

# National Security Seminar encourages civilian, military discussions

*Thomas Zimmerman, Army War College Public Affairs*

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*More than 150 civilian guests came to the Army War College June 6-10 to take share with and learn from USAWC students and faculty during the 2011 National Security Seminar. Photos by Thomas Zimmerman.*

June 10, 2011 -- Approximately 150 “new members,” citizens drawn from across American life and various fields of endeavor, came to the Army War College June 6-10 for

the 57th annual National Security Seminar.

The seminar is the capstone event of the 10-month curriculum at the Army War College, the Army’s senior educational institution. Each “new member” is assigned to one of 20 student seminar groups and becomes an active participant in seminar discussions, sharing from their own background, experience, beliefs and perspectives on these issues.

"What a great week. Thanks to all the new members you made this week tremendous," said **Maj. Gen. Gregg Martin**, Commandant, USAWC, during the closing remarks. "Just being here shows your support for our armed forces and you have made us better by sharing your knowledge and experience with our students."

“It’s truly been an educational experience just being around these students,” said **Jack Roush**, founder and co-owner of Roush Fenway Racing, and NSS guest. “Every night I’ve gone home and looked up more information online to learn more about the topics we’ve discussed.”

The seminar enables these representative citizens to get to know some of the prospective leaders of their armed forces and, in turn, allows the students to better understand the society they serve.

“I was able to get a better understanding of how the military thinks, and to share with them how journalists think,” said **Tom Mattesky**, adjunct professor of journalism, Georgetown University and former CBS Washington D.C. News Bureau Chief. “Together we play an important role in the success of our democracy.”

“The ability to interact on a personal basis with some many leaders of business and the community is really valuable,” said **Air Force Lt. Col. David Rodriguez**, student.

*The guests, or “new members” as they are called, were assigned to each of the 20 USAWC seminar were they took part in discussions, listened to guest lecturers and participated in noon-time lectures. Photo by Scott Finger.*



“I’ve really enjoyed meeting and talking at length people who work for the military and the government,” said **Mark Safranski**, department chairman Wikistrat LLC, and Chicago-area schools history teacher. “The ability to engage with them and ask questions and learn one-on-one is excellent.”

“It’s fitting that we close out the year by discussing strategic topics with civilian and business leaders,” said **Col. Elmer Speights, Jr.**, student. “This really shows me how far we’ve come in our development as strategic leaders.”

“I’m absolutely astounded by the knowledge of everyone here,” said **Donna Tabor**, project director of Building New Hope, a non-profit based out of Pittsburgh, Pa.

Featured speakers for the week include **Maj. Gen. John “Mick” Nicholson**, deputy chief of staff for operations, ISAF and U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, who opened the week with a keynote presentation on operations in Afghanistan.

“We are in a partnership with the Afghanistan government and the international community to protect the people, neutralize insurgent networks, develop the Afghanistan National Security Force and support the establishment of legitimate governance,” he said. “The key to Afghanistan is the people. We have tremendous respect for them and they want us to succeed. They do not want a return to the Taliban or terrorism.”

Professor **Susan Herman**, president of the American Civil Liberties Union, focused her remarks on the

state of civil liberties, discussed the issues surrounding detainee abuse, surveillance of American citizens and the Patriot Act.



*The seminar is the final academic event for the USAWC Class of 2011 who will graduate June 11.*

“Unfortunately risk seems to occur when someone steps outside their bounds when trying to do the right thing,” she said. “We are giving you another side of the issue. We have to make sure there is a balance.”

**Dr. Paul Kan**, USAWC associate professor of national security studies, addressed the Mexican drug war and cartel violence.

“I do believe that we’ll be dealing with violence from the Mexican drug cartels for some time,” he said. “Education alone isn’t enough. We continually need to re-assess what we’re doing to protect our borders.”

*Foreign Affairs* editor **Gideon Rose** introduced a discussion on how war’s end.

“All too often we end up getting to where we want to go and say ‘what do we do now?’” he said. “We commonly focus on battles, but not as much on the end of wars. Because of the transition from war to peace, this is almost as important.”

The National Security Seminar also included an historian-guided Gettysburg Staff Ride and multiple opportunities to discuss several national security issues facing our country today.

*Students and guests discussed national security issues facing the nation in seminar, lectures and other special events.*



**About the Army War College**

The U.S. Army War College was established in 1901 “not to promote war, but to preserve



peace,” by developing, inspiring and serving strategic leaders for the wise and effective application of national power in a joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational environment, emphasizing development and employment of land power. The USAWC educates more than 1,000 officers annually in its Resident and Distance programs and specialty courses for strategists and strategic leaders.

### **About the Class of 2011**

The USAWC graduating class of 2011 consists of 336 students representing a cross-section of the joint military, federal agency and multinational security environment: 198 Army officers, 15 Navy, 32 Air Force, 17 Marine Corps and two Coast Guard officer, representing Active, Reserve and National Guard. The Class includes 49 international officers, and 23 senior civilians of federal agencies.

For more information about the U.S. Army War College, visit the website at <http://www.carlisle.army.mil>, or share the expertise of the War College at [www.youtube.com/usarmywarcollege](http://www.youtube.com/usarmywarcollege)

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