

# Staff ride provides unique learning opportunity for business leaders

*Lt. Col. Vince Lindenmeyer, Center for Strategic Leadership*

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*Dr. Jim Embrey discusses leadership lessons from the Battle of Gettysburg during a Gettysburg Staff Ride Leadership Experience for 16 members of the Deloitte Women's Executive program. The strategic leader staff ride program is a whole-of-Army War College effort that invites corporations to take part in*

*a program that provides them a unique view into their United States Army and how strategic leaders are developed through the art and practice of strategic leadership and critical thought. Photo by Megan Clugh.*

April 29, 2011 -- Leaders and experts from across the Army War College, the military and private business came together for a Gettysburg Staff Ride Leadership Experience at the United States Army War College the week of April 25.

Sixteen members of the Deloitte Women's Executive program, including Sharon L. Allen, the chairman of the board of Deloitte, LLP, participated in a tailored event, hosted by the Center for Strategic Leadership.

"The Gettysburg staff ride came alive with the probing questions that Dr. Jim Embrey (of the Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute) asked and making this leadership experience exceed all of my expectations," said Mimi Justice, a Deloitte partner. "I learned to ask the right strategic questions as I approach future problems in my career."

The staff ride experience included a unique panel discussion that included more than 40 women, including resident students and faculty of the Army War College. They discussed mutual challenges facing women in leadership and the panelists included Allen, Navy Rear Admiral Janice Hamby from

the Joint Staff, Brig. Gen. Annette Deener of the Maryland National Guard, Carol van Voorst, USAWC Deputy Commandant for International Affairs, and Ellen Stafford-Sigg, Deloitte Partner.

During the three-day event, commonalities of their experiences led to a free flowing discussion on topics like mentorship versus sponsorship, and having fun while seeking opportunities and challenges.

The Gettysburg Staff Ride Experience also provided an opportunity for discussion on critical strategic leadership lessons including the importance of self awareness, knowing your subordinates and personalities in leadership, succession planning and the art and practice of strategy development.

*The staff ride participants and select USAWC students and faculty members pose for a group photo in front of Collins Hall. Photo by Megan Clugh.*



Other sessions included a session on physical wellness. Dr. Tom Williams, Army Physical Fitness Research Institute director, hosted a

discussion on “Issues Unique to Women Performing at Their Peak,” that focused on bringing out mental, physical and emotional aspects of performing at one’s peak at home and work

Deloitte, LLP, is the largest client services partner providing accounting, assurance and advisory, risk, tax, strategy, financial, technology and human capital services to global clients. Allen is the first chairman of the board for Deloitte, LLP, and an \$11 billion corporation.

The strategic leader staff ride program is a whole-of-Army War College effort designed to bring together faculty from all of the centers and institutes to support the unique outreach mission to inspire and develop strategic leaders for our future challenges. This program reaches out to corporations to give them a unique view into their United States Army and how strategic leaders are developed through the art and practice of strategic leadership and critical thought.

For more information on the Strategic Leader Staff Ride program at the United States Army War College contact Lt. Col. Vince Lindenmeyer at 717-245-4525.