

Lithuanian Chief of Defence, Class of 2004 grad, newest member of IF Hall of Fame

Thomas Zimmerman, Army War College Public Affairs

Lithuanian Chief of Defence, Class of 2004 grad, newest member of IF Hall of Fame



Maj. Gen. Gregg Martin, U.S. Army War College Commandant, and Lithuanian Lt. Gen. Arvydas Pocius, Chief of Defence of the Republic of Lithuania and USAWC Class of 2004 graduate, unveil a photo of Pocius during his induction into the International Fellows Hall of Fame. Photos by Megan Clugh.

Oct. 21, 2011 -- Lithuanian Lt. Gen. Arvydas Pocius, Chief of Defence of the Republic of Lithuania and U.S Army War College Class of 2004 graduate, became the 37th member of the USAWC International Fellows Hall of Fame during a ceremony Oct. 21 in Bliss Hall.

“General Pocius has demonstrated the finest professional competence and courage in leading his nation’s armed forces,” said Maj. Gen. Gregg Martin, USAWC Commandant. “His connection to the US Army War College — and to you as future strategic leaders of this and other nations — is a vital part of the network of friendship and partnership that connects military professionals during these uncertain, dangerous and challenging times.

“General Pocius is equally engaged at the most senior national and international politico-military leadership levels, and his counsel is frequently sought and requested by senior Afghan, European, US and NATO leaders.”

When asked to reflect on his time at the Army War College, Pocius replied, “I got a ticket to my future to come here, and also a big responsibility on my shoulders as the first Lithuanian officer to attend the War College and represent my country.”

He said that his time here helped prepares him for the complex world he returned to after graduation.

“It was very beneficial because when I came back to my country, I was promoted to brigadier general and land forces commander in my country,” said Pocius. “It also was a time (in 2004) when we were sending troops to Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Balkans, and after my studies it helped me understand why we were doing these things.”

Pocius speaks to the USAWC Class of 2012 during his induction.

Both Martin and Pocius stressed the need for the relationships like those that are formed between the U.S. students and the fellows.

“All together, we are strong,” said Pocius.



“Following graduation, our International Fellows move on to assume continuously higher positions of trust and responsibility in their own countries, and your current and future friendships will be of mutual benefit to us all,” said Martin.

During his visit to the area, Pocius also visited with Maj. Gen. Wesley Craig, Pennsylvania Adjutant General, at Fort Indiantown Gap to discuss the partnership between Lithuania and the Pennsylvania National Guard. Pennsylvania has a history of cooperation with Lithuania and has served as Pennsylvania's partner nation in the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program since 1993.

Hall of Fame background

The USAWC established the International Fellows Hall of Fame to provide a prestigious and visible means of honoring international fellow graduates who have attained, through military merit, the highest positions in their nation’s armed forces or military service, or who have held an equivalent position by rank or responsibility in a multinational military organization.