

Class of 2013 members returns for 2013 graduate plaque dedication

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Video of the class of 2013 plaque dedication is available for viewing:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oqOA1cS2Arw>

Aug. 20, 2015 -- Traditions may flex but they endure. Today, heavy rain moved the dedication of the USAWC



Class of 2013 plaque into Bliss Hall, packed with the entire Army War College student body, faculty, staff, and friends of the Class of 2013. The metal plaque joins the long bronze line of plaques bearing the graduate rolls through the decades.

“This dedication is important because it tells us about ourselves, and about what we value in our own lives and in our profession – that the U.S. Army War College is proud of its history, that the United States military values

life-long learning for its senior leaders, and that as an institution we value recognizing the individual achievements of our officers and soldiers,” said Commandant Maj. Gen. Bill Rapp during the ceremony.

USAWC Maj. Gen. Bill Rapp, Col. Jim Skelton, Col. David Wood, and Command Sgt. Major C. Martinez pause after revealing the 2013 Class Plaque of Graduate (above). It presents an alphabetical listing of the graduates of 2013 – distance and resident program students, International Fellows, and those who served as Army War College Fellows during academic 2012-2013.

“The class rosters of the past evoke great stories of valor and virtue that are remarkable in the history of our country and that of many other nation states throughout the world,” said Rapp. “Today, the class of 2013 is making its own history in the same timeless manner – through courage, selfless service, and a tireless commitment to the burdens and responsibilities of senior strategic leadership in a time of conflict and active deterrence around the globe.

Seminar students and faculty reunited for the Class of 2013 Graduates' Plaque dedication (below).



“The class is confident in the value of its War College education and strongly linked together as a special team,” noted

Rapp. Representing the Distance Class of 2013, Col. David E. Wood echoed the value of the Army War College team.

“While I know that the resident class is important for the long term friendship and professional networking that occurs, I am proud to say that the class of 2013 distance learning -- from our online chats to our first and second residence course -- also brought with it a band of brother- and sisterhood that today is still going strong,” said Wood, a member of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. Distance program students complete a curriculum equivalent to the resident program, over a two-year period of online courses and online forums, punctuated by

two 2-week resident phases at Carlisle.

“The U.S. Army War College endeavored to educate and develop us into leaders to serve at the strategic level while actively engaging our knowledge global application of land power,” said 2013 Resident class representative Col. Jim Skelton. Skelton currently works in the Center for Strategic Leadership and Development.

Skelton led applause for saying, “A special thanks to the Army War College for continuing the tradition of permanently remember its graduates.”

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