

USAWC honors outstanding alums, celebrates history

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Retired Gen. Glenn Otis, retired Lt. Gen. Arthur Gregg, retired Lt. Gen. Theodore Stroup and retired Maj. Gen. Edward Atkeson were honored as outstanding alumni during a celebration in Bliss Hall Dec. 12.

Photo by Megan Clugh.

To see a video chronicling the 110 years of Army War College history [go here](#)

Dec. 12, 2011 -- Leadership lessons and the strategic thinking skills learned at the Army War College apply long after the graduate has left the school and the military. Just ask the four outstanding alumni honored Dec. 12 here.

Retired **Gen. Glenn Otis**, retired **Lt. Gen. Arthur Gregg**, retired **Lt. Gen. Theodore Stroup** and retired **Maj. Gen. Edward Atkeson** were each honored for continued leadership beyond military service. The Outstanding Alumni awards highlighted the student celebration of the Army War College's 110th birthday. The Army War College Foundation sponsored the awards and the Bliss Hall event.

“These leaders embody the fundamental purpose of the Army War College – to apply strategic leadership in service to the nation,” said **Maj. Gen. Gregg Martin**, USAWC Commandant. “These four outstanding alumni stand out as exemplars of our values – *strategic leaders for life*. These four leaders took the lessons of the Army War College to the next level.

“After serving a full, distinguished career in formal military service, each of these men wrote an entire post-War College and post-uniform chapter of service. They represent the best of us. They embody the

strategic leader attributes we teach – vision, leadership, and selfless service to the nation.”

Martin challenged the 368 students of the USAWC class of 2012 to uphold the honored alumni’s commitment to service.

“Make the most of this year and give it your all – with passion – and be a strategic leader for your life-time, like the four great Americans we honor here today, he said.”Be like them.”

Each of the honored alumni found, in military retirement, the opportunity to apply leadership to their passion.

“You have to find an organization or activity that you enjoy and that you can relate to,” said **Theodore Stroup**, Class of 1981, who served formerly as the Army’s deputy chief of staff for Personnel, and is currently vice president for Education and executive director of the Association of the U.S. Army’s Institute of Land Warfare.

“In my case it was easy. It was, how does one stay connected to the Army and continue to serve Soldiers and families, he said.” Stroup created a program at AUSA to develop national security analysts from leading universities to prepare them for greater responsibilities within the executive and legislative branches of the government.

“When I retired there were a number of community-based organizations and some national organizations that were doing great work for Americans and it was my great pleasure to join them,” said **Arthur Gregg**, Class of 1968, who is a former Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, and served in the Army for 35 years, rising from Private to Lieutenant General.

“Over time, you become very passionate in their mission,” he said about his service with organizations dedicated to education. He has served on or as a trustee for the Board Advisory Council for Mission Readiness Military leaders for Kids, a non-profit organization supporting America’s youth, the Council of Trustees for AUSA, and at Excelsior College.

“There are a lot of things that needed commentary and I’m a writer,” said **Edward Atkeson**, Class of 1969, who served as a former USAWC Deputy Commandant and commanding general of the U.S. Army Concepts Analysis Agency. He has authored four books on grand strategy, regional analysis and the global perspective. He has also served as an adjunct professor at the Defense Intelligence College and Senior Fellow of the Institute of Land Warfare, Association of the U.S. Army.

“It’s important to observe what’s going on, who’s’ doing it and leading it, what effect it’s having on other people. So I’m highly tempted to comment on those where I think commentary might be healthy.”

“It pays to be able to participate someplace where you can hope to achieve honesty,” said **Glenn Otis**, Class of 1970, who served formerly as a commander of Training and Doctrine Command. Since his military retirement he has served on the Defense Science Board, as Chairman of the Board on Army Science and Technology, and on the House Armed Services Committee’s Commission to assess U.S. National Security Space Management and Organization.

The honorees credited their Army War College experience for transforming their thinking.

“The experience and tone you get here that gives you a flexibility of mind that you can consider other problems that not every one may recognize,” said Atkeson. “Leadership at the strategic level calls for more demands on the academic side of thought. It’s no longer just, ‘what should we be doing?’ and ‘how can we get that done?’ It’s,” what potential force do we need to back up our position and make sure people understand why we are doing it’?”

“This course allows you to refresh your skills in strategic thinking and look at what the Army should be doing,” said Gregg. “I could not have imagined the tremendous professional growth I received as a result of my time here at the War College. “Your time here will truly prepare you for positions of greater responsibility.”

“When one comes to the War College, your view is quite narrow,” said Otis. “The breadth and depth of subject matter here is just tremendous. It teaches you to use that knowledge for the future.”

“You will not only benefit from your experience here, so will those around you,” said Stroup. “My time here was a great base for the years that I served after I left Carlisle.

The ceremony concluded with video highlights of the **Army War College’s 110 years --**

- Established in 1901 by Secretary of War Elihu Root to serve as the Army’s General Staff as well as its senior school to prepare officers to strategize and develop capacities for future crises.
- Graduated in 1905 its first class of Army and Marine Corps officers
- Reopened in 1919, after two years suspension for World War I, with revised curriculum of historical studies, responsible command, and the effects of political, social and economic factors on national defense
- Educated, in the interwar years, key World War II leaders including generals Dwight Eisenhower, George Patton, Omar Bradley and Admiral William Halsey
- Reopened and relocated at Fort Leavenworth in 1950, after WW2 closure
- Relocated in 1951 to historic Carlisle Barracks, adjacent to the college town of Carlisle
- Integrated, in 1978, international officers to advance strategic understanding and relationships
- For 60 years at Carlisle Barracks, evolved the curriculum to reflect and anticipate the strategic environment

- Continued, through the post-9/11 years, to educate officers through professional and intellectual development for future requirements and responsibilities.

U.S. Army War College Archives - News Article - 13 December 2011