

Commanding General: 1,200 Students Create Dynamic Carlisle Summer

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Twelve hundred leaders studying at the Army War College tell the story of a dynamic Carlisle Summer centered on our mission to develop, inspire, and serve strategic leaders.

A single six-week period demonstrates the demand for USAWC professional development in strategic leadership and thought.

- 355 distance students were in residence for two weeks, marking the half-way point of the distance class of 2012's two-year program.

- 367 distance students of the class of 2011 will complete their studies during a two-week resident phase that leads to graduation on 22 July.

- 364 resident students arrive this month to begin classes in August.

The Army entrusts the Army War College to lead its national security education at the strategic level. The well-known USAWC course for colonels and lieutenant colonels is part of the continuum of strategic-level education programs. For general officers, the Combined/Joint Force Land Component Command (C/JFLCC) Course focuses on the complex issues that belie simple solutions in theater-level operations conducted in the joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational (JIIM) environment. For younger emerging strategists, we offer the Basic Strategic Art Program (BSAP) three times a year, as well as the Defense Strategy Course and the Reserve Component National Security Issues Course

Demand and expectations are on the rise in terms of our student numbers and strategic reach.

This is a record-breaking year for International Officers at the Army War College. We think this is a significant development that benefits both our US students and our broader national security objectives. The International Fellows (IFs) play a vital role in building regional knowledge, understanding of other nations' priorities and perspectives, and relationships that will prove essential in the future. Both the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Chief of Staff of the Army reflected their respect for the IF program when they directed us to double the number of Fellows in our program from 40 to 80. Last year we had 50 IFs and this year we have 67, which is 3 fewer than the planned 70, since the significant language-testing hurdle sidetracked three prospective Fellows. The distance education program includes growing numbers of International Fellows each year, and half of this summer's C/JFLCC course participants will be from sister nations.

The collaboration that is a hallmark of the Army War College's Carlisle Experience is heightened by representatives of sister Military Services and Federal Agencies. Our current BSAP class includes the program's first civilian student.

Another highly valued, but less visible program is our Army Senior Service College Fellowship Program, managed by the Army War College. This month, 85 Fellows will be in residence at Carlisle Barracks for a week of classes and preparation. They then depart for universities and institutions across the nation and world, from Harvard to Stanford and beyond, for singular experiences of learning and collaboration. This program, too, is experiencing a growth spurt – recognizing the value of diversity in our strategic leader education and development.

This high-water mark in student numbers comes on the 60th anniversary of the college's move to Carlisle in 1951. It's no coincidence that our signature identity, the Carlisle Experience, is characterized in part by the close-knit neighborhood that surrounds and supports us. It's no secret that the IF Program depends on the Carlisle community which creates the lasting positive impressions of the United States for our International Fellows and their families. It's no surprise that Foreign Military Attaches from 24 nations – from China to Tunisia – have requested to visit us this month and learn how the Army Physical Fitness Research Institute (APFRI), the Army Heritage and Education Center (AHEC), and the Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute (PKSOI) focus their expertise to develop senior leaders.

Let's celebrate not only the 60 years in Carlisle but the 110 years of contributions since the college was established. The college's long-lasting success rests on three critical elements: vision, values, and adaptive strategies. The vision of the college's founder, Secretary of War Elihu Root, remains valid: "not to promote war, but to preserve peace." The vision has proved elusive but compelling, and demands continuous assessment of ourselves, our environment, and our strategy to achieve the vision.

Changes to organization, teaching styles, locations, student body, and curriculum are guided by what we value: character, service, responsibility, intellectual growth, and practical application of knowledge.

May we continue to create a better future through those wise and strong strategic leaders we strive to develop, inspire, and serve.

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