

Why do War College students learn to “dress for success”?

By Curt Keester 17 August 2018



Rita Gworek, master tailor and image consultant, provides advice to an Army War College student during the Military Family Program's Dress for Success Workshop in Bliss Hall on Aug. 16, 2018.

CARLISLE, Pa. (Aug. 16, 2018) – One objective of Army War College students pursuing graduate education in Strategic Studies here in Carlisle, Pa., is to refine their professional image in preparation for future engagements, both formal and informal, with senior representatives of foreign nations, civilian agencies, Congress and the American people.

Image consultant and master tailor Rita Gworek offered a dress-for-success workshop with guidance for executives about business attire – unlike the uniform worn daily for more than 20 years for most in the student body, in Bliss Hall, Aug. 16.

“The key thing I want them to know is that the suit is a uniform,” said Gworek. It suggests “rank” through fabric choice, current style, and fit. “If all those come into play, they’re going to have confidence, and they’re going

to look professional,” she said, in an interview following the workshop. “They need to stay current -- not in fashion, but in what’s current in the business suit.”

For the female officers and executives, Gworek recommended against high fashion clothing. It’s not easy to find stores that cater to corporate women, she admitted, but it’s worth the effort to find business clothing.

Gworek offered three philosophies for selecting civilian dress.

Dress code

Always wear a tie and a collared shirt. The tie should incorporate the color of suit pants. If a situation does not require a suit jacket or tie, they can be removed.

Color choice

Blue or charcoal gray suits suggest executive “rank” as do white or blue collared shirts, and red or blue ties. Tie width should approximate the width of the jacket lapel.

The proper fit

Investing in a custom clothing store or tailor to have all of your suits altered to the proper fit.

The dress-for-success workshop was sponsored by the USAWC Military Family Program, as one of many events tailored for both the officer/executive students and their spouses.