

Expertise in emerging topics create USAWC electives

Col. Eric Ashworth, Center for Strategic Leadership

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Professor Dennis Murphy and Professor Bert Tussing are just two of the Center for Strategic Leadership experts who lend their experience to USAWC electives. Photo by Thomas Zimmerman.

March 13, 2012 -- One of the missions that the Center of Strategic Leadership performs for the U.S. Army and the students of the Army War College is the development of expertise on upcoming topics facing our military.

This expertise is frequently developed to support potential scenarios for future Strategic Decision Making Exercises but extends to creation of electives for the USAWC resident students during their 2nd and 3rd terms of study and for Distance Education students during both online and resident courses.

Shortly after the creation of the Center for Strategic Leadership, its director assessed its capabilities.

“The U.S. Army War College had no designated force structure to research upcoming trends on national security; and therefore, I made it part of the CSL mission to learn as much as possible on these topics,” said Prof. Doug Campbell, CSL director. The goal was to learn without forcing the teaching faculty to experiment on topics that may not warrant the time required to develop a subject-matter expert.

Today, CSL’s faculty has developed a reputation as some of the U.S. Army’s leads in areas such as Homeland Defense, Strategic Communication, Cyber Space, and Environmental Security.

“I consider the faculty of CSL as strategic scouts for the War College and as these topics gain interest to the Army, our faculty has passed on their research to our students,” said Campbell.

One example of this is Professor Dennis Murphy, who was hired to lead the “Information in Warfare Group” in CSL in January 2005. As Operation Iraqi Freedom transitioned from major combat operations to counterinsurgency, it was apparent that information and communication would be critical to military success. Murphy developed and taught information operations and strategic communication electives to both the resident and online courses. The *Strategic Communication: Wielding the Information Element of Power* elective was the first of its kind in Department of Defense professional military education.

Professor Bert Tussing is a retired Marine officer who came to the Center in 1999 to assist in Congressional Affairs. Within a year, however, his focus shifted to what CSL saw as an emerging requirement in Homeland Security.

Tussing has since garnered a national reputation in the areas of homeland security, homeland defense, and Defense Support of Civil Authorities. He serves on several DoD and Department of Homeland Security boards and is on advisory councils for four major universities. From these efforts, Tussing and the other members of the Homeland Defense and Security Issues branch teach an elective, *Homeland Security Strategy and Policy* that he believes fills a significant void.



Dr. Kent Butts.

Seeing that regional stability was becoming the chief threat to U.S. national security interests in the early 1990s, and that environmental security issues were drawing U.S. forces into conflicts in Somalia, Haiti and mineral rich central Africa, Professor Campbell directed Dr. Kent Butts to create a group to research how environmental security affected U.S. security and how it impacted the military element of power. Since then, Butts has developed the reputation as a respected source for research and strategic level policy expertise in the areas of operational energy and environment

security.

All of these faculty members are Madigan writing award winners and widely published in *Parameters*, *Military Review*, and the *Joint Force Quarterly* among other scholarly journals. Their Army War

College publications are routinely used as required readings.

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