

Distance education Class of 2013 enters the final days of USAWC experience

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A member of the Distance Education Class of 2013 asks a question during a presentation via VTC by the Army G-1 and G8 in Bliss Hall July 22. The class will officially mark the end of their studies with a graduation ceremony July 26 at 9 a.m. at the Wheelock Bandstand.

Update: July 24

Honore challenges students to ‘take on the impossible’

As their final two-week resident course drew to a close, marking the end of a two-year journey, a retired Army leader urged the members of the Distance Education Class of 2013 to continue to tackle challenges.

“Don’t be afraid to take on the impossible,” said retired **Lt. Gen. Russel Honore**, best known for serving as commander of Joint Task Force Katrina responsible for coordinating military relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina-affected areas across the Gulf Coast. Opportunity lies on the other side of impossible.”

He pointed out that in a world that uses planes, cell phone and the internet on a daily basis without thinking, people need to sometimes think outside the box.

“100 year ago two bike makers from Ohio created the first airplane,” he said. “Be like them, be an example of how to get things done.”

Honore shared stories from his time as an Army officer and specifically the challenges he faced in the response to Hurricane Katrina. He reminded the students that each task, no matter how small is important in the overall success of the mission.

“We have to do the routine things well, or else we won’t succeed,” he said. “Everything worth doing requires sacrifice.”

Former Soldier, Senator Max Cleland delivers Danny Lewin lecture

A former Soldier, U.S. Senator and the youngest ever Administrator of the U.S. Veterans Administration shared his perspective on strategic leadership July 23 as part of the Danny Lewin Memorial Lecture.

Max Cleland, now the secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission, spoke to the Army War College Distance Education Class of 2013 in Bliss Hall. The lecture is named in honor of Lewin, who was one of the nearly 3,000 people killed during the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and was aboard American Airlines flight 11 which crashed into the World Trade Center.

“I’m honored to be here and to even have my names spoken in the same sentence as Danny Lewin,” said Cleland. “We can’t forget people like him, those who made a stand against terror to try and save others.”

Cleland spoke at length about his experience as a Soldier and statesman. Cleland served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War, attaining the rank of Captain. He was awarded the Silver Star and the Bronze Star for valorous action in combat, including during the Battle of Khe Sanh on April 4, 1968.

On April 8, 1968, Captain Cleland was the Battalion Signal Officer for the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division during the Battle of Khe Sanh.

On April 8, with a month left in his tour, Cleland was ordered to set up a radio relay station on a nearby hill. When the helicopter landed, Cleland jumped out, followed by two soldiers. They ducked beneath the rotors and turned to watch the liftoff. Cleland reached down to pick up a grenade he believed had popped off his flak jacket. It exploded and the blast slammed him backward, shredding both his legs and one arm. Due to the severity of his injuries, doctors amputated both of Cleland's legs above the knee, and his right forearm; he was 25 years old.

In 1970, Cleland was elected to the Georgia Senate where he was the youngest member of that body and

the only Vietnam veteran. He was re-elected to the State Senate in 1972. There he authored and helped to enact into law legislation which for the first time made public facilities in Georgia accessible to the elderly and handicapped. In 1975, he was appointed to the staff of the U.S. Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, where he investigated hospitals in the Veterans Administration health care system and their treatment of wounded U.S. troops returning from Vietnam.

He said that his time in uniform provided him insights that his colleagues lacked.

“As leaders we have to think things through to the end before we commit to boots on the ground,” he said. “My time in uniform helped impress on me that we have to be crystal clear about our objectives before we make that commitment.”

Cleland outlined things to consider when developing a strategy:

- What are they (military forces) going to do?
- What’s the objective?
- How do we get them home?
- Remember we are not the Red Cross, we don’t go in to rebuild nations
- Never fight unless we have to
- Never fight alone
- Never fight for long

Cleland Bio

A former United States Senator and youngest ever Administrator of the U.S. Veterans Administration, Max Cleland has been a distinguished public servant for over 40 years.

Born and raised in Lithonia, Georgia, Cleland attended the Washington Semester Program at American University where he was inspired to enter public service. In 1964, he earned his B.A. degree from Stetson University and received a Second Lieutenant’s Commission in the U.S. Army through its ROTC program. Cleland holds a Masters Degree in American history from Emory University. Both Stetson and Emory have awarded him honorary doctorate degrees.

In 1967, Cleland volunteered for service in the Vietnam War and was promoted to Army Captain. Seriously wounded in combat in 1968, he was awarded both the Bronze Star for meritorious service and the Silver Star for gallantry in action.

Appointed in 1977 by President Jimmy Carter to head the Veterans Administration, Cleland managed the largest health care system in the country. As the first Vietnam veteran to head the department, Cleland created the Vet Center counseling program. Today, over 200 Vet Centers across America help

veterans and their families deal with post-traumatic stress disorders and associated problems. The Institute for Public Service, in 1977, awarded Cleland the Thomas Jefferson Award, which is given to an American under the age of 35 who makes the greatest contribution to public service. The following year, Cleland received the Neal Pike Prize from Boston University for his outstanding contributions to the rehabilitation of disabled veterans.

In 1982, Cleland won election as Georgia's youngest Secretary of State and served in that office for 12 years. In 1996, he was elected to succeed Sam Nunn in the United States Senate. Cleland held the seat on the Senate Armed Services Committee which was previously occupied by Nunn and Senator Richard Russell.

After his defeat for re-election in 2002, Cleland was appointed to the 9-11 Commission to study the circumstances surrounding the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and to recommend safeguards against future attacks. While a member of the Commission, Cleland served as an adjunct professor in Political Science at American University. In late 2003, he was appointed to be a member of the Board of Directors for the Export-Import Bank of the United States, where he served for three and a half years. Currently, Cleland is the Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission.

Two years spent behind computers screens, posting on messages boards and doing required readings while on vacation with the family have finally paid off as the Distance Education Class of 2013 reported to Carlisle Barracks for their final resident course July 15.

Dr. Mara Karlin, Principal Director for Strategy in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, spoke to the Army War College Class of 2013 in Bliss Hall today. She focused her remarks on the complex and growing array of strategic challenges that face the nation and its armed forces.



The 348-member class will officially wrap up their studies with a graduation ceremony at 9 a.m. on July 26, but before then are guest speakers like **Gen. John Campbell**, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, **Maj. Gen. Glenn Lesniak**, Deputy Commanding General (Support) for the Army Reserve, **Brig. Gen. Michael Bobeck**, Special Assistant To The Director at Army National Guard and **Dr. David**

Markowitz, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7.

The class is made up of 309 Army (149 National Guard, 126 Army Reserve and 34 Active Duty); 19 Marine Corps (six Reserve and 13 Active Duty); two Navy Reserve, two Air Force (one Reserve, one Active Duty) officers; four international officers (Canada, Estonia, Lithuania and Moldova) and 11 civilians.

Markowitz spoke about the changing fiscal environment and the effects it is having on near-term readiness. He said that changes are looming to future force structure and end strength as resources decrease.



Col. Randall Fluke, a member of the Distance Education Class of 2013, ask a question during a presentation in Bliss Hall July 17. The 348-member class is at Carlisle Barracks for their last resident session before they complete their studies. Graduation will be held July 26 at 9 a.m. here .

He went on to say that for FY14 resources are uncertain at best, including how sequestration will be applied.

In addition to the guest speakers and seminar discussions, the students will take part in the Commandant's National Security Program, the capstone event of the program. Civilian guests are invited to attend the program and are integrated into USAWC student seminars.

Each day includes a guest speaker or a panel presentation and a general theme for discussion like the media impact and academic perspectives on national security strategy development and implementation, the challenges of civil-military relations, the role of domestic politics in national security, globalization, foreign policy, and international security issues. Besides the guest speakers and the seminar discussions, guests also have the opportunity to hear additional presentations during optional lunch time lectures on various national security related topics.

The students and the guests will also take part in a Gettysburg staff ride in order to better understand

what happened, why it happened, and what could be learned and applied to future strategic issues.

While here at Carlisle Barracks, the students are also able to take advantage of the new Army Wellness Center. Using state-of-the-art technology the staff takes readings on body composition, bio metrics, cardio vascular fitness and body fat percentage. The results are then used to develop a personalized fitness regiment including general nutrition and a dietary plan. After students leave Carlisle Barracks and return to their normal duty stations they will be able to maintain contact with the Wellness Center via Defense Connect Online to provide updates on fitness progress and overall health and wellness.

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