

Seminar helps develop 'other half' of leadership teams

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Maj. Gen. Gregg Martin, USAWC Commandant, spoke to participants in the Senior Spouse Leadership Seminar, a three-day program that provides spouses training to enhance their roles as senior leaders, mentors and advisers to benefit the military

community.

April 26, 2012 – Today’s military depends on strong, effective and caring leaders but those leaders are not always wearing a uniform as pointed out during a recent seminar held at the Army War College.

60 spouses of USAWC students and staff now have new tools to help them in the future, thanks to a recently completed three-day Senior Spouse Leadership Seminar.

“The Senior Spouse Leadership Seminar brings to USAWC spouses the training needed to be effective and caring leaders in the communities they move to following their departures from Carlisle,” said **Christine Yuengert**, Director of the USAWC Military Family Program. “The Army supports this training as a broader effort to prepare our spouses to be strong advocates for Soldiers and their military Families.”

SSLS is a complimentary program, sponsored by the Military Family Program, and taught at the master’s level to USAWC Spouses by a Department of the Army team of volunteers.

“Its single purpose is to provide further applicable skills that our senior spouses will need at their future military assignments as leaders in their communities,” said Yuengert. “The overwhelming opinion of several of this year's participants is that this training is important, relevant to them as senior spouses, and not taught at the pre-command course.”

The impact that these leaders have on their communities is not lost on the USAWC leadership.

“You are an important part of our military team,” said **Maj. Gen. Gregg Martin**, USAWC Commandant, at the kick-off of the seminar. “Our profession and our military are all about the people. I encourage all of you to use the skills you will develop and refine here to remain engaged in our communities. We need you.”

The seminar tackled topics like “Coaching, Mentoring, and Advising,” “Working with Volunteers,” “Protocol at the Senior Level,” and “The Balancing Act: Taking Care of Yourself.”

“We are at a new place in our careers and realize that we may need some new skills to be able to tackle the challenges ahead,” said **Kelly Lesperance**, of her future with her husband David, a USAWC student. “One of the aspects I found really useful was the reminder to practice active listening. Sometimes we get so wrapped up in what we are thinking or trying to think of a solution that we aren’t really listening to what the other person is saying. Two-way communication is key.”

“I really wanted to take part in this seminar to find out how I can support and compliment what my husband does professionally,” said **Melissa Golden**, spouse of Air Force Col. James Golden.

For more information on other Military Family Programs visit <http://www.carlisle.army.mil/usawc/mfp/default.cfm>