

GUEST SEMINAR- all welcome!

Military history and professional military education: Soldiers, historians
and social scientists

Prof. Mesut Uyar

Tuesday 12 November 2024

10.30-11.30 AM

Manawatū campus, Social Science Tower

Room 3.07

Or on Zoom:

<https://massey.zoom.us/j/82121180004>



Military history as a discipline has always been seen and classified as part of military education. Not surprisingly there is a common conception – albeit a wrong one – that military academies and staff colleges are the bastions of military history. Very few people notice that most of the military historians are actually working in civilian universities and military history programs in universities have generally better academic ratings. Although military leaders seem to place great emphasis upon drawing lessons from military history it looks like military history programs in higher military educational institutes are simply not flourishing and actually losing ground. Then the obvious question is what is going on with professional military education? Is military history, as an academic discipline, an essential part of the current professional military education? If not, why is that? And finally, what is the way ahead?

This presentation is an effort to analyse these questions within the history of professional military education. It is not my intent to spend any time on this presentation justifying the need for the study of military history.

Dr. Mesut Uyar, Professor of Military History, is currently a visiting fellow at the University of New South Wales, Canberra. He was a career infantry officer in the Turkish Armed Forces, and gained his PhD in international relations from Istanbul University. His interest in the role of military history in professional military education came about through his work in the Turkish Military Academy and Australian Defence Force Academy. Dr. Uyar is visiting Aotearoa as the special guest speaker for the Palmerston North Remembrance Day commemorations. Our thanks to the Palmerston North City Library and Engineer Corps Memorial Centre for enabling his visit.

