

Distance Education Class of 2015 "Honoring All Who Served" with class gift

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The Class of 2015 Distance Education Program presented their class gift last evening during the Commandant's Reception, Carlisle Barracks, July 21.



The Class of 2015 Distance Education Program presented their gift to the U.S. Army War College to honor all who served in Afghanistan, Iraq, and in the Global War on Terror. This stained glass window is a tribute to the sacrifice and service of the U.S. Armed Forces, coalition partners, and civilians who served faithfully and with distinction. Their steadfast devotion to duty contributes daily to making the world a safer place for generations to come.

The silhouetted figures represent U.S. service members, coalition partners, and civilians who served or supported the operations in each campaign. The figures are vague, allowing the viewer to determine the branch of service, branch of government, nationality,



gender, and ethnicity of each figure. Successful operations in

each campaign required the extraordinary effort of all involved. To single out a particular service, country, or ethnicity would diminish the contribution of all who served. However, in great appreciation and recognition of the advances in treating battlefield injuries and saving lives by the Medical Services, a medic armband is included on one of the silhouettes.

The aircraft and vehicles in the window represent the integrated efforts of mechanized infantry and aviation in support of both campaigns. The CH-47 Chinook, the U.S. Army's workhorse, represents the troop lift and resupply capacity needed to sustain the fight and conduct stability operations. The F/A-18 Hornet represents the contribution of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps aviation assets in shaping the

Standing below the Distance Education Class of 2015 stain glass window are the artist Dean Hankinson (Center) the design creator Army Lt. Col. Michael Sherman (right) and Col. Patrick Houlahan, USMC, Class Gift Chairman, Bliss Hall, July 21.

battlefield. The AH-64 Apache represents the U.S. Army's ability to provide devastating firepower in support of U.S. and coalition forces. The A-10 Warthog represents the U.S. Air Force's ability to provide lethal close air support when called upon. The Humvee represents the mechanized forces critical to the success of each campaign. The MRAP represents the engineering advances made during the conflict to protect forces and bring the fight to the enemy.

The seals and crests, located on either side of the campaign medals, reflect the composition and diversity of the class of 2015. They also highlight the bringing together of strategic thinkers from different services, branches of government, allies and partner nations to share lessons learned and prevail in future conflicts. The composition and diversity of the class of 2015 represents the ability to involve all elements of national power to shape a peaceful world.

Local artist Dean Hankinson completed the window for the the class of 2015. Hankinson is carrying on the family tradition of stained glass production, which spans three generations. Hankinson has created windows for the Gingerbread Man Restaurants, the Bosler Library, Vietnam Vets of Cumberland County and many others. Notably, Hankinson created and designed the windows for the Resident Classes of 1976, 1977, 1979, and 1980 and the Non-Resident Classes of 1978, 1979, 1980, 1982, and 1987 that are prominently displayed in Bliss Hall.

Distance Education Program Class of 2015 member Lt. Col. Michael Sherman created the original concept for the window, using watercolors and was instrumental in compiling the

inputs from the class. Sherman is an Engineer officer in the U.S. Army Reserves and serves as the Deputy Commander of the 416th Theater Engineer Command, Contingency Response Unit and a civilian architect and urban planner. His dedication and artistic eye contributed greatly to the final design and provided the basis for Hankinson's work.

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