

# Eisenhower National Security Series creates dialogue between military, civilian community

By Thomas Zimmerman

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*Eisenhower National Security Series members are (l to r) (back row) Marine Lt. Col. Curtis Mason, Sai Miyamoto, Col. Jon Neumann, Lt. Col. Tony Nesbitt, Lt. Col. Michael Marti, Col. Scotty Patton, (front) Navy Cmdr. Mike Matis, Air Force Lt. Col. Dave Morrissey, Col. Al Abramson, Lt. Col. Brian Scott and Col. Nestor Sadler. Photo by Scott Finger.*

Dec. 27, 2011 -- Imagine if you could ask a senior military officer any question you wanted about national security, what it's like to serve in the military or what it was really like in Iraq or Afghanistan?

You now may have that chance, thanks to the Eisenhower National Security Series, an outreach program that brings select Army War College students together with college students and faculty across the U.S. to engage them on a variety of military and national security topics.

“The Eisenhower program is an exercise in ‘educational outreach’ with the American public,” said **Dr. Larry Miller**, one of the Eisenhower Series advisors. “The officers and the public benefit from an open, honest and frank exchange on significant issues of national and international concern.”

The program focuses the discussions on national security issues.

“National security matters impact us all,” said Miller. “Our senior leaders must be able to explain why and how the U.S. military implements national policy in the way they do as they respond to assorted crises, both natural and manmade, foreign and domestic, as elected U.S. government officials may direct.”

Miller said that programs like these are important for both the U.S.AWC students and their hosts.

“These venues also provide an opportunity to let the American people interact with their military and reduce the divide that many of our senior leaders have described between our civilian population and the military that serves them,” he said.

This year the group is made up of **Sai Miyamoto**, civilian, **Col. Jon Neumann**, **Col. Nestor Sadler**, **Navy Cmdr. Mike Matis**, **Lt. Col. Tony Nesbitt**, **Lt. Col. Michael Marti**, **Col. Al Abramson**, **Marine Corps Lt. Col. Curtis Mason**, **Air Force Lt. Col. Dave Morrissey**, **Lt. Col. Brian Scott** and **Col. Scotty Patton**.

“I hope that I’m able to provide the perspective of civilian employees who work for the military and the skills and abilities we bring,” said Miyamoto. “It’s important for the military for the civilian population to have an understanding go our capabilities and how we make decisions.”

“This program is a great opportunity to interact with our community in a relaxed environment,” said Abramson. “If you look at the percentage of the population that knows someone in the military it’s quite low. This is an opportunity for us to show them what we do to protect the nation.”

“With the Eisenhower program we get to talk with the younger generation, many of whom may be leading companies, communities and educational institutions in the coming years,” said Mason. “It’s important that we have an open dialogue so we understand where each other are coming from and how we can work together.”

Throughout the next few months the team will travel places like the World Affairs Councils in Pittsburgh and Dallas, Arkansas State University, University of Mount Union, LSU, North Dakota, Louisville University and Southeastern Louisiana University.

The Eisenhower Series College program dates to 1969 when it was known as the Current Affairs Program. This year approximately 50 students applied for the competitive selection of Eisenhower participants.