

Army War College arms Distance Class of 2024 with TTP

By Elena Patton, USAWC Public Affairs Office 01 May 2022



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Brig. Gen. Janeen Birkhead, Maryland Army National Guard Commander, briefed the incoming USAWC Distance Class of 2024 on the time management and prioritization tactics that make it possible to juggle multiple responsibilities during a two-year gradu

Reserve and National Guard officers met faculty and fellow students at a voluntary orientation for the USAWC Distance Education Class of 2024. They'll take away TTP: proven tactics, techniques, and procedures to boost academic effectiveness and time management during two years of graduate studies that are primarily conducted online. This in-person orientation provided the foundation for students who will become adept at finding balance among civilian, military, family and academic responsibilities.

The Army War College School for Strategic Landpower conducted a voluntary orientation for the incoming Distance Education Program students. The two-day orientation familiarized students with the online methods and tools of learning, essential internet collaboration tools, graduate-level writing skills, and critical thinking techniques and introduced

them to their respective First Year Faculty instructors. Half the student body of the Class of 2024 participates in one of the two-weekend orientations, April 22-23 and April 29-30, 2022, before starting their two-year master's program in Strategic Studies.

Students heard from Brig. Gen. Janeen Birckhead, USAWC Deputy Commandant of Reserve Affairs. A graduate of the Distance Education Program, Birckhead offered the keys to success to the incoming class.

"Take advantage of the resource, get out of your comfort zone, respect the diversity of thought, and communicate early and often with your faculty because what got you here won't get you there," said Birckhead, about their future career.

Student perspectives

"I recognize the value of lessons learned -- that Distance Education leaders are sharing about work-life balance and how everyone can juggle family time, civilian career, military duties, and school," said new student Lt. Col. Kurt Perhach.

"I value the facetime," he added. "After all we've been through in the past two years, it's inspirational to talk face to face and share common values and goals," said the USAR officer currently serving as USAWC command judge advocate and in a civilian capacity, director of legal and compliance at Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp.

"It is important to meet in person, especially since we will be in a distance learning format," said USAR Lt. Col. Michelle Chillis. "It is also the warmth of knowing I have a faculty instructor I can go to for guidance.

"Meeting someone in person bridges the gap at a much quicker rate, said the officer who currently works in the Office of the Secretary of Defense on accessions policy.

The diverse DoD enterprise is represented within the 2024 student body: all Armed Services, all components, federal agencies, and allies/ partners: Canada, Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Greece, and Estonia.