

Army War College students descend on nation's capital

Public Affairs staff report

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Army War College students meet with U.S. Congressman Joe Heck during the 2012 National Capital Region Academic Trip. The students and faculty also visited Capitol Hill, to talk face-to-face with the officials about issues facing the nations and the military, including its legislative activities, and impact on national security policy. courtesy photos.

May 17, 2012 -- For the last 10 months, the 368 students of the Army War College Class of 2012 have studied a range of issues that they will face as strategic leaders -- often, working through interagency and multi-national coordination.

During the 2012 National Capital Region Academic Trip they traveled to Washington DC to talk with Members of Congress and representatives of key government agencies and non-governmental organizations during the three-day academic program, May 8-10, seeing these actions first-hand.

“The Washington,- DC Trip, coming near the end of the academic year, offers a unique opportunity for students to synthesize all that they've been studying for during their time at USAWC thus far,” said **Dr. Bill Johnsen**, USAWC Dean of Academic Affairs. “Small group visits to think tanks, policy organizations, and, especially, Capitol Hill allow our students to observe in real time the policies, practices, and processes to which they've been exposed.”



U.S. Senator John McCain met with students during the academic trip.

The experience aims to help the students gain a broader perspective of government and non-government organizations that impact national security policy and national military strategy, with particular emphasis on those with interagency responsibilities. The class splits up into to small groups to broaden the experience.

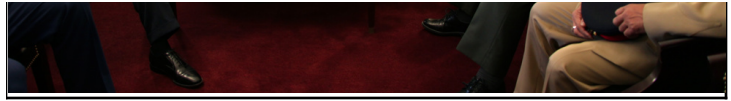
“It was an important trip to have at the end of the course,” said German **Col. Jens**

Koltermann, who visited the Department of Veterans Affairs. “It was important for me to visit here because in Germany we are having very hefty discussions about veterans so we have nothing in place like you do here. The information I was able to get was unbelievable.”

Students talk with U.S. Rep. Scott Rigell during the DC Trip.



“The trip was a great opportunity to see some of these organizations and talk with their leadership,” said Marine Corps civilian student **Kelly Gibson**.



“We met with three congressmen, the KATO Institute and the Congressional Research Service which really gave me an opportunity to see and talk with very different organizations with very different focus,” said **Marine Corps Lt. Col. Curtis Mason**. “The interactions we were able to have with the presenters were really beneficial for us and them. I think that’s the greatest value of this trip, having an open dialogue with governmental and non-governmental organizations that really help expand your knowledge.”

“I was able to visit the National Security Council and that was an important because you see that there is always someone working a specific problem that faces our nation,” said **Col. Ralph Kauzlarich**.

The students and faculty also visited Capitol Hill, to talk face-to-face with the officials about issues facing the nations and the military including its legislative activities, and the impact on national security policy. Other organizations that hosted visits included the CIA, Department of Homeland Security, the Supreme Court, National Security Agency, Department of Commerce, the Anti-Defamation League and the British Broadcasting Corporation, among others.



U.S. Congressman Joe Barton met with USAWC students.

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