

USAWC Board of Visitors: Federal advisory committee meets at Carlisle

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Nov. 6, 2015 -- The Army War College's accreditation was renewed by the Joint Staff for the Army War College's authority to grant Joint Professional Military Education-level II certification to resident students. The School is now exploring JPME-II credentialing for distance education students; they now earn JPME-I.

When the Board of Visitors met at Carlisle this week, one of two annual meetings, these board advisors to the Army War College received a full update on the initiatives of the War College.

Members of the USAWC Board of Visitors are selected through a process of nomination and extensive vetting which includes almost 50 offices of the Department of Defense, according to Dr. G.K. Cunningham, the Associate Provost. Together, they serve as a federal advisory committee, offering expert counsel and advice relating to all USAWC organizations and activities. They offer external perspectives and insights about educational philosophy and objectives, academic accreditation, curriculum development, program effectiveness and other aspects of organization and management.

During this year's BOV meeting, they learned about students and studies through first-hand experiences in the seminar rooms. They learned of the nature and topics of this year's Integrated Research Projects, understanding the meaning of integrated – across student teams and faculty, and across the multiple USAWC resources of research expertise, Wargaming specialization, and networks. They met with the faculty council chair, and with the Provost to discuss the academic campaign plan and its integration with the USAWC strategic plan. Throughout, fact-finding was a prelude to dialogue and continuing counsel.

Current membership includes –

BOV Chair Linda Robinson is a member of the International Institute of Strategic Studies; serves on the Council of Foreign Relations; consults with Booz Allen Hamilton; has authored multiple books; and earned the Gerald R. Ford prize for reporting on National Defense.

Assistant Chair Fred Downey has served as vice president of the National Security Aerospace Industries

Association; senior counselor and legislative assistant for Defense and Foreign Affairs for U.S. Senator Joseph Lieberman; assistant director of the DOD Office of the Director of Net Assessments; following a 24-year Army career.

Dr. George Atkinson founded the Institute on Science for Global Policy and serves as its executive director; served as Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary of State; consulted with several agencies and corporations; served as Professor of Chemistry and Optical Sciences at the University of Arizona; and authored several hundred scientific publications and presentations.

Dr. Gary Guertner is an adjunct professor at the University of Arizona; served as dean of the College of International and Security Studies at the George Marshall Center for European Security Studies; participated in the START and DOD working groups for the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency; chaired the Army War College's teaching department of Policy and Strategy; and served as a Marine in Vietnam.

Dr. Scott Snook is the Harvard Business School MBA Class of 1958 Senior Lecturer of Business Administration; was the USMA professor in Behavioral Sciences and Leadership; directed West Point's Center for Leadership and Organizational Research and the joint master's program in Leader Development; and, served 22 years in the US Army. (Snook was unable to attend this meeting.)

Mr. Robert Soeldner is the Chief Operations Officer at RWE Supply & Trade; has served as a Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army in Massachusetts; VP of Operations for RR Donnelley Co.; and, former commander of 1stSquadron, 7thCavalry Regiment.

Dr. Michael Wartell is the Chancellor and Professor of Chemistry at the Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne; served as department manager for Sandia National Laboratories; is serving a third term as a Science Board member; served as DIA Science and Technology Advisory Board member and chair; and authored numerous scientific studies and books.

Justice Jeffrey Johnson is an Associate Justice in the California Court of Appeal; served as former magistrate of the US District Court in California's Central District; and has been an Assistant US Attorney.

Dr. David Schejbal is the dean of Continuing Education, Outreach and E-Learning at the University of Wisconsin-Extension; was formerly Associate Vice Chancellor and director of Continuing Education at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; and served as a member of the executive committee of the Council of Environmental Deans and Directors, National Council for Science and the Environment.