

Ceremony officially recognizes Breckenridge as USAWC Provost

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Dr. Jim Breckenridge comes to the Army War College from Mercyhurst University in Erie, Pa. where he served as the Dean of the Ridge College of Intelligence Studies and Applied Sciences. Breckenridge was officially recognized as the chief academic off



Dr. Jim Breckenridge addresses the assembled crowd of faculty and staff during his remarks at an investiture ceremony held in Bliss Hall Oct. 26. Breckenridge, the second provost of the Army War College, was officially recognized as the chief academi



Col. Ken Adgie, deputy commandant of the Army War College presents Dr. Jim Breckenridge with a framed copy of General Order No. 155, 1901, which established the Army War College. Breckenridge was officially recognized as the second provost of the War

Considered to be one of the oldest ceremonies in academia, the investiture ceremony harkens back to the earliest days of English universities, and is thought to be an adaptation of a dignified ceremony heralding knighthood.

The word investiture comes from the Latin phrase to dress and robe, and today in academic circles it means to recognize the individual who will don the college's insignia and regalia, both figuratively and realistically, and lead the college forward.

"Fortunately for all of us, we now have Dr. Jim Breckenridge here to help guide and shape the Army War College," said Col. Ken Adgie, deputy commandant, during his remarks at an investiture ceremony held in Bliss Hall Oct. 26. The ceremony officially recognized Breckenridge as the chief academic officer of the Army War College, and invested him with the responsibility of leading the War College forward.

"The Army War College has a long tradition of preparing students for

strategic level leadership generating new ideas, and researching and developing academically solutions to complex problems,” said Adgie, who spoke on behalf of Commandant Maj. Gen. John Kem. “Both are and will remain key focal points of our collective efforts and, as we collectively pursue our educational tasks ready for the near term challenges and continue to prepare for the future, we need strong, gifted faculty and a great academic governance culture to help us strive in these lofty efforts.

“That is where people like Dr. Jim Breckenridge come in. We all know firsthand how important teachers and, later, professors were and continue to be in our own growth into who we are today. Professors helps us develop our own skills. They motivate and inspire us. They stretch us. They helps us imagine the opportunities in the near term and over the horizon in what we can become, broader and better than we can imagine ourselves.

“In Jim Breckenridge we have someone who has done just that as a professor, coach, mentor both in uniform and then in a very successful academic career over the past decades,” said Adgie.

Breckenridge, is the second provost of the Army War College arriving in July 2017. He succeeded Dr. Lance Betros, who served as the provost from July 2012 to July 2017.

“It is both a profound and deep honor to be appointed as the provost of the United States Army War College,” said Breckenridge, as he made his acceptance remarks. Breckenridge retired from the Army as a lieutenant colonel in 1998. “After 18 years away, it’s great to be back and a part of this wonderful institution we call the United States Army.”

Breckenridge comes to the Army War College from Mercyhurst University in Erie, Pa., where he served as the Dean of the Ridge College of Intelligence Studies and Applied Sciences, and was the executive director of the research arm of the college, the Institute for Intelligence Studies.

“You can’t ignore the fact that you’re educating and developing strategic leaders and advancing knowledge in the global application of land power, and the difference that makes in your charge is extraordinary,” said Breckenridge. “What we do here makes a difference, a profound difference, and it makes a difference in terms of the nation too ... I hope to serve well here, with your help, and I’m deeply appreciative of the opportunity to serve,” he said to the gathering of faculty and staff.

