

# International Fellows of 2012 launch year in Carlisle

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**International Fellows of 2012 participate in briefings, as part of their orientation, presented by Carlisle Barracks organizations, June 22, Letort View Community Center.**

**Photo by Suzanne Reynolds**



**The 2012 International Fellows, their families, and their USAWC and Community sponsors enjoy food, fun, and games at the annual International Fellows' Family Welcome Picnic, July 9, at the picnic area behind the LVCC.**

**Photo by Suzanne Reynolds**

Senior officers from Montenegro and Suriname have joined the Army War College student body for the first time in history.

Sixty-seven senior military officers from around the world have arrived at Carlisle Barracks for their integration into the Army War College Class of 2012 as International Fellows. International officers participating as Fellows are a critical element of the Carlisle experience that encourages collaboration in learning and critical thinking from multiple points of view.

The International Fellows of 2012 represent the following countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Germany, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Yemen and Zambia.

The Polish Fellow Col. Andrzej Solarz and his wife, Barbara, said they are happy to be here and look forward to surprising a family member. Their son has been living in New Jersey for 16 years and has no idea that his father was selected to attend the Army War College in Carlisle. "He doesn't know that we are here," said Barbara Solarz. "We will have a big surprise for him."

Col. Ricardo Costa Neves, his wife, Daniela and son Guilherme are from Brazil. "I have very high expectations," said Daniela. "I want to experience the American way of life and speak better English."

Guilherme is no stranger to the United States--in 2008 he was an exchange student in Coldwater, Mich. Although he will return to Brazil in August for college, he will be back in Carlisle in December.

Nigeria's Col. Charles Ofoche is looking forward to the Army War College classes. "What I can see from the

syllabus, I believe the education we will receive will improve us greatly in our future endeavors," said Ofoche.

Much of the success of the International Fellows program is linked to extensive support from Carlisle-area community sponsors who give year-long support with "American" advice and friendship. Community sponsors work side-by-side with Carlisle Barracks sponsors who assist with the wide range of administrative and logistical arrangements, and Seminar sponsors who assist International Fellows with the requirements and schedules of the USAWC academic environment.

"We have good sponsors," said Barbara Solarz. "I just call them and they are at my residence within 15 minutes willing to assist."

"The community sponsors are fantastic. Even before I arrived in America they were e-mailing me with information," said Col. Ofoche.

Ofoche's sponsors, Gary and Emma Neights, have been community sponsors since 1999.

"We told them that we are their American parents and grandparents, said Emma."

"We get more out of it than we put into it," said Gary, a retired Marine. "We make a lot of great friends, and we get to broaden our horizons about different cultures of the world."

"About five years ago, we visited three families we had sponsored--one in Moldova and two in the Ukraine," said Emma, a native of Moldova who moved to the United States with her family at sixteen. "We stayed in their homes and they made us feel very welcomed."

The International Fellows Program dates to 1978. The program has expanded this decade from 40 Fellows per class to 80 Fellows projected for the Class of 2013.