

## Academic Preparatory Course - The Opportunity That I Have Long Waited For

By Robert Martin 22 June 2018

RELATED LINKS

[ACP images](#)



*Senior foreign officers from 37 countries graduated today from the Army War College Academic Preparatory course, this rigorous nine week course touches on writing, listen and research skills along with English grammar. They will soon be joined by 39*

**CARLISLE, Pa. (June 22, 2018)** – The Army War College year in residence officially begins for 76 senior international officers, including first-time attendance from the country of Guinea, as their six-week orientation starts June 25.

The International Fellows' orientation includes briefings on American culture, history, government, and the structure and doctrine of the U.S. military. Visits to Philadelphia and Washington D.C. help the Fellows gain a better understanding of American culture and society.

After orientation is complete, the fellows will join their U.S. counterparts in the U.S. Army War College Resident Program Class of 2019. The War College places about four foreign officers into each of the 24 seminars.

Their presence in the seminar brings greater diversity of viewpoints to the strategic thinking process and helps forge stronger ties of cooperation among future coalition partners.

Today is another milestone for 37 of the international officers for whom English is not their native language. These students will graduate from Academy Preparatory Course.

“This preparatory course is all things English,” said Tom Marchi, one the four English teachers in APC. “My goal is to help the international fellows improve their English writing skills, fundamentals which include grammar, sentencing syntax, and paragraphing, then ultimately have the students producing good essays with solid research and citations.

“I was surprised how adept they were already in English, verbally they are strong and they have great communications skills,” said Marchi. “The biggest surprise of these students is their academic work ethic. I don’t have to push them, I don’t have to prod them when an assignment is given or a task assigned. They do it on time and the best they can, and often it’s very good.”

The nine-week course sharpens language skills needed for reading, seminar discussions, research, and academic writing at the graduate level.

“When I first found out that I was to attend APC, I did not understand why I would need this course. I have been in the Army for 20 and attend our Academy, what could be the difference?” said Lt. Col. Leonard Kollcaku. “I found there were a lot of differences, because I was missing academic preparation and academic writing by doing every day work.

“I had to switch my mind and focus as a student now and leave my work in the general staff behind,” he said.

“I feel very proud to be the first woman selected to attend the APC and Army War College from my country,” said Tanzanian Lt. Col. Hoja Ng’Weshemi. “It’s like a dream to be the first one; it’s going to be history. Being selected is just a golden chance to make my dreams and aspirations come true, and let other females know that if they are selected, they can make it too,” she said.

“This is an opportunity that I have long waited for,” said Brig. Gen. Edison Molale from Botswana. “This is a very important course and something I have advocated for from my commander,” he said.

When asked what some of the challenges of APC were, Molale said, "The style of writing is completely different from the style I am use to, we are mostly British-trained. I realize that there is a lot of writing in this course, and you really have to master that art, and you have to be very articulate in the way you speak."

"It is very rewarding to have so many different countries represented in our seminar. We all have different experiences, different outlooks. Building relationships, having respect for each other ideas these are things that I have really appreciated here," Molale said.

Each seminar will include a cross-section of U.S. Army, Sea Service, Air Force officers, federal civilian students, and four International Fellows for the seminar dialogue, case studies and experiential learning of the six-months of core course.

The 76 International Fellows in the resident Class of 2019 represent 74 countries. Chief of Staff of the Army invited the International Fellows to attend the Army War College in a State Department program executed by the Defense Department. The following countries are attending the Army War College this year.

Afghanistan; Albania; Algeria; Argentina; Australia; Bahrain; Bangladesh; Bosnia & Herzegovina; Botswana; Brazil; Bulgaria; Burkina Faso; Canada; Chile; Colombia; Czech Republic; Denmark; Egypt; El Salvador; Estonia; Ethiopia; France; Georgia; Germany; Ghana; Guatemala; Guinea; Hungary; India; Indonesia; Israel; Italy; Jordan; Kazakhstan x2, Korea; Kosovo; Kuwait; Kyrgyzstan; Latvia; Lebanon; Lithuania; Malaysia; Mali; Mauritania; Mexico; Mongolia; Morocco; Nepal; Netherlands; New Zealand; Niger; Nigeria; Norway; Oman; Peru; Philippines; Poland; Romania; Rwanda; Saudi Arabia x3; South Africa; Spain; Taiwan; Tanzania; Togo; Tunisia; Turkey; Uganda; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates United Kingdom; Vietnam