

USAWC program helps educate senior reserve officers on current trends

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Participants in the Senior Reserve Component Officer Course took part in a tour of the Army Heritage and Education Center during their time at the Army War College. The annual event brings nearly 40 reserve component general officers from the U.S. and Canada here to interact with War College students in their seminars, as well as attend briefings and tours of key components of the college, such

as the Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute, the Army Physical Fitness Research Institute and AHEC. Photo by Thomas Zimmerman,

March 8, 2011 -- The Army War College educates more than just the resident and distance USAWC classes, just ask the nearly 40 general officers from the U.S. and Canada who came to the Army War College to take part in the Senior Reserve Component Officer Course.

“SRCOC serves two purposes,” said Col. Greg Martin, Army Reserve Advisor to the Commandant, and coordinator of the event. “First, it gives our resident students insights into our reserve components. Second, it gives them extensive exposure to senior officers in seminar and third it gives the attending general and flag officers a pulse on how the students see things.”

“I really think that programs like Adjutant General National Security Seminar and SRCOC help both the students and the general officers that we invite to understand the issues that each faces as well as have an open and frank discussion of the challenges they face,” said Col. Oliver Norrell, National Guard Advisor to the Commandant. “As a general officer at the state level, you may not always get these kinds of opportunities, so this is important.”

The annual event includes interacting with War College students in their seminars, as well as briefings and tours of key components of the college, such as the Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute,

the Army Physical Fitness Research Institute and the Army Heritage and Education Center.

“The SRCOC Senior leaders are some of the most self-sacrificing when it comes to giving their time to complete the mission,” said Dr. Tom Williams, APFRI director. “Too often that sacrifice comes at the cost of their own health and fitness. We strive to use the APFRI Assessments to help ‘reset’ and ‘sustain’ our SRCOS participants; to enhance their readiness in this era of persistent conflict.”

The general officers also visited the BAE Systems plant in York, Pa, who develops a range of products and services for air, land and naval forces, as well as advanced electronics, security, information technology solutions and support services.

“This is really a great opportunity to learn from both the students and other general officers in the course,” said Air Force Brig. Gen. Steve Gross, commanding officer of the Oregon Air National Guard. “I’m encouraged to see the openness of the students from the other services in new and different ways of solving problems.”

“The students here really integrate us into their seminars and provide us with some great information to take back with us about their different operating environments,” said Brig. Gen. William Beckler, the deputy commander of a reserve unit from Vicksburg, Mississippi. “We were able to ask and answers questions from each other. It’s good to remember what the ‘thinking Army’ is doing, since we sometimes get caught up in day-to-day operational issues.”

“I’ve been so impressed with the services and information that the institutes of the War College like APFRI and PKSOI provide,” said Navy Rear Adm. Robin Braun, deputy director of operations at U.S. European Command.

She pointed out that the efforts and assets of PKSOI were especially valuable for her in her current position.

“When I get back, the first thing I’m going to do is see how we can engage these groups at EUCOM,” she said. “The expertise in building partnerships among others may prove very helpful for us.”

The reserve component perspective was valuable for the students as well.

“We had two flag officers in our seminar who were able to share perspectives on the military and operations from multiple levels, to include a Navy admiral who just came out of ISAF,” said Lt. Col. Doug Boltuc. “They had great insights on force management, bringing their unique perspective working with it every day.”

“They all added some much to our discussions of force generation,” said Rich Stakelum, student. “This

has really been a unique and valuable experience for all of us.”

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