

# Importance of NATO topic of Perspectives lecture

*Lt. Col. Frank Misurelli, U.S. Army War College Public Affairs Office*

## Importance of NATO topic of latest Perspectives lecture



***Michael Lynch, chief of educational programs at the Army Heritage and Education Center, presents Col. John Dabrowski with a token of appreciation for his presentation on "The U.S., NATO and European Basing, 1949 - Present" Dec, 10 at Ridgeway***

***Hall. Photo by Lt. Col. Frank Misurelli.***

December 11, 2008 -- "The NATO Alliance has stood the test of time on the eve of NATO's 60th anniversary," said Col. John Dabrowski, a military historian assigned to the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center.

Dabrowski's topic, "The U.S., NATO and European Basing, 1949-Present," is the final seminar for the calendar year as part of the 41st Annual Seminar Series, Perspectives in Military History at the Army Heritage and Education Center.

"NATO is the most important U.S. multilateral alliance that remains from the era of the Cold War," Dabrowski said. "NATO was tested during the Berlin Airlift, 1948-49, the Korean War, and during the Berlin Wall Crisis, 1961, and most recently in the Balkans," said Dabrowski. "Over the years, the NATO members have had their disagreements, which many took as a sign of weakness. Yet, NATO has endured, and now has 26 members, up from its original 12 at its founding in 1949."

Dabrowski answered the question is NATO still important 60 years after its inception with a resounding yes to the crowd of nearly 100.

"NATO has promoted democracy and stability and now includes members of the former Soviet Warsaw Pact/East Bloc countries, and that fact would probably make Stalin and other former Soviet leaders turn over in

their graves," he said.

He concluded his hour-long remarks by NATO's participation on the global war on terror in current combat operations in Afghanistan.

"Our NATO allies have been criticized in not contributing more to the global war on terror, especially in Afghanistan. This criticism may be unjust in that the other NATO nations just do not have the resources available to them as does the U.S. As a matter of fact, in Afghanistan, both Turkey and Britain have been quite active in training the Afghan National Army (ANA). NATO has kept the peace in Europe for almost 60 years, and has now embarked on a comprehensive reform process to ensure that the Alliance is as equipped to deal with the security threats of the new century as it was in the last."

U.S. Army War College Archives - News Article - 11 December 2008