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October 29, 2015 -- Dr. Jim Ellsworth joined the Army War College this month to advise the executive leadership of the College in educational methodology and guide the strategy. Ellsworth's previous position was at George Washington University where he was an adjunct Professor of Educational Technology Leadership.



“As the Professor of Educational

Methodology, I am here to be a bridge between my colleagues in national security and my colleagues in education who are extending ... our understanding of how human beings learn,” said Ellsworth.

“That’s going to comprise three primary lines of effort -- faculty development, experiential learning, and linking student assessment to outcomes without excessive testing that disturbs the integrity of the curriculum.”

Dr. Jim Ellsworth acclimates to the School of Strategic Landpower in his first days as the dean's advisor for education technology. Ellsworth will contribute his expertise in professional military education and educational technology.

He said he plans a first-year priority of creating resources to help new faculty prepare to lead seminar students in complex subject matter, to include resources that will be available to them as soon as they know they'll be assigned in an Army War College faculty role.

He noted several near-future opportunities to link learning opportunities with the missions of the

operating force, and he specifically mentioned experiential learning options and example rubrics that will link existing student assessments more directly to the learning objectives identified by the Joint Staff.

"I am here in a strictly supporting role," he said. "You won't find me pushing the latest flashy gizmo of new-age teaching philosophy. Given his own experience teaching joint military operations at the Naval War College, Ellsworth is primed to focus on the objective.

"My job is to help faculty identify their critical information requirements, survey the learning battlespace as they execute the mission, and provide them with focused answers and tools from my domain that will best help them reach the objective by the course of action they believe best," he said. And, ultimately, that objective is to provide the most effective learning experience to both resident and nonresident students, he added.

Educational methodology is meant to support curriculum and faculty and students -- "to help them transition from being the tactical and technical experts to being the senior operational and strategic leaders who can forge a diverse joint, interagency intergovernmental and multinational force into a cohesive instrument for accomplishing America's strategic objectives," said Ellsworth.

Ellsworth described his career as one of dedication to design and leadership of innovative learning systems for the Army and Joint Force. A Certified Performance Technologist, he holds a Ph.D. in Instructional Design, Development and Evaluation from Syracuse University, as well as master degrees in Business Administration, from Syracuse, and National Security Studies, from the Naval War College. He is a published author and scholarly speaker, and holds elected offices in educational technology and national security scholarly associations.