



#### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

#### **For Immediate Release**

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## **Registration Opens for Civil War Symposium**

### ***“The Hard Hand of War” looks at the Civil War in its last year***

**Columbus, Georgia – February 27, 2015:** The National Infantry Museum Foundation is proud to present its second annual symposium entitled “The Hard Hand of War: The Civil War in its Last Year.” The event, featuring nationally recognized speakers, a luncheon, reception and book signings, is part of the country’s commemoration of the Civil War sesquicentennial. The symposium will be held **Friday, April 10, 2015**, 150 years and one day after the surrender of Robert E. Lee at the Appomattox County courthouse in Virginia.

“We are proud to present a slate of distinguished speakers and authors who’ve dedicated their lives to digging deeper into one of the most important events in American history,” Foundation Chairman and CEO LTG (Ret) Carmen Cavezza said. “This symposium is a rare opportunity for people throughout the region to gain a broader understanding of the choices that shaped our nation’s future.”

The symposium’s title refers to General William Tecumseh Sherman’s belief that forcing civilians to feel what he called the “hard hand of war” was a military necessity. He believed making the war as harsh as possible would bring victory more quickly by undermining Confederate morale and rendering the rebels ineffectual. This new “hard war” doctrine was fully sanctioned by the U.S. government.

Telling the story will be:

- **Journalist Todd Brewster**, author of *Lincoln’s Gamble: The Tumultuous Six Months That Gave America the Emancipation Proclamation and Changed the Course of the Civil War*. Brewster has served as West Point’s Director of Oral History, has been a writer at Time and a Senior Producer for ABC News. He co-wrote “The Century” – now a classic volume of popular history – with the late Peter Jennings.
- **Atlanta historian Dr. Stephen Davis** has written more than 100 articles and books, including *What the Yankees Did to Us: Sherman’s Bombardment of and Wrecking of Atlanta*. His book is noted for being the

most detailed account of Atlanta's wartime ordeal yet to be seen in the literature of the Civil War.

- **COL (Ret) Dr. Hal Kushner**, an ophthalmologist, spent five years as a prisoner of the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War. He now studies the history of POWs in other periods of conflict, including the Civil War.
- **Noah Andre Trudeau** is a prize-winning Civil War historian and former executive producer at NPR. In his book *Like Men of War: Black Troops in the Civil War, 1862-1865*, Trudeau draws from newspapers, letters, and diaries to recreate the experiences of African-American troops.

After their presentations, Dr. Gordon L. Jones, the Senior Military Historian at the Atlanta History Center, will moderate a question-and-answer session with all four speakers. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Tickets to the event are \$100 per person, or \$750 for a table of 8, and include lunch in the museum's Grand Hall, the symposium, and a cocktail reception with the speakers. Seating is limited. Tickets can be purchased on the museum's website at [www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org/symposium](http://www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org/symposium). For additional information, call the National Infantry Foundation at 706-653-9234.

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*The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center at Patriot Park, a 155-acre tract linking Columbus, Georgia, and the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, is the first world-class site to pay tribute to the U.S. Army Infantryman and those who fight alongside him. As the only interactive Army Museum in the United States, the museum showcases the contributions of the Infantry Soldier in every war fought by the U.S. by offering immersive participation and engaging visitors in the unique experiences of the Infantry Soldier. The complex also includes a parade field, memorial walk of honor, replica Vietnam Wall, authentic World War II Company Street, and 3-D IMAX<sup>®</sup> Theatre. For more information, visit [www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org](http://www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org).*