

Helping Preserve a Free and Secure Nation

Robert R. McCormick Foundation Programs on the Military and National Security



For over half a century, the Robert R. McCormick Foundation has been committed to fostering strong communities of educated, informed and engaged citizens.

Photo above: Doughboy statue at Cantigny Park in Wheaton, Ill., commemorating the 90th anniversary of the Battle of Cantigny in World War I.

We believe in encouraging vigorous and constructive conversations about critical issues and inspiring individuals and organizations to become citizen leaders. Across our five grantmaking programs—**early childhood education, journalism, youth civic engagement, veterans, and helping low-income families become self-sufficient**—we seek to facilitate dialogue and collaboration to strengthen democracy and make life better in our communities.

Our Foundation has a long history of supporting initiatives that promote a deeper understanding of national security issues.

Highlights of this work, and our key partners, follow.

Military-Media Conference Series

In 1992, the Foundation established the Military-Media Conference Series, which brings together leaders in both military and the media for candid discussions in hopes of improving their very important, but complicated, relationship. Over the years, these sometimes contentious but always enlightening gatherings have covered a wide range of topics including embedding reporters with military units during combat, coverage of national security issues by “new” media, and the complications arising from independent, unaffiliated journalists and bloggers who report from combat zones.

For a complete listing of McCormick Foundation research and reports, please [click here](#).



First Division Museum at Cantigny Park

Our support for the U.S. Armed Forces has its roots in Robert R. McCormick’s service in the First Infantry Division during World War I. Col. McCormick had a lifelong commitment to the Big Red One and all those who serve our country in the armed forces. Today, one way the Foundation continues his legacy is through the First Division Museum at Cantigny Park in Wheaton, Illinois. The museum promotes public learning about America’s military heritage and affairs through the history of the Big Red One. It stands in tribute to all who have served our country in the armed forces. To visit the First Division Museum website, [click here](#).

Veterans Program

The Foundation’s Veterans Program is committed to helping veterans and their families make a successful transition to civilian life and realize their full potential as citizen leaders. Two million veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, including unprecedented numbers of women veterans, are facing significant challenges as they make the transition. The Foundation focuses on three key areas:

- Creating a coordinated system of support in local communities providing veterans access to a range of comprehensive services at the local level, including employment, mental and physical health, education, and support for families.
- Investing in capacity-building for high-performing nonprofits focusing on veterans in the Chicagoland area.
- Developing public/private partnerships in communities across the country to provide support for veterans with post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injuries.

Center for Media and Security

The Center for Media and Security convenes journalists and national security experts in Washington D.C. to enhance media understanding and coverage of international security concerns. The Center for Media and Security outreach programs include the Defense Writers Group, the Television and National Security Project dinner series, and an informal luncheon series discussing national security and defense issues with officials and experts. It has also served as the Foundation’s partner in producing ten McCormick Military-Media conferences.

For more information, contact Harry Disch, hdisch@att.net.



Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism’s National Security Journalism Initiative

This initiative provides students and professional journalists with the knowledge and skills necessary to report accurately, completely and with context on issues related to defense, security and civil liberties. The initiative has three interrelated components: college and graduate courses on national security issues, in-service training to connect students with the latest research and expertise, and events for professional journalists that bring together experts in the field to help inform the journalists. Medill graduate students have investigated the impact of climate change on national security and the effectiveness of the military health care system for National Guard and Reserve personnel.

Examples of their work can be found on the following websites: global-warning.org and hiddensurge.nationalsecurityzone.org.

For more information on Medill’s National Security Journalism Initiative, [click here](#).

The National Strategy Forum

The National Strategy Forum (NSF) is an education and research institute that examines issues and trends affecting U.S. national strategy and security. The NSF provides balanced, non-partisan information and promotes open, informed debate to enhance the public’s understanding of national security-related topics through the following programs:

- **NSF Speaker Series**
- *National Strategy Forum Review*, a quarterly e-journal. Special Edition evaluating the Chicago NATO Summit 2012 now [online](#).
- **Conferences, programs and reports**, topics include—homeland defense, counterterrorism, nuclear non-proliferation, catastrophe preparedness and response, and international relations.



For more information on the National Strategy Forum, [click here](#).

University of Kansas Media and Military Program

The University of Kansas Media and Military program is a collaboration between the University of Kansas School of Journalism and the United States Army Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The program seeks to explore the relationship and tension between media and military. The three components of the initiative are an annual week-long military workshop for journalists called **“Bridging the Gap: A Military Experience for Journalists”**, a Media and the Military course at the University of Kansas Journalism School, and the **“Media-Military Issues”** e-journal.



This fall, to help journalists learn how better to cover PTSD—and how better to cope with their own PTSD—the University of Kansas Journalism Program will host a daylong workshop on Nov. 16, 2012, at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

For more information on KU’s Media and Military program, [click here](#).

About the Robert R. McCormick Foundation

The Robert R. McCormick Foundation is committed to fostering communities of educated, informed and engaged citizens. Through philanthropic programs, Cantigny Park and museums, the Foundation helps develop citizen leaders and works to make life better in our communities. The Foundation was established as a charitable trust in 1955, upon the death of Colonel Robert R. McCormick, the longtime editor and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*. The Robert R. McCormick Foundation is one of the nation’s largest foundations, with more than \$1 billion in assets.

The Foundation’s Journalism Program believes that a strong and free news media providing citizens with the information they need to make reasoned decisions is critical to a healthy democracy. In support of this mission, the Foundation seeks to develop a more informed, news-literate and engaged citizenry through quality content, audience education and protection of press freedoms.

For more information, please visit McCormickFoundation.org.