as a federal agent, student, and historical scholar distinguish him from his peers. By volunteering for the MMAS, Mr. Cunningham took on a task in addition to an already demanding curriculum for a student who has no previous background with the military subjects other students take for granted. The nature and quality of his work during the course of that MMAS place him in a singularly distinguished category.

Mr. Cunningham's focus is a human tracking expert for the US Marshal's Service. For his MMAS research and writing he decided to take this to a new level – discovering whether tracking is truly a science, whether psychological and behavioral information can be gleaned from human tracks, and determining the necessary standards for tracking evidence to be universally accepted by courts under Rule 702 of the Federal Rules of Evidence.

We often use the superlative phrase that someone "sets the standard." Mr. Cunningham's work does more than that: it is the standard. No federal, state, or local agency – in any country - has ever examined this question and the implications for the justice system are so many and so profound that it defies easy description. In pursuit of this information he consulted every authoritative source which exists, did extensive work in human behavioral psychology, set up his own field trial to gather primary data, and devised an algorithm to account for the many factors involved in reaching his conclusion. If this were not already enough, the thesis itself is convincingly argued and a model of clarity and superior narrative and technical writing skills. As a stand-alone work, his MMAS meets the high scientific burden required by courts to accept the evidence he presents on tracking as reliable, expert testimony. If that has an equal in our MMAS program, I have never seen or heard of it.

Mr Cunningham is worthy of the Simons Center Interagency Writing Award.



Mark M. Hull, Ph.D., J.D., FRHistS
Assistant Professor of Military History
Thesis Committee Chair

DISTINGUISHED GRADUATES

The General George C. Marshall Award
MAJ Richard A. Martin, AV

The General Dwight D. Eisenhower Award
CPT Aleksander Jankov, Norway

The General Colin L. Powell Interagency Award
Mr. Joseph J. Howard, DSS

The General George S. Patton Jr. Award
MAJ Scott W. Horrigan, IN

The Major General James M. Wright Award
MAJ Paul E. Gebhardt, LG

**The General Douglas MacArthur Military Leadership
Writing Award**
MAJ Christopher H. Warner, MC

The Birrer-Brookes Award for Outstanding MMAS Thesis
MAJ Nicholas O. Melin, EN

The Major General Hans Schlup Award
COMDT Rossa P. Mulcahy, IRELAND

The Excellence in JC4I Writing Award
MAJ Tim R. Martin, MI

The Homeland Security Studies Award
MAJ Michael V. Ciaramella, MI

The Iron Major Award
MAJ Scott D. Miller, EN & MAJ Wilson Low (Singapore)

The Arter-Darby Military History Writing Award
MAJ Philippe H. Gennequin, FRANCE

The Simon Center Interagency Writing Award
Mr. Tyron J. Cunningham, INTERAGENCY

The Father Donald W. Smythe Military History Award
MAJ Nicholas O. Melin, EN

**The Brigadier General Benjamin H. Grierson Award
For Excellence in Strategic Studies**
MAJ Malcolm G. Haynes, AR

The Excellence in Joint Forces Warfare Award
MAJ Thomas J. Swint, EN