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International Fellows, with the Old Guard, lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

The Army War College will integrate 77 international officers from 67 countries into the resident class of

2014. When classes start in August, three new countries will be represented here for the first time: Kosovo, Mauritania and South Sudan. With about 175 family members, this IF class is the largest to date – with many layers of pay-off for the Fellows, their US colleagues, and the community.

The Army War College has the largest body of Inter-national Fellows among senior service colleges. When Gen. George Casey, then-Chief of Staff of the Army, directed The War College to double the number of IF seats from 40 to 80, he opened opportunities for nations to send an officer almost every year, said Col. John Burbank, director of the International Fellows Program. Significantly he multiplied the opportunities for U.S. students to learn from their multinational study partners.

The War College student seminar replicates the JIIM environment in which graduates will work: joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational. The International Fellows contribute to seminar discussions, case studies and exercises the perspectives of their nations and regions and a diverse set of experiences. “We expect to learn as much from them as they do from us,” said Burbank about the College’s policy to consider them ‘fellows’ for whom individual initiative is an essential part of the program.

“The role of the International Fellow is to attend the exact same educational curriculum as our U.S. students, and to graduate with a USAWC diploma and a master’s degree in Strategic Studies if they

qualify,” he said.

“Most importantly, we hope that these officers, most of whom will become flag officers and eventually strategic leaders of their country’s military, will form lasting relationships with their fellow students and neighbors here in the United States,” said Burbank.

This year International Fellows will participate in the full schedule of core courses, to include the Defense Management course, examining the U.S. defense processes and systems to provide trained and ready forces for employment by the combatant commanders. IF participate with the full student body in the academic field trips to meet with strategic leaders of New York City’s corporate, non-profit, and government agencies; and to explore the civil-military relations with Congress, among others, in Washington D.C. The International Fellows will use the Term II elective period for field trips to Unified Commands, Army, Navy, and Air Force installations and Interagency and civilian organizations.

Transitioning to American life



Malaysian Fellow Brig. Gen. Stephen is interviewed by local news at the Harrisburg Senators baseball game in late July.

The International Fellows’ six-week orientation to the Army War College and the Carlisle area began in mid-June, to help them transition to living and studying in the United States. Orientation is a team effort, with assistance from the staff of the International Fellows Program and the volunteer sponsors from Carlisle Barracks and neighboring communities. The Fellows secure housing and furniture; learn their way around U.S. appliances, electronics and utilities; apply for a drivers’ license; and orient themselves to the U.S. way of banking. Along the way, they and their families become familiar with their new home town and central Pennsylvania.

In July, a robust program introduces Fellows to U.S. culture and institutions through study and travel in the continental United States. They travel to Washington D.C. to participate in meetings, panel discussions, and tours at US-AID, CSIS, Department of State and the Pentagon. They learn about all levels of government through visits to Carlisle Borough, Cumberland County, the state capitol in Harrisburg, and national level agencies. They meet the people behind institutions like Hershey Medical

Center and Hershey School; civic organizations such as Kiwanis and Rotary clubs, and recognize the diversity of American society. Former governor spokesperson Tim Reeves addressed the IF class about freedom of speech and freedom of the press – one of several guest speakers selected to provide a better understanding of American culture and American values, said Burbank. The International Fellows and their families are equally integrated into the greater Carlisle community. They live in the neighboring communities; their children attend local schools and play sports; they shop in local stores and try all that Carlisle has to offer--a variety of restaurants, entertainment, culture and history. In turn, local schools and community members learn about different countries' language and culture – and form lasting relationships.

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