Apr 18th, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

General Douglas Macarthur: A Career of Defiance

Luke Mueller
Illinois Wesleyan University

Michael Weis, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc
Part of the Military History Commons, and the United States History Commons

http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2015/oralpres5/3

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by The Ames Library, the Andrew W. Mellon Center for Curricular and Faculty Development, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digital Commons @ IWU by the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.
©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.
GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR: A CAREER OF DEFIANCE

Luke Mueller and Michael Weis*
History Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

General Douglas MacArthur can be considered one of the premier military generals in United States history. However, MacArthur gained his renowned reputation through insubordination. MacArthur was inherently defiant. He consistently disobeyed the orders of his superiors, yet escaped disciplinary action. It was not until the Korean War that President Truman fired MacArthur and replaced him with General Matthew Ridgeway. It is troublesome that a man who so regularly disobeyed direct orders accomplished and sustained such success. My research seeks to understand why MacArthur was never cited for insubordination prior to his relief in April 1951. Evidence suggests that MacArthur’s political allies, overwhelming national support, and military brilliance secured his job. It was not until his disobedience threatened U.S. security that he was relieved of command.