

USAWC Fellows start their year of studies

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July 28, 2011 -- This week the Army War College Fellows Class of 2012 began their experience with an orientation program at the Center for Strategic Leadership.

Each year the Department of the Army selects a limited number of officers as Senior Service College Fellows. The selected officers to take part in a unique 10-month program that partners the Army and various universities, allied service schools, civilian "think tanks", corporations, and government agencies, in lieu of residence at a senior service college.

Officers from the active component, National Guard and Reserve are assigned to the USAWC to study and conduct research in this capacity during a given academic year. This year, 89 Fellows are taking part 47 different fellowship programs. The 89 fellows are the largest in the programs history.

"I wanted to take part in this fellowship to gain a different perspective on strategic issues," said Col. Dave Trybula, who will study at the Institute for Defense Analyses in Washington, D.C. "I will be able to look at issues from outside the Army and DoD perspective while I think will help in my development as a strategic leader."

"This will provide me a great opportunity to learn from the great faculty, but also to help share the Army story to a different audience," said Col. Viet Luong, who will study at Stanford. "I really think the next year will be very rewarding."

"My fellowship will allow me to see how other nations look at issues strategically," said Lt. Col. Dan Cormier, who will study at the Institut des hautes études de défense nationale in France.

"I am very interested to see how non-military organizations approach complex issues like intelligence and how to share it," said Lt. Col. Nichoel Brooks, who will study at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

“I’ve been working most of the last few years in cyber issues, so I am really looking forward to seeing how they look at these issues from their perspective and how it differs from that of the Department of Defense,” said Lt. Col. Jan Buckner, who will be at the National Security Agency for her fellowship.

Originally started in 1972, the program began as the Army Research Associate Program, where selected officers could volunteer for a year at an academic institution in lieu of attending a senior service college. In 1987, under the direction of the Chief of Staff of the Army, the USAWC established a direct affiliation with the fellows and created the current program.

“The program serves as an opportunity for the officer to obtain an educational experience equivalent in quality to the resident course program based at a civilian institution where there are different goals and objectives,” said Kevin Connelly, the program director. “They are able to see how the corporate and civilian worlds work strategically.”

Other organizations and universities that are hosting fellows include Columbia University, Georgetown University, the Drug Enforcement Agency, the NATO Defense College, and the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

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