

# Army Reserve birthday celebration brings together current, future USAWC students

*Thomas Zimmerman, Army War College Public Affairs Office*

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*Brig. Gen. Leslie Purser, Army Reserve Deputy Chief, (left) Col. Robert Karmazin, USAWC student and Lt. Col. Virvitine Sharpe, USAWC student cut the cake during the Carlisle Barracks celebration of the 102nd Army Reserve Birthday April 14 in the LVCC. The students were joined by incoming Reserve Component members of the USAWC Class of 2011. Photo by Lizzie Poster.*

April 14, 2010 – A packed Letort View Community Center was the scene for the 102<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the U.S. Army Reserve.

“What we are really celebrating is the legacy of the Citizen-Soldier who not only helped found this country but has kept it strong ever since,” said **Col. Greg Martin**, USAWC Army Reserve advisor.

“Each of you in the room serve an important role in the success of the greatest Army in the world,” said Brig. Gen. Leslie Purse, Army Reserve Deputy Chief, and guest speaker for the celebration.

Setting this year’s event apart from others was the fact that the 21 Army Reserve officers in the Army War College Class of 2010 shared the celebration with incoming members of the USAWC Class of 2011.

More than 50 Army Reserve and Guard officers and their spouses came to Carlisle Barracks for a three-day Reserve Component orientation.

“What really struck me is the sense of ‘arrival’ that you get when you actually come here,” said **Lt. Col. Adam Roth**, Commander of the 844<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion out of Knoxville, Tn., and USAWC Class of 2011 member. “When you are selected to come here, it’s not really ‘real’ until you drive in the gate, take a look around this beautiful post and start to talk with the staff and faculty. It’s a great feeling and I feel honored.”

Roth is literally straight out of theater, returning home April 4 from a deployment to Baghdad, Iraq.

*Army Reserve members of the USAWC Class of 2010 pose for a group photo with Purser.*  
*Photo by Lizzie Poster.*



“Nothing compares to the humbling responsibility of being charged with the lives and well-being of 873 Soldiers, but this is a close second,” he said of his selection to the Army War College. “I hope to share some of my experience and learn from those of the other great citizen-Soldiers here.”

**Lt. Col. John Curwen**, another member of the Class of 2011 said that the orientation really helped prepare him for life at Carlisle Barracks.

“They seemed to cover almost everything in just a few days,” he said. “Having an opportunity to hear from current students about what to expect was really helpful.”

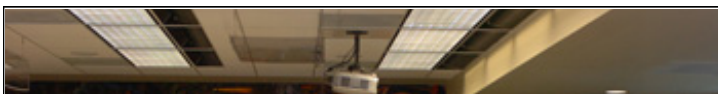
**Lt. Col. Tim Rickert**, and his wife came to the orientation and said they can’t wait to be here for good.

“I wish we could start tomorrow,” he said. “This orientation has been great and has really given us a feel for this place. It makes life less stressful when you know what to expect. I know we’re going to love it here.”

RC students and their spouses receive an overview of all the services offered here. One of the biggest advantages is getting an early jump on looking at housing options and school options for children.

“Because we conduct this orientation a couple of months before the families move, this eases stress associated with cramming last minute research and planning into a move,” said Martin.

A unique part of the orientation is the fact that the incoming students are linked up with sponsors from the graduating class and hear the student perspective on the Carlisle experience.



*Incoming Reserve Components members of*



*the USAWC Class of 2011 listen to a briefer during the Reserve Component Orientation April 15. The three-day event helps students prepare for life at Carlisle Barracks. Photo by Thomas Zimmerman.*

“They begin to form new friendships with their fellow graduating and incoming students which will serve them well not only at Carlisle but for years to come both professionally and personally,” said Martin.

Roth’s sponsor, **Lt. Col. Roy Jewell**, said that the Army War College experience is enriched by the different perspective of each of the components of the class.

“In seminar, each of the different services, both active and reserve component, along with our civilian and international counterparts bring their own unique perspective to the table,” he said. “I think that the combination really forms a dynamic, cohesive and robust team that translates to the battlefield.”

Another Class of 2010 student, Lt. Col. Darrell Dement, offered his advice.

"A topic will come up that will really hit you right in the gut and get under your skin," he said. "That's the subject you need to use for your SRP."

Both Jewell and Roth agreed that the role of the reserve component has changed much in the last few years.

“I would argue that the Guard and Reserve are just as proficient and tactically sound as our active duty counterparts,” said Roth. “Together, with our international partners, we form a force that can’t be found anywhere else.”

During the orientation the officers were welcomed by Maj. Gen. Robert Williams, USAWC Commandant, and received inside information about housing, the unique assessment options through the Army Physical Fitness Research Institute and discussions led by the graduating students about expectations, academics, housing, athletics, and general student life.

The contributions that Reserve and Guard officers add to the seminar and USAWC experience can’t be duplicated anywhere else, according to Martin.

“As Citizen-Soldiers they provide a connection to communities across America and this is particularly important as the footprint of military bases shrinks nationwide,” he said. “Most of our RC

Soldiers and Airmen have held command positions at the battalion level, most have deployed in current contingency operations, and many hold important civilian jobs that provide unique experience and perspectives.”

“We traditionally have a number of students with significant experience in the Pentagon, in the interagency, and in joint assignments that is without equal. All this brings a depth and richness to the Reserve Component military member's experience and they are eager to share it with their fellow students.”

### **Orientation starts in DC**

Both the Army Reserve and National Guard officers hear briefings from their respective leaderships.

The National Guard officers reported to the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, Va, where they were greeted by the Brig. Gen Timothy Kadavy, Army National Guard Deputy Director, and briefed by the senior leadership on current issues effecting the Guard.

“This was an acknowledgment that most of the students from the States have not had much, if any, exposure to issues that affect the Guard on the national-level and that their studies will bring them up to the strategic level of thinking and operations,” said **Col. Oliver Norrell III**, USAWC Army National Guard Advisor. The officers then traveled to Carlisle to complete their orientation with the rest of the Reserve Component students.

The Reserve officers heard speakers from the Office of the Chief, Army Reserve, at the Pentagon on subjects of professional interest.

“This year's briefings are on several of the current initiatives of the Chief, Army Reserve are so current that they are close-hold and pre-decisional,” said Martin. “They are just the sort of cutting edge information our war college students crave.”

Since 1908, the Army Reserve has served in every major military and humanitarian engagement of the past 100 years.