

# USAWC students address Just War, other topics via Commandant's Reading Program

## USAWC students address Just War, national security topics in Commandant's Reading Program

James Dubik returned to the Army War College, this time for an in-depth discussion of his book, **Just War**



**Reconsidered.** He noted, with a smile, that his book had benefited from the insights of selected members of the USAWC Class of 2013 during his tenure here as the Gen. Omar N. Bradley Chair of Strategic Leadership. While writing the book, he said, he'd honed his ideas with the military professionals for whom his insights are intriguing, at least, and mandatory reading, at best.

***Retired Lt. Gen. James Dubik, center, listens with CRP students to Maj. Gen. Bill Rapp's (far right) orientation to the plan for thoughtful dialogue and camaraderie.***

His return engagement was for the Commandant's Reading Program, Jan. 19. In a relaxed setting in front of the fire in the commandant's home, about two dozen students and their faculty advisors gathered for a two-hour discussion of his exploration of a perceived gap. He argues that the principle, 'jus in bello,' should be applied to the role of senior military and civilian leaders engaged in the decisions of waging war at the strategic level.

Taking questions and offering details about his logic, his choice of examples, and his conclusions, Dubik gave a behind-the-scenes opportunity to consider the strategic decisions associated with waging war, and why it matters. Not only should the warfighters be subject to international principles of just war, but so too should those who make

decisions about objectives, resourcing, priorities, and more.

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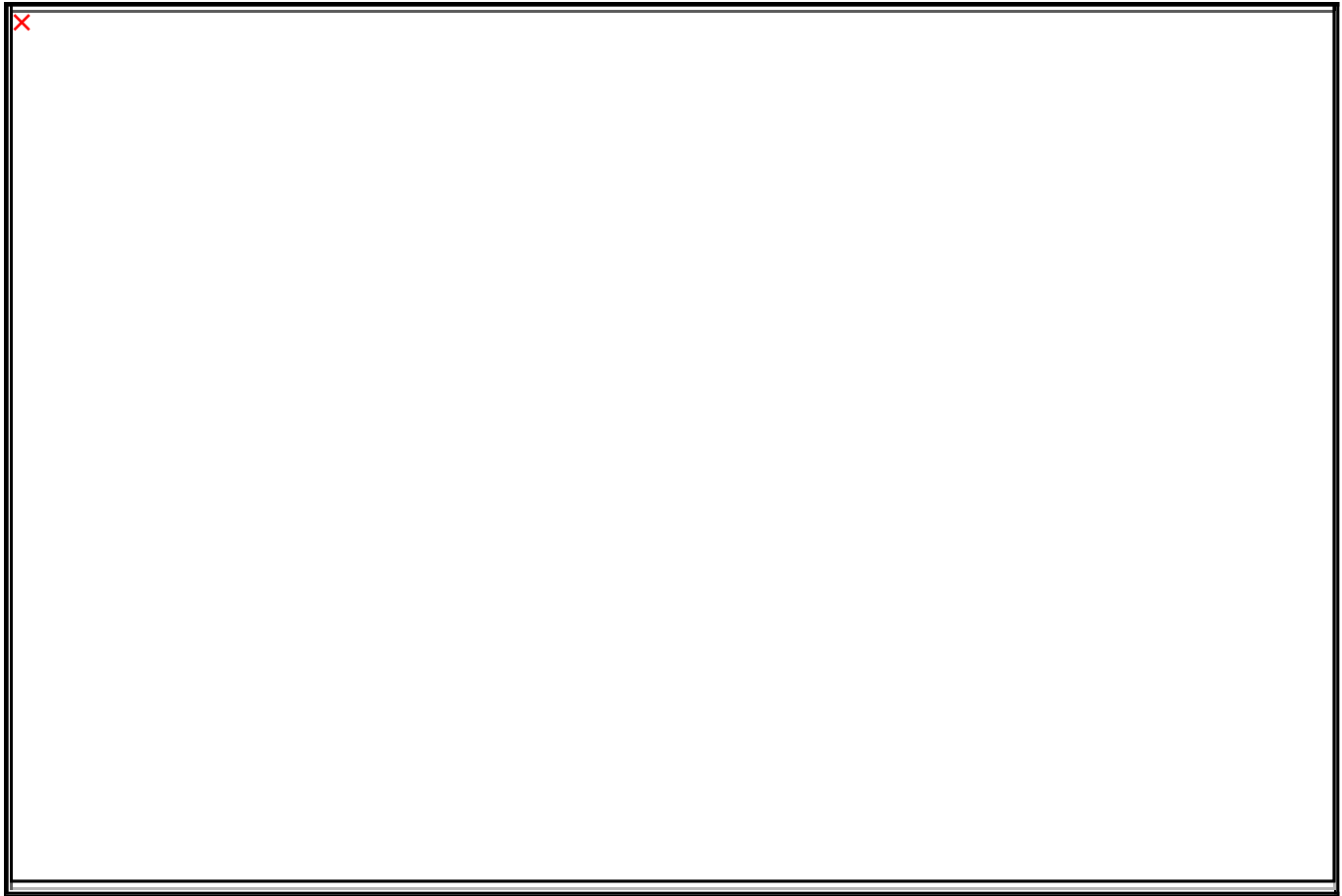
For students enrolled in the Commandant's Reading Program elective, their six author engagements are quite unlike a series of book store-sponsored events. Shared interests and a carefully selected series of linked issues create an educational opportunity to confront long-held

assumptions and experience-based conclusions. The authors are drawn from academic and practitioner fields: historian, political scientist, political advisor, senior military officer, and hybrid expertise.

***Students of the Commandant's Reading Program write reviews for the selected books, applying their own experience and education, and the ideas raised in discussion with the authors.***

The CRP elective demonstrates the multiplicative effect of the seminar experience at Carlisle, where every student brings to seminar dialogue not only their prior experience but the new learning made possible by electives, noontime lectures, and knowledge gleaned by each student in developing their individual Strategy Research Projects. Although less than 10 percent of the student body are CRP participants, they bring their new thinking





into the seminar to share with fellow students.

***Right: CRP students and faculty listen to Emma Sky about the pol-mil efforts in Iraq.***

To date, the CRP students have probed the ideas of a former British political advisor to US military leaders, Emma Sky; political scientist Michael Mandelbaum; and retired Lt. Gen. James Dubik. Scheduled during upcoming months for discussions in Carlisle, New York City, and D.C. are historian Andrew Bacevich; news and opinion TV host Rachel Maddow; and scholar-practitioner Eliot Cohen.