

Ryan shares tips for thinking strategically

Thomas Zimmerman, Army War College Public Affairs

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John Ryan, a retired Navy vice admiral and president of the Center for Creative Leadership, spoke to Army War College students in Bliss Hall Sept. 23 about thinking strategically. Photo by Megan Clugh.

Sept. 23, 2011 -- A former naval leader pulled from his military experience and his time as the president of the Center for Creative

Leadership to kick off the Army War College course on strategic leadership Sept. 23 in Bliss Hall.

John Ryan, a retired Navy vice admiral, focused his remarks on the “six key skills for leading strategically,” during the hour-long talk. His key skills for leading strategically are:

- Collaboration/Teamwork
- Learning agility
- Communication
- Judgment
- Fitness
- Reflection

Ryan said that an important skill for leaders is the abilities to work across boundaries and to be an active listener.

The topics Ryan discussed were very applicable to the USAWC curriculum, according to retired Col. Charles Allen, professor of Leadership and Cultural Studies.

“It was re-affirming that the ‘Six Keys to Strategic Leadership’ closely parallels the curriculum of our Strategic Leadership Course,” said Allen. “From the start of the year we have stressed the need and value of self-awareness. We will address the need for leaders to sense the environment, build

collaborative teams, and to sustain positive organizational culture and climates. The key is the role of strategic leader to facilitate the achievement of individual and organization potential.

“His experience is tempered by real-world research that provides evidence-based conclusions about successful and unsuccessful leaders--that is priceless for our USAWC students to hear and consider.”

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