

USAWC experts share experience, strategic exercises with Ukraine military leaders

Thomas Zimmerman, Army War College

USAWC experts share experience, strategic exercises with Ukraine military leaders



Col. Anita Raines, support branch director of the Operations and Gaming Division, and Lt. Col. John Mowchan, strategic intelligence officer talk with Ukraine Col. Viktor Artykhovych, 2011 Army War College graduate, and Maj. Gen. Viktor Nazarov, First Deputy Chief, main Operational Directorate, General Staff of the Armed

Forces of Ukraine, during a visit to the Army War College Center for Strategic Leadership Sept. 28. The group came to learn more about strategic-level simulations. Photo by Thomas Zimmerman.

Sept. 28, 2011 – Members of the armed forces of the Ukraine came to the Army War College recently to better understand the important role of experiential educational events such as strategic war-gaming in the development of a professional officer corps.

Ukraine Col. Viktor Artykhovych, 2011 Army War College graduate, was joined by Maj. Gen. Viktor Nazarov, First Deputy Chief, Main Operational Directorate, General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, for a visit to the Center for Strategic Leadership to learn more about how CSL executes exercise, simulations and other training events to prepare senior and strategic leaders.

“It was a wonderful experience for me here at the Army War College,” said Artykhovych. “I’m glad to have the opportunity to share part of my experience with my countries leadership.”

Nazarov pointed out that security, logistical issues and political considerations for the upcoming UEFA EURO 2012 soccer championship as an example of the strategic challenges facing his country.

“We understand that we lack the experience and should collaborate with others for solutions,” he said.

“The multiple layers of command and control required for an international event of this magnitude are not unique. That is why we are here, to see how other nations train and educate their leaders for these types of situations.”

“A visit such as this emphasizes the great return on investment provided by our International Fellows Program,” said Bernie Griffard, professor of Strategic Military Logistics Plans & Operations. “Through our international alumni, the USAWC and its experiential education capabilities are introduced to Armed Forces around the world. The exchange of ideas with international planners and strategists provides information that allows our scenario authors to strengthen their products which then benefits the whole USAWC student body.” Griffard, Col. Anita Raines and Lt. Col. John Mowchan, from the Operations and Gaming Division, facilitated the visit.

The group received an overview of the Strategic Decision Making Exercise, the Joint Land, Air, and Sea Strategic Exercise and the International Fellows Strategic Crisis Negotiations Exercise.

“The Ukraine General Staff identified a need to learn more about strategic-level simulations that stressed political-military interdependence in the strategy development process,” said Griffard. “As part of the USAWC's mission to provide support to the Operational Force, we have worked with USEUCOM over the past five years to provide USAWC expertise in support of their Theater Cooperation plan.”

Griffard said that USAWC participation in these military-to-military events allows the USAWC to directly support theater strategies of global combatant commanders. During the past five years, CSL has provided three or four traveling contact teams per year in support of military-to-military initiatives throughout the Balkans and in States of the former Soviet Union and this is the third group hosted at Carlisle.