

Spouses of deployed service members say Seminar 21 is a valuable asset

Suzanne Reynolds, USAWC Public Affairs

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Photos by Megan Clugh

Lisa Towery welcomes Seminar 21 outgoing and incoming spouses at a luncheon celebration, May 14, Quarters Two.

Army War College leadership took time May 14 at Quarters Two to celebrate Seminar 21's outgoing and incoming spouses.

"This luncheon is to celebrate those coming to the end of being a deployed spouse and those of you joining Seminar 21," said Lisa Towery, who hosted the event along with her husband Col.

Bobby Towery, USAWC deputy commandant.

Seminar 21, which started in 2003, is the official Family Readiness Support Group for spouses and family members of deployed or geographically separated service members who are currently assigned as students, faculty or staff at the Army War College and Carlisle Barracks, or spouses of formerly assigned students living in the Carlisle area. In addition, honorary membership is extended to spouses of deceased service members living in the Carlisle area.

One of the benefits of Seminar 21 is the support system and connection to the USAWC and Carlisle Barracks community for families that it provides.

"This program reflects the social revolution of the Army, said Maj. Gen. Gregg Martin, Commandant. "With Seminar 21 you are together as a team--a way to network and bond and have that support necessary during deployment." "The strength of the Army is family."

Norricia Speights, whose husband, Class of '11 grad Col. Elmer Speights, has been deployed to Afghanistan since June 2011, said the program was valuable. "Most important for me is the information sharing and being able to be involved when someone needed something," said Speights.

This will be the third time that Melissa Reed, spouse of Col. Christopher Reed, current USAWC student, who will be deploying to Afghanistan in



June, has been an IA spouse, and the first time that she will be involved in a program like Seminar 21.



"It's like you fell off the edge of the earth, she said. "I would give anything if this program could be extended to all other posts." "It is really important to have a voice."

Outgoing members of Seminar

21, May 14, Qtrs. Two

Mary Heintzelman, spouse of Col. Scott Heintzelman, and Lisa Parmeter, spouse of Lt. Col. Guy Parmeter, both officers current USAWC students who will be deployed to Korea in June, are just a few of the spouses who will join Reed in the next Seminar 21 program that will consist of 29 members.

"It is nice to be taken care of and be able to participate in everything," said Lisa Parmeter.



Col. Bobby Towery extended special thanks to current Seminar 21 leader Trish Hanley and co-leader Roz Johnson for stepping up as leaders for the organization in June 2011.

It's a wonderful program, said Trish Hanley. "The support of the Command is phenomenal. "I'm a firm believer that having this support makes it possible to survive and thrive through a deployment."

Laurel Cioppa, USAWC Family Readiness Support assistant, is the point of contact for all matters pertaining to membership and information sharing for Seminar 21. She coordinates the program with Christine Yuengert, Military Family Program

coordinator, to ensure that Seminar 21 is integrated into all USAWC social events, Military Family Programs and special functions.

Incoming members of Seminar 21, May 14, Qtrs. Two