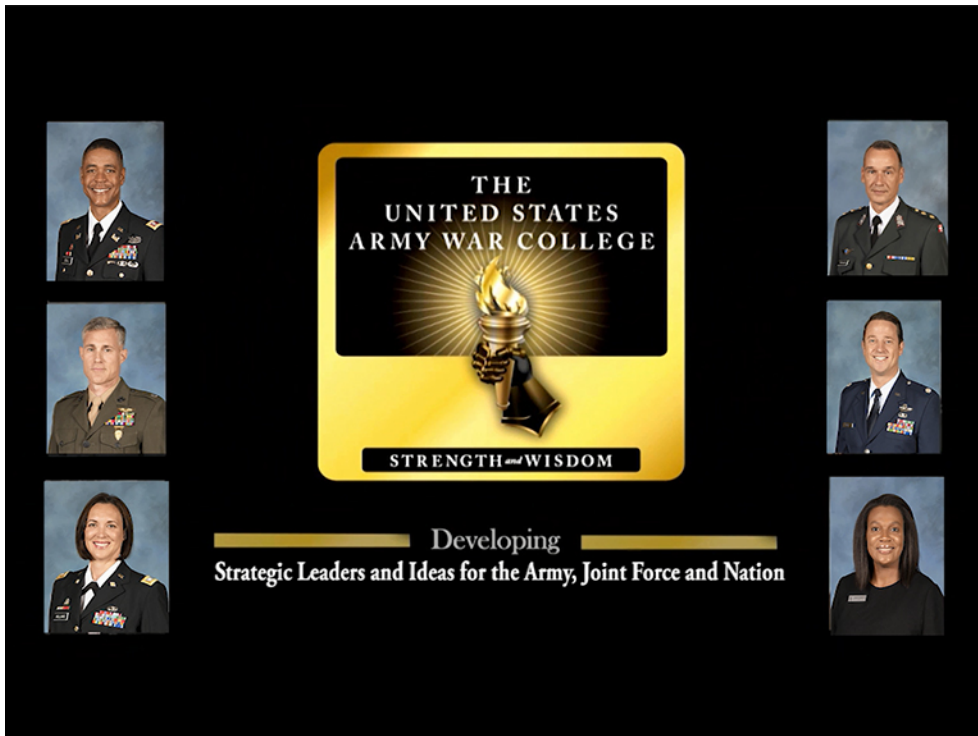



# Happy Anniversary Army War College

By Public Affairs Staff 27 November 2018



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On this day in 1901, then Secretary of War Elihu Root established the Army War College to educate senior military officers. Root anticipated an educational institution that could be a catalyst for educating, planning and preparing senior military officers to be strategic-minded and leaders of change.

In its early years, the college provided planning support to the War Department, but the mission evolved to today's mission – developing Strategic Leaders for the nation; developing Strategic Ideas for Army and Joint Force.

Through history, its graduates have been critical to leading large combat formations and the large enterprise of the Army and Defense Department.

- Graduates like John Pershing, John Lejeune, and Tasker Bliss planned and led operations on the battlefields of Europe during World War I
- Dwight Eisenhower, Omar Bradley and George Patton were instrumental in the nation's victory in World War II and its aftermath
- The college's graduates served critical roles in leading, planning and advising throughout the nation's history

"You'd expect somebody that comes out of here to have an appreciation of history, so they have a reference when they're solving these problems," said Gen. Joseph Dunford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "You'd expect somebody to come out of this school able to do critical thinking and get after ... those most important elements of complex challenges."

"Leadership is a fundamental component, it's the most important component, in my mind of combat power, and we, the Army, spend an awful lot of money, time, effort, resources in developing our leaders, and that's how it should be," said Gen. Mark Milley, Chief of Staff of the United States Army.

Since 1901, the Army War College has been developing strategic leaders to be critical and innovative thinkers, inspired to serve and able to exercise wisdom and strength in decisions that will shape the future, in the words of Elihu Root, "not to promote war, but to preserve peace."

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