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AAA Holds National Geographic to High Professional Standards

The American Anthropological Association, working together with our anthropology and archaeology partner organizations in Europe and North America raised deep concerns about the National Geographic Channel International’s plans to broadcast “Nazi War Diggers” in Europe. We decried the serious violations of professional responsibility and practice the show depicted, and offered to help advise on how the show could be improved.

Yesterday, John Francis, Vice-President of National Geographic announced the cancellation of the show. “While we support the goal of the series, which is to tell the stories of long lost and forgotten soldiers, those left behind and still unaccounted for, and illuminate history working in concert with local governments and authorities, we also take seriously the questions that have been asked,” Francis said.

AAA President Monica Heller applauds the decision to cancel the show. Together with our partner organizations, Heller said, “We look forward to their response to our letter, and will indicate to them our willingness to work with them to ensure their programming meets the highest professional standards”.

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Founded in 1902, the American Anthropological Association is the world’s largest professional organization of anthropologists and others interested in anthropology, with an average annual membership of more than 10,000. The Arlington, VA-based association represents all specialties within anthropology – cultural anthropology, biological (or physical) anthropology, archaeology, linguistics and applied anthropology.