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Public Affairs staff

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*Maj.
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Commandant, talks to the 2013 National Security Seminar Fellows and The War College Class of 2013 in Bliss Hall. The week-long seminar brings together civilian leaders together with USAWC

More than 140 business leaders, professional educators, doctors and entertainers who have no military affiliations attend the National Security Seminar every June at the Army War College.

The seminar is the capstone event of The War College's 10-month curriculum that provides a forum for distinguished speakers to discuss their views on important issues regarding the nation's security and welfare with students, International Fellows, faculty, and the National Security Seminar Fellows of Army War College seminars.

"I need to you continue to challenge our ways of thinking and reminding our students to keep an open mind," said **Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo**, Army War College Commandant, during the opening of the ceremony.

Inviting these Fellows serves two goals, said Army **Col. Michael Phillips**, National Security Seminar week director. "The seminar is an opportunity to expose a broad sampling of American citizens to their Army's senior educational institution, to educate them on the school's mission and our contribution to national defense," said Phillips.

"The second goal is to expose our students to the concerns, experiences and perspectives of the citizens we serve, considerations we can all too easily forget."

During the week, each attendee is assigned to one of 24 student seminar groups and becomes an active participant in seminar discussions, sharing from their own background, experience, beliefs and perspectives on these issues. The seminar aims for these representative citizens to get to know some of the prospective leaders of their Armed Forces and, in turn, allows the students to better understand the society they serve.

"This is a great opportunity to learn more about and from these senior military leaders," said **Markie Post**, NSS Fellow and actress. "It really opens your eyes to see the range of issues and challenges we face as a nation."

"I think it's very important to have these types of conferences where the American public and our military can get together and talk about issues like civil liberties and terrorism," said **Cheryl Heckler**, NSS Fellow and assistant professor at Miami University.

Each day includes a guest speaker who sets the theme for the day's discussions that cover topics such as the challenges of civil-military relations, the role of domestic politics in national security, globalization, foreign policy, international security issues and the future role of the United States.

"It provides an opportunity for the students to synthesize all of their curricular experiences, from strategic leadership and critical thinking, through policy formulation and resource management," said Phillips.

Carlos Hernandez, a NSS Fellow who works for Goodwill Industries of Greater New York and New Jersey, said he was impressed by expert faculty and students at The War College.

"It really is a small treasure right here in Pennsylvania," he said.

Guest speakers for this year's NSS include retired **Air Force Gen. Michael Hayden**, who will deliver the keynote address, **Susan Herman**, who will speak about challenges to American traditions of liberty, due process, and equality in a changing world; **Norm Orenstein**, who will address making policy in a dysfunctional political environment; and **Dr. Gordon Adams** who will speak on defense in an age of fiscal austerity.

Hayden, the former CIA director, spoke about topics ranging from the threat of terrorism to cyber and transnational crime

during his address in Bliss Hall. He spoke of trying to find certainty in a chaotic world.

Susan Herman, president of the ACLU, spoke about the challenges involved with women in direct combat, the repeal of the "don't ask, don't tell policy," and what she see as her organizations role in ensuring equality within all organizations.

Orenstein, a political scientist and resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, spoke about the "complicated" political system in the U.S. and the role of the 24-hour news networks in shaping public opinion and policy.

"We have to transcend differences to make policy," he said. "This is not easy and will take awhile, but it's something that needs to be done."

The National Security Seminar includes an historian-guided Gettysburg Staff Ride and multiple opportunities to discuss several national security issues facing our country today.

U.S. Army War College Archives - News Article - 05 June 2013