

## Uniquely Okinawan: Determining Identity during the U.S. Wartime Occupation

By AHEC 31 May 2020

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# UNIQUELY OKINAWAN

Determining Identity During  
the U.S. Wartime Occupation

COURTNEY A. SHORT

*June 10, 2020, at 6:30 p.m., the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center will welcome Lt. Col. Courtney A. Short, Ph.D. Commander Carlisle Barracks to live stream a lecture on her latest book, **Uniquely Okinawan: Determining Identity during the U.S. W***

On June 10, 2020, at 6:30 p.m., the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center will feature Lt. Col. Courtney A. Short, Ph.D. to share via live stream a lecture on her book, **Uniquely Okinawan: Determining Identity during the U.S. Wartime Occupation (World War II: The Global, Human, and Ethical Dimension)**. Short combines extensive research with oral history accounts by both U.S. Soldiers and Okinawans to explore racial constructions on the Japanese island of Okinawa amid wartime and post-World War II encounters.

To view the lecture visit the live stream at [www.armywarcollege.edu/live](http://www.armywarcollege.edu/live). Viewers can participate in the question and answer portion of the presentation by emailing questions to [usarmy.carlisle.awc.mbx.ahec-ves@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.carlisle.awc.mbx.ahec-ves@mail.mil) or by commenting on the USAHEC Facebook post on the day of the event [www.facebook.com/USAHEC/](http://www.facebook.com/USAHEC/).

After landing on the shores of Okinawa in 1945, American military forces faced a unique situation: testing the loyalty to the Japanese Imperial Army of least half a million islanders. The American leadership conducted an in-depth analysis of Okinawan race, ethnicity, and identity in an attempt to understand and influence the allegiance of the Okinawans, shaping the wartime occupation policies of the American forces. Dr. Short offers insights into how the Okinawan culture allowed the people of the island to maintain their identity while adapting to a new type of government. Short also demonstrates the ability of the American military to rationally assess and successfully address such variables as race, ethnicity, and identity in different cultures while also keeping in mind practical considerations, such as resources and battlefield conditions.

Short is commander of the U.S. Army Garrison, Carlisle Barracks. A graduate of the Command and General Staff College, she has taught history at both the U.S. Military Academy and the U.S. Air Force Academy. She holds a B.A. in History from Columbia University, and an M.A. and PhD in History from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.