

SSI building construction soon to start, Root Hall transformation underway

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SSI is on the move. Temporarily located in offices at 632 Wright Avenue, the research and analysis staff of the Strategic Studies Institute vacated the 2nd floor offices in Root Hall to create space for four new seminar rooms. Meanwhile, construction starts in late April for a new SSI building adjacent to the Bouquet-Gibner intersection.

“The staff at SSI is looking forward to their new quarters,” said Col. Louis Jordan, deputy director of SSI. The building is designed to support the institute’s mission better than the limited space of the temporary offices, he noted. “The limitations the temporary facility imposes on research and analysis have been improved somewhat by an innovative command-supported telework policy.”

Nine research professors are teleworking, according to Col. Carolyn Kleiner, SSI director of Strategic Studies and Research. “These positions were identified because they require thinking, reading, writing, and computer-oriented tasks that are appropriate for the telework program.”

The old SSI space in Root Hall is under going a transformation.

Four new seminar rooms are an investment in the physical change needed for the demographic changes to the Army War College student body. As the number of International Fellows soars from 50 this year to 70 in academic 2012, and 80 the next year, the college will reset the seminars in size, balance, and numbers.

Since a critical element of the students’ educational experience is learning from one another, it’s important to get it right in balancing US students, International Fellows, and faculty. An overall growth in the size of the student body will be matched by more seminar rooms.

“Two years ago when Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey tasked the War College with doubling the number of IFs in the Resident Education Program, we realized we had to increase the number of seminars,” said Col. James Scudieri, deputy dean of the Army War College.

“This year’s class has 20 seminars with 337 total students and 50 Fellows in it. Next year we are scheduled to increase the number of seminars by three to accommodate 368 students,” said Scudieri. The Class of 2013 is expected to have 384 students in 24 seminars.”

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