

USAWC program brings together senior reserve officers, students

Thomas Zimmerman, Army War College Public Affairs Office

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Coast Guard Capt Doug Dawson talks with Brig. Gen. Paul Benenati, commander of the 451st Expeditionary Sustainment Command, Wichita, Kan., before a panel discussion Feb. 22 as part of the 50th Senior Reserve Component Officer Course. Photo by Thomas Zimmerman.

The Army War College educates more than just the resident and distance USAWC classes -- just ask the nearly 45 general officers and Army Reserve Ambassadors from the U.S. and Canada who came to the USAWC to take part in the 50th Senior Reserve Component Officer Course.

“SRCOC has many benefits for the participants and the college,” said **Col. Greg Martin**, Army Reserve Advisor to the Commandant, and coordinator of the event. “First, it gives our resident students insights into our reserve components. Second, it gives them extensive exposure to senior officers in seminar and third it gives the attending general and flag officers a pulse on how the students see things.”

The annual event includes interacting with USAWC students in their seminars, as well as briefings from key components of the college, such as the Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute, Center for Strategic Leadership, and the Army Heritage and Education Center.

“There is no program like this in the entire Department of Defense that brings together general officer and flag officers together with students to interact and learn with and from each other,” said Martin. “It’s important for the students to meet with and learn from the people who are serving in or have served in the jobs they may assume later in their careers.”

“It was an honor to be invited here,” said **Leon Caffie**, Army Reserve Ambassador from Michigan. “This has been a great learning opportunity for me and I can’t wait to share with others what I have

learned here.”

“This has been a great week of learning from the faculty, students and other officers here,” said **Brig. Gen. Paul Benenati**, commander of the 451st Expeditionary Sustainment Command, Wichita, Kan. “You can’t gather together this distinguished group to talk about the issues and challenges that face our nation and Army anywhere else.”

“I think it’s always good to be challenged about the way we look at an issue,” said **Air Force Brig. Gen. Tony German**, Assistant Adjanduts General for New York. “Being in the seminar and talking with these great students has really been a great and educational experience.”

Guest speakers this year included **Lt. Gen. Frank Grass**, deputy commander of Northern Command, **Maj. Gen. Keith Thurgood**, deputy commanding general , Army Reserve Command, **Honorable David McGinnis**, acting assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, and **Sarah Nagelmann**, special adviser to the Chief of Staff of the Army.

New for this course was a panel that focused on U.S. policy options for China featuring **David Lai**, Strategic Studies Institute, **Dave Helvey**, OSD Policy Office, **Andy May**, Office of Net Assessment, **Aubrey Carlson**, China Desk, U.S. Department of State and retired **Col. Frank Miller**, Defense Intelligence Agency.



Nearly 45 general officers from the U.S. and Canada came to the Army War College to take part in the 50th Senior Reserve Component Officer Course. Photo by Charity Murtorff.

“Having served in the area and being familiar with the issues and challenges that face the region, I was really looking forward to this panel,” said **Tom Anderson**, Army Reserve Ambassador. “I wasn’t disappointed as they brought up some challenges and solutions that I hadn’t considered.”

“We have partnerships and relationship with China so this panel was a great opportunity for me to learn more and talk with the experts,” said Canadian **Col. James Claggett**, commander of the 32 Canadian Brigade Group.

The course was schedule this year to coincide with the conclusion of the Defense Enterprise Management course of the USAWC academic program.

“Many of these guests serve in positions that are directly involved in DEM and can provide first-hand knowledge from their own experience,” said Martin.

The guests received an overview of the course from USAWC faculty and were able to provide their own experience and feedback during seminar and Bliss Hall discussions.

Senior spouses were also given an opportunity for professional and personal development during a series of lectures, group discussions and meetings with USAWC faculty, staff and spouses.

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