

Former grads reach back to USAWC for assistance

Thomas Zimmerman, Army War College Public Affairs

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Col. Chris Stockel , a USAWC Class of 2009 graduate, returned to the Army War College recently to meet with faculty member

Col. Tom Sexton to discuss strategic issues facing his Civil Military Operations Center during an upcoming deployment.

Photo by Thomas Zimmerman.

June 20, 2011 – Proving that you can go home again, two Army War College grads returned to Carlisle Barracks recently for assistance with strategic issues facing them in their current and future assignments.

In recent weeks, Col. Chris Stockel and Col. James Mingus both returned to the USAWC to meet with members of the staff and faculty.

“I have maintained strong professional and personal relationships with many staff members,” said Stockel, commander of a Civil

Military Operations Center that will support Army Central from July 2011 to June 2012. “The Army War College is a center of academic and professional excellence.” Stockel is a 2009 USAWC graduate.

Stockel brought back a few members of his team to meet with Col. Tom Sexton because of his expertise in strategic policy planning.

“Our mission is strategic engagement, shaping operations by the Geographic Combatant Commander,” he said. “We came here to help frame the GCC guidance and balancing the ends ways and means.” He said he’s also used papers from institute like the Strategic Studies Institute to help tackle challenges.

This isn’t the first time that he has reached back to the college either.

“The USAWC is a world class asset that is very easy to contact and receive assistance,” he said. “I have even reached out to my faculty instructor from Canada, Col. Ian Hope.”

Mingus, a 2010 grad and commander of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division at Ft. Carson, brought his leadership to meet with Dr. Larry Goodson as they prepare to deploy to Afghanistan.

“The expertise that resides here is amazing,” said Mingus. “Not many people can truly understand and explain the aspects of Afghanistan’s culture quite like the experts here.”

Col. James Mingus, (right) commander of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, also came back to the college recently to meet with Dr. Larry Goodson, as they prepare for a deployment to Afghanistan.

He said that he knew he had to bring his leadership here to ensure success in their upcoming mission.

“It doesn’t matter if we get over there and build roads or schools or whatever if it’s not what the people really need or want,” he said. “We need to have an



awareness of the issues, challenges and cultural aspects that will help us be successful.”

Mingus took part in the Afghanistan regional elective, taught by Goodson and other faculty members.

"They know their stuff better than anyone here at the War College, so what better place to come?" he said.

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