

Exercise brings together students from five senior service schools to tackle complex scenario

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The Commander of US Africa Command and his staff are updated on a developing humanitarian crisis on the African Continent. War College International Fellows fill key positions during the Joint Land, Air, Sea Strategy Exercise, including as Deputy Commander, USAFRICOM. courtesy photo.

The date is April 13, 2022...China and Japan are skirmishing over islands in the China Sea, a humanitarian crisis is looming in Sudan, Iran has tested a ground-based laser...the world is on the brink of global conflict! Enter 109 select students from five senior service colleges - their goal - to bring the world back from that brink.

On April 13, 2011 twenty-four US Army War College students joined their peers from the US Naval War College, the Air War College, the Marine Corps War College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces for the culminating exercise of JCLASS-EX 2011. The Joint Land, Air, Sea Strategy Exercise (JCLASS-EX) is an annual war gaming elective hosted at the Air University's Lemay Center Air Force Wargaming Institute (AFWI) at Maxwell Air Force Base. The service specific colleges typically represent Geographic Combatant Commanders while ICAF fills the roles of the national level policy makers.

A fully adjudicated war game, JCLASS-EX pits students against challenging strategic scenarios placed 10 years into the future. The "game" is played in two distinct phases over the course of four months. In the first phase, students conduct distributed environmental scanning and strategic planning at their respective colleges using Video Teleconferencing and IP-based collaborative tools to coordinate their

actions. During the second phase, typically in mid-April, all the schools' students converge at AFWI for seven days of intensive scenario play.

In 2011, US Army War College students filled roles in the US European Command Staff, Allied Command Operations (aka "SHAPE") Staff, and the US Africa Command staff. The 24 students represented all US service branches and included nine International Fellows. Challenged by unfolding crises in the Baltic States and the Caucasus Region, Arctic Territorial Disputes, Environmental Disasters, and growing international terrorism, the USAWC teams drew upon their experiences in the Core Curriculum to develop feasible and acceptable solutions to these difficult problems using a whole of government approach based upon the DIME (Diplomatic, Informational, Military, Economic) Model. As an adjudicated game, JCLASS outcomes are driven by student decisions. This year students averted conflict in Europe and the far East through insightful policy decisions, but saw less success against the challenges of international terrorism and in averting civil wars in Latin America and Sudan.

The President, played by Mike Pasquarett, receives an update from key members of the National Security Council on developing crises.



This is the second year that USAWC International Fellows have participated in JCLASS. Their experiences, perspectives and leadership added a valuable dimension of diversity that was recognized by the students and faculty from all colleges. One International Fellow commented, "JCLASS experience is absolutely positive. Definitely, I will recommend JCLASS to my successors because it is a great opportunity to learn how a joint staff works, to improve overall knowledge about staff planning and interagency operation, and how to deal with problems at a strategic level."

Originally conceived in the 1980s as the CARMAX (Carlisle/Maxwell) exercise series, it has evolved over the years from a theater specific Air/Land battle scenario to a global strategic decision making exercise. JCLASS is unique as the only major educational event that integrates students from different War Colleges. JCLASS serves as the capstone exercise for the Marine Corps War College and as a special program elective for the other participating schools