

Noontime lecture addresses the 2003-2004 U.S. Mission in Israel and the Middle East peace process

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In 2003, the George W. Bush Administration stepped in to help resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by proposing the "Roadmap to Peace in the Middle East." On December 5th, 2013, at noon, retired Army Maj. Gen. David T. Zabecki, PhD, will present his take on the mission in a lunch-time lecture titled, "The U.S. Coordinating and Monitoring Mission in Israel, 2003-04." As a Senior Department of Defense (DoD) Advisor, his intimate involvement and knowledge of the project will inform a one-of-a-kind lecture that pulls no punches and is extremely candid about the effort.

In 2003, the Bush Administration created the U.S. Coordinating and Monitoring Mission (USCMM) as a robust inter-agency operation to put pressure on both the Israelis and the Palestinians to compromise in their age-old dispute and to build confidence in each other. During the tenuous period of the fragile Hudna (Ceasefire) of the Second Intifada, the USCMM came heartbreakingly close to making a major breakthrough. All efforts ultimately failed because too many factions worked hard to oppose any resolution of the conflict. The chief of the USCMM, Ambassador John Wolf, had the help of his senior security advisor and defacto deputy, Maj. Gen. David T. Zabecki. Zabecki and his executive officer were the only two DOD representatives on the team and worked closely with the defense attachés at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv to try to find a lasting peace.

Zabecki is currently an Honorary Senior Research Fellow in War Studies at Britain's University of Birmingham. In 2012, he served as a Visiting Professor at the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis in the Dr. Leo A. Shifren Distinguished Chair of Military and Naval History. He also serves as the Chief Military Historian of the Weider History Group, the world's largest publisher of history magazines, and from 2000 to 2009, he was the editor of Vietnam magazine. He has published eleven books on military history topics and has written more than 600 articles for professional journals, magazines, and encyclopedias. General Zabecki earned a PhD in Military Science, Technology, and Management from the Royal Military College of Science, Cranfield University, United Kingdom. He has also earned an MA and BA in History from Xavier University. General Zabecki enlisted in the U.S. Army and served as an infantryman in Vietnam in 1966, followed by forty years in active service, and finished his military career as the Deputy Chief of Staff, Mobilization and Reserve Affairs for U.S. Army Europe.

The noontime lecture is open to the public and FREE to attend. Attendees may bring a brown bag lunch or purchase lunch from Cumberland Café in the Visitor and Education Center. Parking is free, and the Museum Store and book sale will be open. For directions, more information, and a complete schedule of USAHEC events, please visit: www.usahec.org or call 717-245-3972.