Mathematics has for centuries been stimulated, financed and credited by military purposes. Some mathematical thought and mathematical technology have also been vital in war. During World War II mathematical work by the Anti-Hitler Coalition was part of an aspiration to serve humanity and not help destroy it. At present, it is not an easy task to view the bellicose potential of mathematics in a proper perspective.

At the conference, we will present historical evidence and recent changes in the interaction between mathematics and the military. In particular, we will discuss the new mathematically enhanced development of military technology which seems to have changed the very character of modern warfare.

Speakers will include historians of mathematics, science and engineering, historians of war, military analysts and philosophers.

Organisers

Mathematics and War

International Scientific Meeting

Karlskrona (Sweden), August 29-31 2002

Topics:

1. Military traces in the history of mathematics
2. Changes in the character of warfare under the influence of mathematical thought and mathematical technology
3. Ethical and social aspects of the interplay between mathematics and the military

For more information see our webpage at

http://www.mnf.ruc.dk/~booss/mathwar/

Registration

Please register via e-mail to M.N. and/or by ordinary mail to:

Blekinge Institute of Technology
Department of Mathematics
Conference "Math and War"
Att Charlin de Gosson
S-37179 Karlskrona
Sweden

Accommodation: The conference hotel is Hotel Conrad. Low-rate student accommodation will be available.

Place

The meeting will be held at the Karlskrona Campus of the University of Karlskrona-Ronneby in the southernmost port and now IT center in Sweden. The university is located in the center of the Karlskrona-Kronoborg region.

Advisory Board

Advisory Board (Philosophy, Religion, Demography, Ethics, Biology, etc.)

Maurice de Gosson (Mathematician, Karlskrona, Sweden), Reiner Braun (Director, Dortmund, Germany), Stig Andur Pedersen (Philosopher, Roskilde, Denmark), Akira Asada (Mathematician, Osaka, Japan), Wolfgang Coy (Computer Scientist, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany), Sergei Demidov (Mathematics Historian, Moscow University, Russia), Tinne Hoff Kjeldsen (Mathematics Historian, Roskilde, Denmark, p.t. Pasadena, U.S.A.), Matthias Kreck (Mathematician, Heidelberg, Germany), Lee Lorch (Mathematician, Toronto, Canada), Armin Tenner (Physicist, Amsterdam, Netherlands), Paola Valero (Researcher on Mathematics Education, Bogota, Colombia).

Purpose

Any interaction between mathematics and the military will be of mutual benefit. Mathematical thought and technology will stimulate new developments in military science and technology. The bellicose potential of mathematics will be reduced by the ethical and social aspects of its development. Mathematics will be invited to discuss and shape future scenarios.