

AUSA annual meeting focuses students on families.

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This year's Association of the United States Army Annual Meeting and Exposition gave Army War College students a chance to learn from the Army's top leaders, about the state of the service with a special focus on military families Oct. 26.



Col. Mark Moser pages through literature while attending the 60th Annual AUSA conference in Washington DC on Oct. 26.

One of the highlights of the student's visit to the conference was the Dwight D. Eisenhower luncheon which featured Gen. George Casey, Army Chief of Staff, as the guest speaker. This

luncheon gave the students the opportunity to hear from the Army's top leaders, the current state of the Army.

Gen. Casey told the assembled audience that the Army needed to continue to restore balance to the Army by allowing Soldiers to spend more time at home with their families.

USAWC students said they found the event informative and useful for both what they were learning at the Army War College and for their careers after their time here.

"Prior to attending the war college I was in force management," said Lt. Col. Phillip Stanley. "I will most likely be going back to that once I finish here, so being able to go down to the exposition and see the new types of programs that are out there let me get my head back into the game."

Norricia Speights, whose husband Col. Elmer Speights Jr. is a student here, said she found the family

information the most beneficial to her. Speights had been a life skills educator at the Fort Bliss Army Community Services before her husband received orders to come here.

“I was pleased to find out that the Army is not planning on cutting any of the family service programs,” said Speights. “The more programs we can provide for the Soldiers and their families, the more they can focus on the mission.”

“I really enjoyed the Family Forum II, because it focused on how children handle their parent(s) many deployments,” said Speights. “It gave me new insight on how to help, my own family and other families.”

Laura Kubica, military family program said that the exhibit’s emphasis on families was good because it kept the students updated on the multitude of programs available.

The Annual Meeting consists of informative presentations, panel discussions on pertinent military and national security subjects, workshops and important AUSA business meetings. The three-day event also includes over 500 industry and military exhibits occupying 500,000 square feet of exhibit space.