Class year begins for students in the Army War College Class of 2012

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Capt. Christopher Miorin, the commander of the United States Army Drill Team, and Harrisburg native, walks in between the rifles of his team.

The Class of 2012, the largest class to date, began classes on Aug. 1 and will be in residence through graduation on June 9, 2012, when the students earn a USAWC diploma and Master of Strategic Studies degree.

The Army War College develops, inspires and serves strategic leaders for the wise and effective application of national power in a joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational environment, emphasizing development and

employment of land power.

The USAWC is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

Class of 2012 breakdown

The Class of 2012 consists of 368 students, including 67 International Fellows, who are senior military officers from countries friendly to the U.S.

The largest single category of students is the 210 Army officers from active, Reserve and Guard components. The U.S. military officers enrolled in the class are board selected and typically have

approximately 20 years of service, having reached the rank of lieutenant colonel or colonel or the equivalent rank depending on the military branch.



Members of the Army War College class of 2012 and their families arrive at Indian Field to watch the Opening Ceremonies.

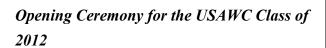
The American officers include 32 Air Force active, Reserve and Guard; 15 Navy active and Reserve; 18 Marine Corps, active and Reserve); and one Coast Guard officer.

Twenty-five high-ranking civilians from the

Defense Department, the Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of the Army, Department of State, the National Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security, and the Veterans' Administration are also in attendance.

The 2012 International Fellows represent the following countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Germany, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan(2), the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Yemen and Zambia.

The Fife and Drum Corps marches on to Indian Field.





The Opening Ceremony for the Army War

College Class of 2012 was held on Aug. 5 at Indian Field.

The event featured performances by the U.S. Army Fife and Drum Corps, the U.S. Army Drill Team, the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) and the U.S. Army Band (Pershing's Own).



Members of the Army War College Class of 2012 watch the Opening Ceremonies.

The Old Guard is the oldest active-duty infantry unit in the Army, serving the Nation since 1784. It serves as the Army's official ceremonial unit and escort to the President.

The Army War College opening ceremony is

the only time that these three prestigious units of the Army perform outside of the National Capitol Region.



Maj. Gen. Udaya Perera, International Fellows President, Col. Bobby Towery, Deputy Commandant, Army War College and Col. Robert W. Bennett, President of the



Class of 2012, watch the Opening Ceremonies.



Two of the members of the Army Drill Team demonstrate synchronized rifle spinning during the Opening Ceremonies.

Members of the 3rd United States Infantry (The Old Guard) stand in formation before the pass and review.



As the Drill Team marches off the field they execute the overhead rifle toss.

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