

Maj Gen Gregg Martin greets USAWC community

Maj. Gen. Gregg Martin, Commandant

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August 2, 2010 -- I am thrilled to be back at the U.S. Army War College! The USAWC was Maggie's and my #1 choice on our assignment dream sheet. There's no place we'd rather be and no mission we'd rather be a part of than here with you. My choice is shaped by great experience here as student and faculty member – and, by the challenge of the Army War College's relevant, crucial and demanding mission to develop, prepare and support strategic leaders. Bottom line: we love the USAWC and the greater Carlisle community.

Maggie and I are grateful for the opportunity to live and serve here again. This is truly a community of excellence. The Garrison Command team executes top-notch support to our mission and to our Families. Every day, our Garrison team proves the Army's commitment to quality support, services, and programs. Small, unseen acts of kindness, respect and professional excellence have greeted me and fellow newcomers.

The importance of our mission here is humbling. During my years at the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence (the other end of our "Leader Development rainbow" from the USAWC), my command principles were: make our PEOPLE the main effort while working together as a TEAM in executing our MISSION; support the nation's military objectives and win the current fight; build strong people and families; help sustain the all-volunteer force - a national treasure. Those mandates are all the more significant here where we further shape those who will serve and lead at the strategic level, and set the conditions for success of our magnificent young troopers, NCO's and officers we trained at Fort Leonard Wood and other great training centers.

The relevance of the Army War College is demonstrated worldwide through our graduates and through the quality of knowledge that the college sends forth to every combatant command and the Pentagon. We are shaping the strategic landscape.

The impact of the USAWC educational experience is a direct outgrowth of an extraordinary community here of teachers, researchers, analysts, technology experts, emergency services personnel, administrators, librarians, historians, housing specialists, chaplains, fitness staff, volunteers who create a one-of-a-kind Family post, and retirees who have influenced an enduring sense of supportive

community. And the Army War College is blessed to be in the wonderful town of Carlisle and Cumberland County, here in the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania!

From the Library staff whose motto is “please disturb,” to the faculty adviser who checks in with each new USAWC student, to the energetic staffer at Thorpe Gym who explains everything with a cheerful, helpful attitude, you are part of a tremendous campaign to develop the next generation of America’s strategic leaders. It takes an incredible collection of talented, committed people to excel at the four core tasks of our complex mission – to educate, to research and publish, to support Army strategic communication, and to support the operational force.

The relationship between military personnel and the American people is critical. It matters that they understand what we do in support of our national security. The job is ours — yours and mine — to execute our mission and to be accountable to the American people. My ‘dance card’ is filling up with engagements: I expect that you too will seek the audiences and opportunities to help America better understand the value and competence of our military forces. You can get that strategic point across through the story of your own experiences and your unit members’ and by sharing what you’re learning here as well as the key findings and recommendations of your strategic research.

Together, as a “whole-of-USAWC team” — uniformed military, civilians, contractors, Families, retirees and community; the College, SSI, CSL, APFRI, PKSOI, AHEC, Garrison, Dunham Health and Dental Clinics, AAFES and Commissary teams — we will accomplish our crucial mission of educating, developing and serving strategic leaders for the Nation. We will demonstrate our value through the professional excellence and quality of our graduates and our knowledge. Together, let’s be the best we can be, and help tell both the Army and the USAWC story of who we are, what we believe in and our value to the Nation.

Thanks for who you are, and for all you’ve done, are doing, and will do! Maggie and I look forward to serving with you!

Prudens Futuri! Army Strong!