##### **Daniel Jordan Schaefer**

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**EDUCATION**

Kansas State University

Aug. 2025-Program Starts

Major: Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in History

Kansas State Institute for Military History

East Carolina University

Aug. 2021- May 2024, Degree Earned

Cumulative GPA: 4.0

Major: MA in Maritime Archaeology

The University of Wisconsin-Madison

Jan. 2020- May 2021, Degree Earned

Cumulative GPA: 3.83

Major: BA in History, Distinction in the Major

Minor: Classical Studies, European Studies

**EXPERIENCE**

The University of Wisconsin Missing in Action Recovery and Identification Project

February 2020 to Present

Position Held: Historian/Researcher

Responsibilities include gathering as much information as possible about missing service members. This is done through extensive research through the archives, mapping imagery overlays, contacting eyewitnesses, comparing deceased reports, dental records, etc., in an overall attempt to find the location where the remains of an MIA service member may be located. If located, a team is then sent in to do fieldwork, with each field member working for weeks, all day, in all types of weather, to bring our service members home. After locating the remains, a team at the UW Biotechnology Center can conduct DNA analysis to match the DNA to a missing person, bringing closure to a family and facilitating a proper burial.

Gwenyn Hill Farm

Waukesha, WI

September 2024 to June 2025

Position Held: Dairy Grazing Apprentice

Responsibilities include managing the farm’s organic grazing livestock and pastures to optimize nutrient and yield. Grazing and pasture are optimized and monitored to ensure that approximately 100 head of dairy and beef cattle, sheep, and goats consume enough without wasting forage. Fencing is employed daily to monitor and measure pasture grazing. Tractor and heavy equipment operation is used in cropping operations to maintain grazing pastures for livestock. Additional responsibilities include milking cows, feeding cows, operating a skid-steer, calf rearing, assisting with cow breeding, livestock health and first aid, and transporting livestock.

United States Army

506th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, KY

October 2012 to March 2017

Positions Held: Team Leader, Infantry Reconnaissance Scout, Radio Telephone Operator, Rifleman

Responsibilities include conducting surveillance to provide the commander with information that has tactical value concerning the enemy, terrain, weather, and civil considerations within an area of operations; reconnoitering terrain to determine current and future movement and maneuver conditions; determining the enemy's disposition, strengths, and weakness in detail; provides the information necessary to allow combined armed forces to maneuver against the enemy; strikes where the enemy is most vulnerable and applies power to defeat it; gathers the information needed for execution of stability within the area of operations.

Kibbutz Ein Gev, Israel

Commercial Fisherman on the Sea of Galilee

October 2018 to July 2019

Position Held: 2nd Mate

Responsibilities included the critical task of dropping anchor and pulling the net in by hand for the catch. Additionally, the 2nd mate is responsible for leading and assisting in the training of new crew members in catching tilapia, sardines, gray mullet, and carp, as well as sorting, boxing, icing, and selling them to Palestinian communities in the West Bank.

**ACTIVITIES**

•East Carolina University Maritime Studies Association- August 2021 to May 2024

•Phi Kappa Phi Academic Honor Society- June 2020 to May 2021

•Phi Alpha Theta, History Honor Society- February 2020 to May 2021

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

•Motorboat Operator Certification Course- May 2023

•Scientific Scuba Diver Certification- May 2022

•Advanced Scuba Diver Certification- May 2022

* Admiral Ernest M. Eller Awards in Modern Naval History Scholarship- May 2022
* Mary Ferebee Howard Scholarship in Marine Studies- May 2022

•506th Infantry Regiment Association Edwin Roodhouse Scholarship- August 2021

•US Army Achievement Medal- January 2017

•US Army Good Conduct Medal- October 2015

•US Army Air Assault Badge- July 2013

**FIELDWORK**

**China (Mukden/Shenyang)- Remote**

University of Wisconsin MIA Recovery Project Lead

DPAA-Partnered MIA Recovery of B-29 #42-6299 Crew

March 2020 to Present

Presently, I am leading the recovery of the crew (9) of MIA B-29 Superfortress aircraft #42-6299. The B-29 was downed on December 7, 1944, after being rammed by a Japanese KI-44 aircraft over Mukden (Shenyang), China, during a bombing mission. The aircraft cockpit and tail separated mid-air following an explosion, and likely rendered all the crew unconscious, where only two were later able to deploy their parachutes. Through years of extensive archival research, I determined the exact location where the B-29 was downed. Through ArcGIS, I was able to further establish overlays with archival data and Google Earth imagery, and the Army Graves Registration Service successfully recovered human remains from the aircraft cockpit location. Through working with Senator Tammy Baldwin, I was able to confirm that remains were recovered in 1947 by local Chinese farmers and identified as commingled skeletal remains and given a case name of X-863AB. I further established that the commingled remains were buried at “unknowns” in graves Q127 and Q128 in Honolulu, Hawaii. I then located all surviving next-of-kin of the airman to collect DNA samples and shared with them all the collected archival data and family photos. Before my research, for nearly 80 years, the next-of-kin had minimal information given to them and were never aware that commingled skeletal remains were recovered from the crash site. Through collaboration with Senator Tammy Baldwin and DPAA Director Mr. Kelly McKeague, the disinterment of these graves was successfully proposed and approved for expedited processing, based on the comprehensive set of data I collected, which confirmed the identity of the remains. The MIA airmen were recently disinterred in Hawaii and brought to DPAA’s DNA laboratory for confirmation of the remains’ identity for honorable reburial.

**Saipan**

East Carolina University Project Archaeologist

DPAA MIA Recovery of F6F Hellcat Airman

March 2022

I conducted underwater dredging of an F6F Hellcat aircraft crash location in March 2022 for two weeks for the recovery of an MIA airman in Tanapag Harbor, downed June 11, 1944, during the Battle of Saipan. A motorboat was successfully anchored over the site in 35 ft. of water, where a baseline was established at the aircraft cockpit, and the dredge was employed, where aircraft material and sand were sorted above water to locate skeletal remains and collect eDNA samples. Initial terrestrial survey work was also conducted for my thesis, locating all known WWII Japanese radar emplacements on Saipan.

**Antigua (English Harbor)**

Archaeology Field School

East Carolina University Project Archaeologist

November 2022

I assisted in excavating the Revolutionary War French warship, the *Lyon,* in English Harbor, Antigua for three weeks in November 2022. Baselines were established at the vessel's bow, mid-ship framework, and stern, where teams dredged and conducted surveys. They identified notable structures and artifacts of the vessel in collaboration with a French archaeological team. Dredging enabled the creation of a 3D shipwreck model using Rhino modeling. An additional terrestrial survey was conducted on Fort Berkley, which guarded the harbor, and an environmental survey of the harbor was conducted on local erosion concerns.

**Saipan**

East Carolina University Project Archaeologist

Terrestrial Survey of WWII Japanese Radar Installations on Saipan

May 2023

After conducting extensive archival research and establishing a research design, I executed a terrestrial survey of all identified Imperial Japanese radar emplacements on Saipan. Through my archeological and historical fieldwork, I sought to determine why there were so many US aircraft losses (16 confirmed) to Japanese anti-aircraft fire during the battle, when Japanese flak was infamously inaccurate in WWII’s standard narrative. I determined through archival research that these losses were likely due to the Japanese Mark 4 Model 3 fire control radar, which was deployed against the unknown US aircraft for the first time during the Saipan campaign. Additionally, I determined through ArcGIS-created overlays and archival sources that the invasion fleet was likely compromised by Japanese radar, losing the element of surprise. Through working with a retired Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Quality Lead contact, I determined the Mark III IFF transponders operated on identical frequencies as the Mark 1 Model 3 search radar located on Saipan. My thesis comprehensively changed the standard WWII narrative on Japanese radar.

Additionally, through the created fields of fire ArcGIS model, the areas with the highest percentage of Japanese flak could be established and predicted where US aircraft could be found. Through this methodology, I determined the reported location of a previously unknown downed F6F Hellcat off the coast of Saipan. I was also able to locate footage/photographs of the aircraft downing off the invasion beaches, 1400 ft. offshore, and have the coordinates of the site through a created archival overlay. Through this data, the R-2800 Double Wasp engine of this aircraft was located, as well as the entire wreck site. Recovery operations for the airman’s remains are presently being considered. My work is the first to employ archaeological and historical analysis of Japanese radar, using Saipan as a case study.

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Society for Military History

Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA)

**PUBLICATIONS**

"The Effectiveness of Imperial Japanese Radar Against United States Aircraft during the Battle for Saipan" East Carolina University, 2024.

"X-863AB Unknown MIA Grave Q127 and Q128 DPAA Disinterment Proposal." University of Wisconsin MIA Recovery Project, 2023