

International Fellows, families see America's diversity 'up-close'

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July 21 -- U.S. Army War College International Fellows visited Arlington National Cemetery laying a wreath at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier show their respect to those interned inside, July 21.



The Tomb of the Unknowns is considered by many to be the most sacred area of Arlington National Cemetery. Established after World War I, the Tomb of the Unknowns is the final resting place for 3 unidentified servicemen who represent all those who remain unknown.

Since 1937, the Tomb has been guarded for every second of every day.

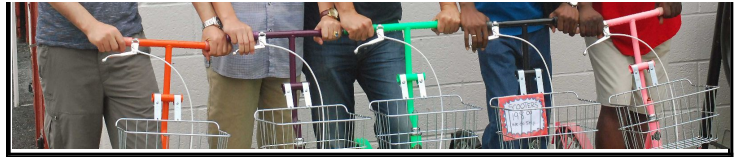
Nigerian Col. Charles Nengite (red trimmed hat) along with Brig. Gen. Sokha Sin from Cambodia begin the wreath laying ceremony by moving the wreath to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Standing behind Nengite and Sin are Colombia Col. Juan Correa and Col. Martin Michalk from the Slovak Republic, Arlington National Cemetery, 21 July.

Lancaster-area Amish communities welcomed senior military international officers and their families, giving them the opportunity to learn and observe the cultural diversity and heritage of the United States. The 79 International Fellows are accompanied by 129 family members during this year of study in Carlisle, Pa.

The large group of international officers and families visited Lancaster, Pa. before heading to Philadelphia this week as part of the U.S. Field Studies Program for



International Military Students. Each element of the program – Washington DC and Pittsburgh’s Carnegie Mellon University, for example, provide the International Fellows an awareness and understanding of the society, institutions and ideals of the American democratic way of life.



From left to right, Lt. Col. Mounir Namouch from Tunisia, Vietnamese Lt. Col. Hung Nguyen, Peruvian Col. Mario La Torre, Lt. Col. Djibril Doumbia from Mali and Zambian Col. Amos Zimba pose behind scooters for sale at the Rhiel Farm, Leola, PA., July 15.

“I appreciated the War College for having such a program to see the United States, a first world developed nation, that still has communities of people that live in the traditional way without interference,” said Zambian Col. Amos Zimba. “This has been a great value to see and hear about the Amish people, how they manage to actually fit into a developed nation such as the United States.”

“As a student of the War College, it gives me a better understanding that even back home in Africa, where we have societies that are not as developed and need the government to find ways of integrating -- giving them equal opportunities in terms of security,” said Zimba.



The fellows and families visited an Amish-owned farm, where they toured the farm and barn operations and heard from the farm owner about how he operates a business within Amish customs. Also on the list were opportunities to interact with those in quilt shops, and other Pennsylvania Dutch Country shopping.

“My trip today has taught me a lot of things, first of all about the Amish conservative community,” said Col. Patrick Mwesigye of Uganda. “I really did not imagine there are still societies living the old life styles of our ancestors, but it was amazing to see these people still enjoying their life style devoid of modern conveniences.”

International fellows and their families gather in a barn at the Rhiel Farm, Leola, PA., July 15, as Mr. Riehl explains the operations of the barn. The visit provides the International Fellows an awareness and understanding of the

society, institutions and ideals of the American democratic way of life.

“I would love to have such a community in my country because I have learned a lot. There are some things which I believe are good and I will teach them to my family,” said Mwesigye. “For example: working hard, not expecting everything from the government or handouts from other people. I think that’s a very nice value to have. I have seen that people can live together happily, look after one another and expect from one another and give to one another,” he said.



“I have learned a lot today about different diversities. I have seen their life style and had no idea, they take their life very differently,” said Lucy Nyaga, here with the Kenyan Fellow. “In Kenya we have a similar tribe that has rejected modern trends to retain most of their traditional ways of life also. I find it a bit strange that Americans live this kind of life. I am surprised. I never expect this in America,” said Nyaga, whose trip as a family member was funded through a gift

from the Army War College Foundation.

Pakistani Brig. Gen. Adnan Khan's daughter pets a work horse at the Riehl farm during the International Fellows and family visit, July 15.

The Fellows and their families will next spend time in Philadelphia, visiting Old Philadelphia, Independence Hall, the Philadelphia Museum of Art and attending a production of “Freedom Rising” that tells the story of the U.S. Constitution, the American Civil War, the Civil Rights movement and other key historical moments in American history. The Fellows will spend some time at Boeing Corporation’s aircraft assembly lines where they’ll engage with corporate executives about the complex process of foreign military sales.

The following countries are represented in this year’s USAWC Resident Class of 2016: Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Australia, Bangladesh, Belize, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria (2), Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Croatia, Czech Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia (2), Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria (2), Norway, Pakistan (2), Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia (3), Senegal, Slovak Republic,

Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Taiwan, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Vietnam, Zambia.

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