

# International students fully integrated into academic seminars and extracurricular activities

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An International Fellow from Jamaica joins the Army War College student body this year for the first time. The resident class of 2017 is underway with 74 international officers, from 70 countries, within the student body of 384. This is the largest body of international officers among the senior service war colleges.



International students at Carlisle are fully integrated into academic seminars and extracurricular activities. They provide U.S. students with the opportunity to study and work alongside colleagues from allied and partner nations. For the international officers, it presents opportunity to establish a mutual understanding and rapport with senior U.S. officers and foreign officers and enrich the educational environment. The college traditionally refers to its foreign students as fellows, recognizing their role as both learners and contributors of regional expertise.

**International Students gather around a newly retired EC-130 from the 193rd Special Operations Wing now on permanent display during their visit to Fort Indian Town Gap, July 28.**

“To have American officers, civilians, and foreign officers in the seminar allows me to see many

different types of approaches to a problem and how it is viewed by my classmates,” said Brazilian Lt. Col. Alberto Nunes. “When I return back to my country I will be better prepared to help my service and my government solve problems regarding international affairs,” he said.

The international fellows began a vigorous six-week orientation course in mid-June to help them transition into living and studying in the United States. The orientation is a team effort, led by the staff of the International Fellows Program Office, with personalized assistance from the volunteer sponsors from Carlisle Barracks and from neighboring civilian communities.

The multi-phased orientation, for students and families alike, introduces them to banking, driving, and other realities of U.S. culture. Sponsors help overcome cultural differences and lend helpful hands and understanding ears.

### **U.S. Field Studies program broadens IF exposure to US institutions**

More than an orientation to U.S. life, the IF Orientation Course spans political, social, economic and historical understanding of the United States. Travel and exchanges address the values of this nation.



**Australian Col. Susan Coyle trains on the 50-caliber machine gun inside the Engagement Skills Trainer at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., 28 July.**

“The Department of Defense requires all foreign military students to participate in the U.S. Field Studies program,” said Kevin Bremer, chief of the International Student Management Office, who explained that the field studies requirements get underway during orientation, and continues yearlong. The field studies complement local experiences of fellows and their families, creating a fuller impression of their host nation.

“The goal of the [International Fellows] program is to provide a balanced understanding of U.S. society, culture and ideals of the American democratic way of life,” he said. “This program will continue throughout the academic year with visits to the U.S. Military Academy, the AUSA Convention in Washington D.C., various visits to other institutes of higher learning, as well as other cultural visits.”

The new students traveled with families to both Philadelphia and Washington D.C. in the weeks prior

to academic classes.



While in Philadelphia, the fellows and their families visited Old Philadelphia and Independence Hall. The fellows visited the Boeing assembly plant, while the spouses and children toured the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

**International students get an orientation to an all-American passtime as they prepare for the upcoming seminar softball**

**season.**

“For myself and my family, the tour of Philadelphia was very inspirational because we could see where this country was born,” said Nunes, about the United States. “Philadelphia was a beautiful city and it is very close to Carlisle so we will come back with my family again.”

“As a professional, the visit to the Pentagon was wonderful. I could see the joint operations between services and civilian agencies. For me this visit to the Pentagon was very beneficial,” he said.

The fellows participated in meetings and panel discussions at the Department of State and the Pentagon while their families toured the National Capital Area with stops at the Washington Zoo and the Smithsonian Air and Space museum at Dulles.

One of the highlights for the fellows was their visit to Arlington National Cemetery, where Australia’s Col. Susan Coyle, Jordanian Brig. Gen. Basem Alalaween. Togo’s Lt. Col. Kokou Kemence, and Canadian Fellow Col. Paul Peton participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.