

The Lessons From History (LFH) Newsletter

April 2011

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Welcome to the latest edition of the semi-annual [newsletter](#) showcasing new articles and deliverables from our departments and highlighting useful advice.

1.) News

There are two new releases this year in the LFH series:

Polaris: Lessons in Risk Management - This exciting manuscript is now complete. The book is designed to make risk management easier, and less time consuming to perform. It allows organizations to improve their performance in this critical area. This book covers methods listed in the Project Management Book of Knowledge (PMBOK) Guide® and many newer methods not listed. The book explains each method and provides examples based on the Polaris submarine project. For more information read the article below in section 2 or go to: <http://lessons-from-history.com/node/116>
Reviews of book: <http://lessons-from-history.com/node/121>

The History of Project Management - The book has finally been published and copies are available. The book traces back and heavily challenges the notion that project management was initiated and evolved in the 20th century. <http://lessons-from-history.com/history-project-management/history-project-management-page>

Reviews of book: <http://lessons-from-history.com/node/123>

If you would like to purchase this book in an e-book version go to:

<http://www.mmpubs.com/catalog/the-history-of-project-management-book-p-394.html>

For a hard cover version of the book go to:

<http://www.mmpubs.com/catalog/the-history-of-project-management-ebook-p-417.html>

If you buy the book you will get also get a webinar free (valued \$10).

To get a **20% discount**, for both these books, type “20percentoff” in the field marked “Discount Coupons.” There is a **flat rate shipping charge of \$5** anywhere in the world

The Project Lessons from the Great Escape Workshop, at the RAF Museum in Cosford, Shropshire on October the 19th brought the participants a pleasant surprise when a number of ex-POWs attended. This was a joint collaboration between the Museum, the University of Wolverhampton Business School (Ian Hughes), the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) in the UK, and Lessons from History. Read <http://lessons-from-history.com/node/120>

History in the making series of seminars was a joint collaboration between EQ seminars and Lessons-from-History. This was piloted through 2010 with selected PMI Chapters, with venues in Anchorage, PMI Alaska and Washington, PMI WDC. Read http://lessons-from-history.com/Events/PM_History_In_the_Making_Flyer_PDF.pdf

Lessons from History Launches new Governance Seminar

The California Independent Electrical System Operator (CAISO) is responsible for sourcing and delivering annual training to statewide groups of employees of member power generation and transmission companies. Their theme this year was on “Situational Awareness”, and for the training they selected the new “Lessons in Governance from Pearl Harbor” from Lessons from History. In total, 5 sessions (4 hours each) were delivered to approximately 500 attendees.

This new seminar is based on the forthcoming publication **Lessons in Governance from Pearl Harbor** in the LFH series. The book examines the relationship between flawed governance at the Strategic, Tactical, and Operational levels, and the attack on the US Pacific Fleet on December 7, 1941 (2011 is the 70th anniversary of this event). Most people are familiar with the story of Pearl Harbor, but don’t recognize the relationship it has to the modern enterprise. The failures that made the attack possible still happen today in many organizations, and the awareness that the seminar generates may help attendees avoid their own governance failures. For more information about this book, see upcoming books below. For the related 1 hour and 4 hour seminars, please contact LFH. Also read <http://lessons-from-history.com/node/34>

New Articles and Videos:

Join the [Linkedin](#) Lessons from History group.

<http://www.linkedin.com/groupInvitation?gid=2885686&invID=21616913&sharedKey=pp7zRST9&mboxID=1907018818>

YouTube Channel **Project Lessons From History** presents video recordings of selected conference presentations from the series. This includes a new video of The History of Project Management author’s perspective which outlines the thinking behind creating the book. <http://www.youtube.com/user/projectlessons#g/a>

2.) Articles

The Polaris: Lessons in Risk Management

So you’re a project manager and you can’t seem to get the project done on time, on budget, and to the quality you desire. You’ve tried every scheduling and budgeting trick in the book with no relief. Nothing seems to work, not even the latest software. The problem may not be your ability to schedule or budget at all. It may be RISK MANAGEMENT! Scheduling, cost, and scope management may be the iron

triangle of project management, but they are not the most important part of project management – RISK MANAGEMENT IS! No matter how good you are at budgeting, scheduling, or project control, if you can't manage risks, the game is over!

Ah, but you say risk management is boring and way too complicated for you to learn. All those books on risk management are full of statistics and provide no easy to understand examples to follow. You never liked statistics when you were in college. Now that you're a project manager you don't like them any better. Is there a better way to learn risk management? Yes there is!

Polaris: Lessons in Risk Management may be the answer! Polaris is a book designed just for you! Polaris explains, guides, and teaches risk management while following the Polaris project of the late 1950s.

The Polaris project was considered by many to be an impossible project. Its sponsors were not even behind the project. For the most part, many of the project's sponsors wished the project would just go away. The technical obstacles for this project were immense. This project had to create a missile to be launched by a submerged submarine that could fly 1,500 miles. It also had to create a submarine that could launch a missile while remaining submerged. No one had ever tried such a project before. Many questioned whether these technical obstacles were even possible to overcome.

Couple this with the project team realizing it did not have any real project management knowledge and things looked grim from the start. They needed a miracle. Enter risk management! The project team concluded it needed a new way to do this project. It needed to manage using risk management. They had to manage the project and not allow the project to manage them. To solve this issue, this project developed the Program Evaluation and Review Technique (PERT). PERT was a major step in bringing project management and risk management into the 20th century.

Polaris: Lessons in Risk Management chronicles this project while teaching a project manager risk management. The book is replete with examples from the Polaris project of the concepts of risk management. If you ever wanted to learn risk management in an interesting easy to follow way, this book may be for you! This book may be the only book you will ever need on risk management!

3.) Upcoming books

The LFH series has the following books in its production schedule:

IT Governance and Pearl Harbor - This exciting collaboration manuscript is in progress, and tells a compelling story that is a must read for every IT Governance professional. The book explores the governance of two large organizations managing the most complex technology of their time, and the challenges they faced. It will go into editing in 2011, and is expected to be released to the public in 2011 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. <http://lessons-from-history.com/node/117>

Lessons from the Project that Built and Launched the Titanic – When the first edition of Titanic lessons for IT projects came out there was little information on the project itself. This second edition uses the latest findings and discoveries that provide further insights into the project. For example, the architects notebook, or forensic evidence from the National Archives. It also puts a heavy project management focus on the timeline of the project and how critical events like the Olympic/Hawke collision impacted the project. Although the conclusion remains the same there is greater emphasis on how the project was delivered and how critical decisions were made along the way.

Do you have a passion for history? Are you a budding author? Have you thought about collaboration? If so please **contact us at Lessons-from-History**.

4.) Featured Authors

Dr. John Byrne, PMP

John is an author and an Associate Professor in Management specializing in Project Management at the Keller Graduate School for Management of DeVry University. John has taught such courses as Risk Management, Program Management, Change Management, Cost and Schedule Control, Contracts and Procurement, and Project Management Systems. As John's students will attest, John is dedicated to improving management and project management.

John's latest book is *Polaris: Lessons in Risk Management*. It is much like two books in one. The book illustrates modern day risk management in a practical, easy to understand manner. It also follows the Polaris missile and submarine project and its impact on modern risk management. The Polaris project is used as an example of proper risk management throughout the book. This makes the subject of risk management so much easier to understand.

John believes that history is indeed the key to the future whether you are discussing leadership or project management. John believes much can be gleaned from studying past projects and bringing the lessons from those projects into the future. In this way, we can prevent making the same mistake twice.

John served 10 years in the U.S. Navy on submarines as a nuclear reactor operator. He served on the U.S.S. Nathanael Greene SSBN 636 and the U.S.S. Boston SSN 703. He also served as a nuclear reactor operator and instructor at NTPU Ballston Spa. During his time in the navy, he was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal for outstanding professionalism and devotion to duty.

John is an outspoken advocate of project management. John has spoken at the Project Management Institute Leadership (PMI) Sessions at PMI's Global Congress and has presented at PMI Global Congress general sessions on various topics such as "Project Management as a 21st Century Skill." Additionally, John has spoken at various PMI Local Chapter Sessions.

John is a consultant to the industry on management and project management and has been a practitioner of project management for over 20 years. John has been involved in various types of projects from classified defense projects, Utility Industry projects, training projects, all the way to IT projects.

John delivers seminars and webinars on management, leadership, and project management to fortune 500 companies as well as to the PMI Communities of Practice. These seminars and webinar topics include various topics in management and project management as well as the future direction of project management. He has given presentations to Fortune 500 Companies on topics such as project management, risk management and leadership and motivation.

John performs much volunteer work for the PMI Educational Foundation. He has written books and articles for the PMI's Educational Foundation's K-12 Education Initiative. He is a member of various PMI Educational Foundation committees, and is dedicated to improving education through the use of projects and project management.

John's has another book coming out later this year entitled *Manhattan: Lessons in Leadership, Motivation and Power*. This book explores one of the most important projects in human history: the project to build the atomic bomb. This book looks at this project from the viewpoint of the three leaders of this project: Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, General Leslie Groves, and Dr. Ernest Lawrence. Each of

these had their own individual leadership style. This book examines leadership and how the project's leader's particular style contributed to the success of the overall project.

Education

Certified Project Management Professional (PMP®)

University of Sarasota, Sarasota, FL

Doctor of Business Administration, Major: Management

M.B.A. Wilmington University, Wilmington, DE

Thomas Edison State College, Trenton, NJ

B. S. Applied Science and Technology, in Nuclear Engineering

University of the State of New York, Albany, NY

A.S., Science

<http://lessons-from-history.com/authors/authors-page>

5.) Interesting books and sites

[The Secret of the Great Pyramid: How One Man's Obsession Led to the Solution of Ancient Egypt's Greatest Mystery](#)

This book intertwines the history of pyramid building, and Jean Pierre Houdins' personal search for evidence to back the internal ramp theory, in order to convince Egyptologists of the validity of the theory. The book provides new insights into how the Giza Pyramid was built and is referenced in The History of Project Management as it reduced project scope significantly.

<http://www.amazon.com/Secret-Great-Pyramid-Obsession-Solution/dp/006165552X>

6.) Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming events:

[Presentations on Polaris](#)

March 29, Brandywine Chester County Conference and Visitors Bureau

June 27, Maryland Chapter of PMI

September 17, to the Submarine Veterans Delmarva Chapter

[Presentations on Manhattan](#)

April 6th, PMI New England Chapter on Motivation

[Presentations on History of Project Management](#)

May 1 – Edmonton, North Alberta Conference; May 16 – Toronto, ProjectWorld

[Presentations - Project Lessons from Titanic](#)

November 10, 16, 17 - APM UK Branches at Glasgow, Thames Valley – Reading, Wessex – Southampton.

If you are interested in having one of our authors present to your organization, send us a [note](#) describing:

The organization (business, PMI Chapter, etc)
The dates
The theme of the meeting
Your budget for speakers

We will respond to you with a proposal that will meet your needs.

”There’s a Great Past in Your Future”

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