

# Army War College graduates 350 distance education students

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Graduate Photos: Diploma photos (<http://www.carlisle.army.mil/banner/PhotoAlbum/DDEGraduation2010/default.cfm>)

More graduation Photos: Banner (<http://www.carlisle.army.mil/banner/mediagallery/photoGallery.cfm?catalogID=193>) Photo Gallery (<http://www.carlisle.army.mil/banner/mediagallery/photoGallery.cfm?catalogID=193>) & USAWC Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/#!/USAWC?ref=ts>)

Writing Award Winner photos can be found here (<http://www.carlisle.army.mil/banner/mediagallery/photoGallery.cfm?catalogID=198>)

Graduation videos: USAWC YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/user/usarmywarcollege>)

To download the graduation videos go here (<http://www.carlisle.army.mil/banner/DDE2010graduationvideos.cfm>)



Students from the USAWC 2010 Distance Education class stand during the playing of the National Anthem during their graduation ceremony held at the

Wheelock Bandstand on the parade grounds on July 23, 2010. Erin Stattel

(July 23, 2010) – Two years ago 350 senior U.S. Armed Forces leaders along with their civilian and international counterparts began a marathon. Unlike a traditional marathon, this one was “run” by working on papers, reading books and interacting with their instructors and classmates online in the evenings after work and on weekends. Instead of a medal or a laurel wreath for finishing, these men and women were awarded their diplomas for completing the U.S. Army War College and masters degree in strategic studies.

The course work is similar to that of the one-year resident program. The major difference is that while the resident students are able to devote all of their time to their course work, the distance learning students must balance it alongside their regular job.

“The distance education program is much more difficult than the resident course,” said Col. Jeff Marlette, South Dakota National Guard and a 2010 graduate of the USAWC resident program.

“Residents have the privilege of coming here and focusing on the course, whereas the distance education students have to balance their full time jobs with their correspondence. I deeply appreciate the experience they go through.”

Lt. Col. Lynn Wise, a distance education program graduate, and a JAG officer with the Defense Secretary Cooperation Agency, said that the idea of completing the course on-line was daunting, but the college set them up for success. “The school set up goals to help us expand our critical and creative thinking by helping us build skills through exercises that provided us with a global view of the many issues we face,” said Wise.

While the graduates were excited to reach the conclusion of two years hard work and dedication the graduation was, to quote many, “bittersweet.”

“It feels like we are losing a part of our family today,” said Col. Ken Vaughan. “During the past two years we have developed camaraderie through our shared efforts, our gains and our losses.”

The loss of “family” was very real to the class. Late last year, one of their classmates, Col. Elliot Coley passed away. Prior to the ceremony, a memorial was held in Coley’s honor and his family was presented with an honorary diploma.

Students from Seminar 1 prepare to receive their diplomas. Amanda Keene



Maj. Gen. Gregg Martin,  
USAWC Commandant,  
told the graduates that  
they should be proud of  
their accomplishments  
so far.

“You should feel inspired

to take this education forth and go serve in bigger, better and new ways during the rest of your career and the rest of your life,” said Martin. He also reminded the class how important they are to the nation and to the military service. “

“The nation needs you. We need you with your education, leading up, leading laterally, using the new thinking and the new education and all the stuff you have learned and put it into effect for our national security,” Martin said. He also challenged them to continue to learn and grow as leaders and as people and to continue to serve the nation.

Graduation speaker retired Maj. Gen. Bruce Scott, is president of ITT Defense International. Scott, a 1991 USAWC graduate, focused on how warfare has changed since he was a student. Scott started their studies just as Iraq invaded Kuwait.

“There were 850 of us in the class and 849 tried to resign (after the invasion) and go back to our units and go back into combat because we knew that the last combat of our generation was about to be over. How wrong we were.”

Unlike previous generations of War College graduates, today’s graduates have to deal with new aspects of warfare.

“Today you have to understand the cultural, economic and political aspects almost as much as the military capabilities of the forces you are facing,’ said Scott “And you have to understand how those four things interact with each other, and then you can understand the why.”

Scott ended his remarks by urging the studnets to plan for their own "Private Ryan moment" and to use the gift of a war college education to, “inspire people with it , make a commitment so when you do end your service to this great nation you can reflect and say, ‘I did what I could.’”

The 350 graduates include 302 Army officers, two Air Force, eight Marine Corps and nine Navy

Reserve officers. There are also 25 civilians and four International Fellows representing Taiwan, Netherlands and Mexico.



Col. Blake Ortner receives the AWC Alumni Association

Lifetime membership award during the 2010 USAWC Distance Educaiton graduation. Amanda Keene

U.S. Army War College Archives - News Article - 21 July 2010