

PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY

610 North Fairbanks Court, 2nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Phone: 312-587-0234
Fax: 312-587-7311
www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org

PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY ANNOUNCES NEW HEAD *Yantis Named Executive Director*

Chicago, IL, (August 22, 2006) – Completing a nation-wide selection process, Ryan Yantis, a retired U.S. Army Lt. Col., has been appointed executive director of the Pritzker Military Library in Chicago. The announcement was made by Vice President of Philanthropy for Tawani Enterprises, Inc., Edward Tracy, who has served concurrently in that capacity since the library's inception in October 2003.

"We are delighted to have Ryan Yantis step into this key role. Our rapid growth in the last three years requires a dedicated, full-time, executive director to focus on the organization," said Tracy, who remains executive producer of programs. "Ryan brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our organization. His enthusiasm for our mission and dedication to America's Citizen Soldiers make him the perfect choice."

Yantis retired from active duty this spring as the director of the U.S. Army Public Affairs-Midwest, an Army-level regional outreach office based in Chicago with a 12 state area of responsibility. In this capacity, he led a team of Army Public Affairs professionals responsible for community relations, marketing, special events, public speaking tours and regional media relations for senior Army leaders, subject matter experts, distinguished soldiers and others of interest on matters relating to the Army.

In a military career of over 22 years, Yantis served in a variety of command and staff positions in Europe, Asia and the United States, first as an Armor officer, and later as a Public Affairs Officer. He was present in the Pentagon during the 9/11 attacks where he was later decorated for his actions in the hours following the attack. Yantis is a 1983 graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia, a member of the Union League Club of Chicago and the American Legion. He lives in Crystal Lake, Illinois with his family.

Yantis begins his duties on September 1st and will oversee all of the operations and staff for the Library and Gallery located in the Streeterville section of Chicago. His primary focus will be developing annual and long range plans for the organization to increase visibility of the Library as a premier research and resource center, continue program development, acquisition and collection enhancement, and, increase membership.

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The Pritzker Military Library's 4th Season of free public programs opens on Thursday, September 7th. Eileen Welsome discusses her book **The General and the Jaguar: Pershing's Hunt for Pancho Villa - A True Story of Revolution and Revenge**. A complimentary reception begins at 5:00 p.m. with the presentation and live web cast at 6:00 p.m. For more information or reservations, visit: pritzkermilitarylibrary.org.

About the Pritzker Military Library

The Pritzker Military Library was founded in 2003 by Colonel (IL) James N. Pritzker, IL ARNG (Ret.) with a mission to acquire and maintain a collection of materials and develop appropriate programs to create a better understanding of the role of the Citizen Soldier in society. The Library has amassed a collection of more than 18,000 books, an extensive collection of audiovisuals, prints and antique military posters, and a growing collection of personal papers. Author events, interviews with Medal of Honor recipients, and panel discussions on military topics highlight the Library's weekly schedule of free program offerings. Archived web casts and pod casts of over 100 public programs are available on the library website and through the online catalogue. Re-broadcasts of Library programs appear on the Chicago PBS broadcast channel WYCC Channel 20. Check local listings for schedule. Visit: www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org for more information.

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Contact:

Ali Hazlinger
Zapwater Communications, Inc.
Ph: 312.943.0333 ext. 205
ali@zapwater.com