

# New students of the Distance Education Program get in touch with technology, faculty

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Checking out the next day's schedule of events for the Orientation Resident Course are Lt. Col. George Barido, Lt. Col. Paul Sommerfield and Lt. Col. David Francisco, Distance Education Class of 2013 students, May 13.

***Photo by Suzanne Reynolds***

Distance Education took on a personal touch May 13-14 when the Army War College's Distance Education staff and faculty sponsored a voluntary two-day Orientation Resident Course for the Class of 2013, as a complement to the online orientation course.

The two-year Distance Education Program at the U.S. Army War College is a rigorous program of instruction for which successful graduates receive a Military Education Level-1 diploma and master's degree in Strategic Studies.

"We're excited," said Lt. Col. David Francisco, Guam Army National Guard who attended the Distance Education Orientation. "We realize that it is not to be taken lightly, especially in light of the program and what it is designed to do," he said.

The goal of the ORC is to help new students get acquainted with the USAWC distance education online systems and provide insights regarding course methodology.

More than 220 students took advantage of attending this voluntary training at Carlisle Barracks.

"It is a chance to establish rapport with faculty and other students," said Lt. Col Paul Sommerfield, U.S. Army Reserve, Fort Knox, Ky. "The distance education program is so tech-based that getting the baseline start technologically is a really good thing."

"We all arrive with different circumstances. What we will have in common is the sacrifice we will have to make to stay focused for the next two years," said Francisco and Lt. Col. George Barido, U.S. Army Reserve, Ft. Sam Houston, Texas.

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