

Army Col. Driver enhances tailored education with Army War College studies with the nation's allies and partners

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Army Col. Darrell Driver honored for enhancing the USAWC tailored educational experience through his work with the Regional Studies Program.

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About one in five students at the Army War College are International Fellows, integrated into the student seminars where they contribute regional insights and specialized expertise. The perspectives they offer are a foundational element to Army and Army War College values centered on the nation's allies and partners. The War College singled out Army Col. Driver for a Service Excellence award for enhancing this aspect of the AWC tailored educational experience.

“The visible presence of International Fellows and faculty at the War College and our visible presence in their countries and regions help preserve the partnerships among allied nations,” said Driver, who himself

was a USAWC Fellow at George C. Marshall Center for Security Studies in Garmisch, Germany, 2014-2015 before joining the War College faculty in 2017.

Before that, Driver spent a total of seven years in Europe as the Strategic Planner for the Marshall Center, 2006-2009, the Defense Policy Advisor for U.S. Mission to NATO in Brussels, 2012-2014, and most recently, Deputy Chief of Strategy Division (NATO Policy) for the Directorate of Policy and Planning USEUCOM in Stuttgart, 2015-2017.

Driver directs the Regional Studies Program: seven region-specific courses of enhanced study. Each student selects a region of interest and for a month-long deep dive into the region's economic, political, military, and cultural context. The courses are designed and led by faculty with direct experience in the region. For some, international faculty provide insight. The program promotes strategic empathy—understanding of regional priorities distinct from that of the United States for these regions—

- Africa (sub-Saharan)
- The Americas (Latin America and the Caribbean)
- East Asia (China and surrounding region)
- South Asia (India and surrounding region)
- Europe (Western and Eastern)
- Eurasia (Russia, former Soviet countries, and key neighboring countries)
- Middle East (including North Africa)

Driver is the course author for the Europe course. He creates the content for the class, aligns it with USAWC learning objectives, and invites scholars, lecturers, and ambassadors to engage with students about Europe's strategic environment, trade and economics, and the challenges and opportunities the future holds for the region.

Driver's expertise in the European region was crucial to this year's trip to Zagreb, Croatia, Oct. 18-22, 2021. As part of a new program, the trip was a unique opportunity for USAWC International Alumni to re-connect and get updated on theories and concepts taught at the War College. Driver led the seminar on regional issues.

It is equally beneficial for USAWC. "We get a lot of great feedback about what is going on out in the real world of national security, war, policy, and military campaigning from another region's perspective," said Driver. "So, that helps to inform our curriculum.

"And it is the best way to get the atmospherics of a region," said Driver, referring to the frustration of one alumnus about the Belarus-Poland border crisis.

Driver's service award acknowledges not only his academic leadership in regional studies but his contributions to understanding US-allied relationships. He has written about U.S. Military influence on transatlantic foreign policy for the *Journal of Transatlantic Studies* and theories and practices of deterrence in Eastern Europe for *Connections: The Quarterly Journal*.

Those who serve benefit from their acts of service. "I learned a lot from my service experiences, and I would be the lesser for it if I had not benefited from those experiences," said Driver.

Driver earned his B.A. in Political Science from Notre Dame, his M.A., and Ph.D. in Political Science from Syracuse University.