

Students learn, teach at civilian universities, organizations

By Thomas Zimmerman

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This year 89 Army War College Senior Service College Fellows are studying at various universities, civilian think tanks, and government agencies around the world. The selected officers take part in a unique 10-month program that partners the Army and the organizations in lieu of residence at a senior service college.

Dec. 28, 2011 -- The art of strategic learning at the Army War College isn't just limited to taking part in the U.S.AWC resident or distance programs, select officers also take part in a unique 10-month program that partners the Army and various universities, civilian think tanks, and government agencies.

Each year the Department of the Army selects a limited number of officers, about 15 percent, as Senior Service College Fellows. Officers from the active component, National Guard and Reserve are assigned to the U.S.AWC to study and conduct research in this capacity during a given academic year. This year, 89 Fellows are taking part 47 different fellowship programs. The 89 fellows include 15 Army National Guard and six Army Reserve officers, are the largest in the program's history.

"The program serves as an opportunity for the officer to obtain a strategic orientation experience based at a civilian institution where there are different goals and objectives," said **Kevin Connelly**, program director. "They are able to see how the corporate and civilian worlds work strategically." The officers participate in the program in lieu of the U.S.AWC resident or distance education programs.

"I have sought to engage the students, faculty, and community and provide a tactical and operational lens to the strategic studies and conversations," said **Col. William Ostlund**, a fellow at The Fletcher School, Tufts University. "Without fail, this community is amazed at the vast array of responsibilities

the Army is taking on. This leads to great questions about who should be responsible versus who is able and available – who is present for duty in contested areas. I have had follow on discussions with professors, students, and community members. “

“The fellowship has enabled me to research, read, reflect and most importantly, absorb, key information pertinent to both the operational and strategic level for a military leader,” said **Lt. Col. Kara Soules**, a fellow at the Naval Postgraduate School. “The Fellows have been afforded the opportunity to learn, teach, build relationships, inform/advocate, and interact with personnel across the JIIM environment, and as importantly, with the local community too. This experience has been unique, rewarding, relevant and broadening. Ultimately, my time as a Fellow has enabled personal and professional growth to a greater extent than most of my previous assignments.”

“I wanted to take part in this fellowship to gain a different perspective on strategic issues,” said **Col. Dave Trybula**, who is studying at the Institute for Defense Analyses in Washington, D.C. “I will be able to look at issues from outside the Army and DOD perspective while I think will help in my development as a strategic leader.”

Other organizations and universities that are hosting fellows include Columbia University, Georgetown University, the Drug Enforcement Agency, the NATO Defense College, and the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Originally started in 1972, the program began as the Army Research Associate Program, where selected officers could volunteer for a year at an academic institution in lieu of attending a senior service college. In 1987, under the direction of the Chief of Staff of the Army, the U.S.AWC established a direct affiliation with the fellows and created the current program.

Differences exist between senior service fellow, U.S.AWC resident programs

There are some differences between the resident program and the SSCF besides their location. SSCF receive a U.S.AWC certificate and will have satisfied all requirements expected for a DOD Senior College Graduate, but they do not receive credit for JPME Phase II, nor are they eligible for a U.S.AWC Masters of Strategic Studies degree.

Program encourages civilian-military discussion

Another important aspect of the program is the benefit of having a senior Army officer at a civilian institution where the learning can be two-fold.

“These fellows are many people’s only link to the U.S. Army,” said **Col. Scott King**, Deputy Director,

Joint Education. “We consider them ambassadors for the Army to share with their fellow students and faculty firsthand knowledge experience about the roles and missions of the Army. These fellowships also allow fellows to gain a different perspective by working with civilian institutions on some concerns for the Army.”

“We are immersed and participate in presentations and projects, which allows great interaction with very top quality students,” said Ostlund. He has also participated in the Alliance Linking Leaders in Education and the Services, an undergraduate organization dedicated to improving civilian-military relations. “Through joint education, research, and training, ALLIES provides military and civilian students and professionals alike the opportunity to explore significant topics, events and policy while developing relationships that will last a lifetime.”

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