

2012 Writing and Research Student Award Winners

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By: Tyler Davis

Fifty years ago this week Col. Francis J. Kelly graduated from the U.S. Army War College as a member of the class of 1962. At the 2012 War College graduation ceremony he will be honored with a writing award named after him, the Col. Francis J. Kelly Counterinsurgency Writing Award. His daughter, Moira Kelly, a new member of the National Security Seminar, will attend the graduation and award ceremony to see the first presentation of the award.

Army Lt. Col. John Maier, Army Fellow at Tufts University, awarded the Army War College Foundation Colonel Francis J. Kelly Counterinsurgency Writing Award for the essay, “Applying counterinsurgency Doctrine as a Strategy to Defeat the Mexican Cartels.”

Maier was one of 24 students from the 2012 U.S. Army War College graduation class who will receive awards for their work throughout the year. These students have won various awards across 17 different competitions involving writing, speaking and research.

This year’s award winners represent the U.S. Air Force, Marines, Army, Army Reserves and Army National Guard, as well as three International Fellows from the German, Spanish, and Australian Armed Forces. The following members of the USAWC class of 2012 will be recognized for their award winning work during the USAWC graduation ceremony on June 9.

Army Lt. Col. Lawrence Brown, awarded third place for the 2012 Secretary of Defense National Security Essay Competition for the essay, “Restoring the ‘Unwritten Alliance’: Brazil – US Relations.”

Lt. Col. Brown offered some insight into his research.

“Brazil was considered as the United States of South America by President Theodore Roosevelt and Secretary of State Elihu Root. Brazil was considered as an equal brother then – a young republic with colonial roots and expansive lands just like the emerging United States.”

Army Col. Diana Holland, Army Fellow at Georgetown University, awarded third place for the 2012

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff National Defense and Military Strategy Essay Competition for the essay, “Democracy Promotion in Oman.”

“I picked the topic ‘Democracy Promotion in Oman’ because I thought it would be interesting to write about a part of the world that is vital to our strategic interests but with a policy recommendation completely distinct from the military element of national power,” said Holland. “Such a perspective was perfectly suited to my fellowship at Georgetown University.”



Maj. Gen. Gregg Martin and Australian Col. Michael Pricor

The Army War College Foundation Award for Outstanding Strategy Research Paper has multiple awardees: **Army Lt. Col. Kurt Schosek**, for the research paper “Military Cyberspace: From Evolution to Revolution;” **Australian Army Col. Michael Pricor**, for the research paper “Regional Problems: East Timor and Solomon Islands;” **German Army Col. Jens-Olaf Koltermann**, for the research paper “Citizen in Uniform: Democratic Germany and the Changing Bundeswehr;” and **Army Lt. Col. Eric Flowers**, for the research paper “Leveraging the Security Development Nexus in East Africa.”

Lt. Col. Schosek delved into the crux of his research, saying, “I was impressed with cyberspace complexity and the inability to craft a “silver bullet” solution. I began my research with, what I thought, were some simple, feasible solutions. The more I researched the more I came to realize my initial solutions were neither simple nor feasible.”

“After 33 years in service I thought I knew a lot about the topic,” said Koltermann about his essay on the changing Bundeswehr. “ But while digging deep into it I was surprised how little I knew.”

“I feel it is important for strategic leaders to contemplate new ways of doing things in a post-Cold War environment during an era of declining resources,” said Flowers about his essay on security

development in East Africa.

Army Lt. Col Jacob Kulzer, awarded the Army War College Foundation Public Speaking Competition Award for the speech, “Strategic Security: Recruiting and Retaining America’s Best.”

Army Col. Stephen Elle, awarded the Army War College Foundation Anton Myrer Strategic leadership Writing Award for the essay, “Breaking the Toxic Leadership Paradigm in the U.S. Army.”

“The primary reason I elected to research and write on the topic toxic leadership is that I had personally experienced the displeasure of working for several toxic leaders,” said Elle. “I was interested in trying to offer ways the Army might weed these dysfunctional leaders from its ranks.”



Maj. Gen. Gregg Martin and Col. Harold Hinton

Army Col. Harold Hinton, awarded the Col. Don & Mrs. Anne Bussey Military Intelligence Writing Award for the essay, “The EU Emissions Trading Scheme: A Challenge to U.S. Sovereignty.”

Col. Hinton noted the importance of economic security of the U.S., and the relationship it has with national security. Hinton also mentioned that his topic is not related to the military.

“I chose to pursue a non military-related subject to broaden my view of the elements of power and look at policy options with an interagency focus,” said Hinton.

Marine Corps Lt. Col. Wayne Bunker, awarded the Dr. John D. Conroy Jr. Teaching Strategy Group writing Award for the essay, “U.S. Arctic Policy: Climate Change UNCLOS and Strategic Opportunity.”

Lt. Col. Bunker reiterated the importance of a U.S. presence and the need for multinational support in

the arctic region.

“The uncertainty surrounding the rate and long-term forecasts of icecap recession in the Arctic region requires solid policy and deliberative preparation to ensure U.S. interests are met,” said Bunker. “U.S. leaders must invest in the Arctic infrastructure and in icebreakers, despite their considerable expense and long lead time. The Arctic is clearly a region that requires a joint, interagency and multilateral effort to support U.S. — and global — security interests. The United States cannot afford further delay.”



Maj. Gen. Gregg Martin and Lt. Col. Desmond Reid Jr.

The Military Officer Association of America (MOAA) Writing Award has multiple awardees: **Marine Corps Lt. Col Desmond Reid Jr.**, for the essay “Cyber Sentries: Preparing Defenders to Win a Contested Domain,” and **Army Col. Jonathan Neumann**, for the essay “A Legion Apart.”

“I think the topic of Cyber Training is critical because as in any of our professional military endeavors, our People are our most precious asset; their ability to operate creatively, competently and competitively in the cyberspace domain is the key to protecting our military networks and facilitating command during future operations,” said Reid.

Marine Corps Lt. Col Daniel Canfield, awarded the Col. & Mrs. T. F. Bristol Military History Writing Award for the essay, “Understanding British Strategic Failure in America 1780-1783.”

Army Col. Robert Bailes, awarded the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Institute for Land Warfare Award for the essay, “Commanding in Chief: Strategic Leader Relationships in the Civil War.”

“Early in our academic year, the War College Faculty stressed the importance of history and issued the

challenge, "if you want to find a new answer to a problem, read an old book." I decided to take them up on the challenge by searching for insights into the modern problems of civil-military relations through the lens of the American Civil War," said Bailes. "The vast collection of resources available at AHEC and the incredible expertise of their research staff made the journey a tremendously valuable learning experience and a highlight of my Army War College experience."

Army Col. Ian Corey, awarded the Military Order of the World Wars Writing Award for the essay "Citizens in the Crosshairs: Ready, Aim, Hold Your Fire?"

"Targeted killing is an important and domestically popular tactic in the U.S. war on terror. Last year's targeted killing of a U.S. citizen generated considerable controversy, however," said Corey. "I sought to demonstrate that while international and domestic law appear to support our government's ability to lethally target U.S. citizens, the government must demonstrate greater transparency and accountability to maintain the viability of this contentious and sensitive practice."



Maj. Gen. Gregg Martin and Lt. Col. Brian Scott

Army Lt. Col. Brian Scott, awarded the U.S. Military Academy's William E. Simon Center for the Professional Military Ethic (SCPME) Writing Award for the essay "Broadening Army Leaders for the Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous Environment."

"Success in future military operations will require leaders who, before the "first battle," have a depth of experience within and understanding of Joint, Interagency, Intergovernmental, and Multi-National partners," Scott said about his essay.

Army Lt. Col. Cheryl Phillips, awarded the Armed Forces Communications-Electronics Association (AFCEA) Writing Award, for the essay "Toward a Theory of Strategic Communication: A relationship Management Approach."

Phillips elaborated on the importance of the main issues highlighted within the essay.

“It is important for the U.S. government to get back to basics and take a theoretical approach to the profession of strategic communication,” Said Phillips. “The current message-influence model is ineffective. Instead, strategic communication policy makers, leaders and practitioners should use the relationship management theory of strategic communication to achieve mutually-beneficial goals.”

The Commandant’s Award for Distinction in Research is awarded to multiple students as follows:

Army Col. Sean Corrigan, Army Fellow at George C. Marshall Center for Security Studies, for the essay “Exploitable Vulnerabilities of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps;” **Army Lt. Col. Clark Barrett**, for the essay “Finding "The Right Way": Toward an Army Institutional Ethic;” **Air Force Col. Peter Flores**, for the essay “Reshaping USAF Vulture and Strategy: Lasting Themes and Emerging Trends;” and **Spanish Army Lt. Col. Pedro Vázquez de Prada Palencia**, for the essay “Back to essentials: Virtues and Character for Strategic Leaders.”

“I was surprised at the volume and quality of information available in unclassified sources and the audacity of the IRGC leaders in their official statements,” said Corrigan about his research.

Lt. Col. Barrett noted that his research was influenced by previous work.

“Last year in a journal article about military suicides and PTSD, I described the need to better prepare soldiers for combat from a physical, mental, and moral/ethical, standpoint,” said Barrett. “Dr. Don Snider read and lauded the article but he also pointed out that my description of moral/ethical preparation was a subject deserving of much deeper research and analysis – worthy of SRP study.”

Col. Flores commented further on the importance of the issues represented within his research.

“The American defense establishment is under enormous pressure with respect to the resources the nation is willing to invest in defense and the wide array of missions it is being asked to prepare for,” said Flores. “Studying and understanding the strengths and weaknesses of our culture can help us build on the lasting truths we hold dear while simultaneously allowing us to better adapt to an uncertain future.”

Lt. Col. Vázquez de Prada Palencia illustrated further the importance of strong, strategic leaders.

“Character was, is and will be the foundation for the behavior of leaders, as many case studies have demonstrated during this course. The current emphasis on psychological and cognitive factors is useful to explain and understand leader's behavior, but in order to educate strategic leaders the study suggest to reorient training and education to strengthen leaders character.”

Army Col. Robert Bennett Jr., awarded the Army War College Alumni Association Lifetime Membership Award.

Congratulations to this year's student award winners.

U.S. Army War College Archives - News Article - 08 June 2012