

Seminar provides updates, collaboration for senior National Guard leaders

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Members of Seminar 17 discuss strategic leadership during the Adjutants General National Security Seminar Oct. 4. The week-long seminar allows Adjutants General to receive updates on national security issues and creates an open dialogue with U.S. Army War College students and faculty during seminar room and social discussions. Photo

by Thomas Zimmerman.

Oct. 4, 2011 -- Eleven senior National Guard leaders came to the Army War College recently to discuss strategic issues with USAWC faculty and talk face-to-face with USAWC students as part of the Adjutants General National Security Seminar.

Each year the USAWC offers an opportunity for the 54 state Adjutants General and Deputy Adjutants General to come to Carlisle Barracks for one week during the resident academic year.

“Events like AGNSS provide greater visibility to those senior leaders who are encouraged to nominate and send their best and brightest to the USAWC in either the residence or distance education programs,” said Col. Lover Norrell, USAWC Army National Guard Advisor. “They can see the value of our programs by exposing them to our curriculum and to our students. Although many of them are graduates of our programs or have previously been exposed to them, this opportunity can reinforce their understanding and appreciation of our mission and the benefits that our graduates derive.”

In addition to updates on national security issues, participants exchange ideas with the resident class on

issues affecting the Army and provide USAWC students with insights regarding issues confronting the senior leadership of the National Guard.

“This interaction improves the learning process for both the attendees and the students as the attendees are exposed to new and different points of view from the variety of students with whom they interact and the students are provided the opportunity to discuss strategic issues with general officers whose focus extends from the state and local level to national level issues and policies,” said Norrell.

“This is a great opportunity to learn so much about a variety of issues and challenges in one place,” said Maj. Gen. Perry Smith, Adjutant General of Alabama. “This isn’t an experience you could get anywhere else.”

“I think being able to talk with the students and faculty and see what is on their minds and the challenges they are facing is invaluable,” said Brig. Gen. Brian Goodwin, Assistant Adjutant General of Rhode Island.

“It’s really helpful to have these leaders take part in our discussions,” said student Lt. Col. John Price. “They are able to bring up issues and ways to solve problem from a Guard perspective that really add to the experience.”

Norrell said that the seminar is a natural fit for the USAWC education programs.

“We bring our students here to increase their knowledge and exposure to what may be a new and different way of viewing the military and the world in general,” he said. “By expanding their horizons and by creating opportunities for them to interact with senior leaders who may operate outside their realm of current knowledge and experience can significantly improve their knowledge and provide a deeper understanding of our national defense challenges and policies.”

During the seminar the guests receive briefing from the Army Heritage and Education Center, take part in a Gettysburg Staff ride and have sessions with USAWC faculty.