

## Luke Truxal

Luke Truxal received his Bachelor of Arts in History from Abilene Christian University in May 2009. In August of that year, Truxal enrolled at the University of North Texas to study American air power in the European Theater of Operations during the Second World War. He completed a master's degree under the guidance of Dr. Robert Citino in 2011.

In Fall 2018, Luke received the Outstanding Dissertation in Military History award from the UNT Department of History for his dissertation "Command Unity and the Air War Against Germany" during the Second World War, directed by Dr. Richard McCaslin. His dissertation examines the evolution of the Allied air command structure during the air war in Europe from 1942-1944. He argues that the effectiveness of the Allied bombing campaign was not only tied to the introduction of the long range escort fighter, the P-51 "Mustang," but also to improvements made by Allied Supreme Commander, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, in the chain of command. The changes made by Eisenhower enabled the Allies to better coordinate their air offensives against Germany in 1944. Luke also graduated in Fall 2018.

Luke's publications include "Bombing the Romanian Rail Network," in the Spring 2018 issue of ***Air Power History***. The article highlights the Mediterranean Allied Air Force's efforts to aid the Soviet advance during the First Iasi-Kishinev Offensive in April and May 1944. He has also written "The Politics of Operational Planning: Ira Eaker and the Combined Bomber Offensive in 1943" for the ***Journal of Military Aviation History***. The article analyzes the political and diplomatic negotiations that affected the planning for the Combined Bomber Offensive. Currently he is an adjunct at Columbia State Community College in Tennessee.

