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Dr. Lance Betros was officially introduced to the faculty as the U.S. Army War College dean by Commandant Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo in a short ceremony in Bliss Hall, July 27.

"He spent his career in uniform as a true Soldier-Scholar, commanding at company and battalion level, serving at the high operational-level in combat in Somalia, and serving at the strategic level next to the Secretary of the Army," said Cucolo. "And, somehow, through the years earned a PhD in history ... MA in history ... MS in national security strategy ... Master of Military Art and Science in theater operations," he continued.

"He earned a reputation as a reformer -- particularly a curriculum reformer -- and led the way to change our approach to understanding culture through the directed study of language and history long before it became vogue to our Army," said the commandant about the dean's experience at West Point.

"He is no stranger to the very special type of leader needed for those types of activities,' he said, about Betros as reformer and academic leader.

The commandant welcomed both Betros and his wife, Laurel, to their new lives on Garrison Lane.

"Laurel's a military brat," said Betros. "Her entire life has been in the military, and now, even in retirement, she gets to remain in a military community. We can experience the Army War College community close up and enjoy the Carlisle Experience.

"It's a combination of intellectual, professional, and personal growth," said Betros.

Recounting his positive first impressions here, he asked the hypothetical question: Why would a guy ever want to leave a glorious place like West Point before he needed to do so?

"It's the mission, location, and people that made West Point difficult to leave, and makes it so easy to come to Carlisle Barracks," said Betros, who spoke of the welcoming spirit of everyone he and Laurel have met.

“I used to tell the faculty at West Point that they were unlikely to ever again be in an organization with so many outstanding people around them. At the time, of course, I didn’t know that I would someday be at the Army War College, or I surely would have qualified that statement. The Army War College faculty is amazing, and I am privileged to be among such an impressive group of people.”



***Dr. Lance Betros receives from Maj.***

***Gen. Tony Cucolo the School's replica of General Orders 155 dated November 27, 1901, establishing the U.S. Army War College, to signify the transfer of responsibility for the Army War College.***

“I’m going to devote myself to make the academic program at the Army War College the best it possibly can be,” he said. “The question I will ask about every proposal is: What is best for officer education?”

Respect for the history of the area and appreciation of the Army War College’s AHEC adds to the appeal of moving from the oldest military installation to the second oldest.

“What a jewel the AHEC is! Its Military History Institute is a vital component of the Army’s History Program and its ability to tell the Army Story,” he said.

The new dean brings to the War College 35 years Army leadership experience. Commissioned as an Infantry lieutenant at the U.S. Military Academy in 1977, he will be retired from his last active-duty position at USMA as of September at the retirement rank of brigadier general. His military career spanned assignments with 1<sup>st</sup>Armored Division, 7<sup>th</sup>Infantry Division, and U.S. Forces Command, from which he deployed to Mogadishu as a joint planner for Joint Task Force-Somalia. He commanded the 1<sup>st</sup>Battalion, 34<sup>th</sup>Infantry Regiment, a basic training unit. Upon completion of command he was selected to serve as the senior military aide to Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera in 1998. He earned honors as distinguished graduate of the National War College.

In 2000, Betros returned to West Point as an Academy professor in the History Department, having joined the USMA faculty a first time in 1986 for a three-year assignment.

Betros will apply to his new responsibilities a depth and range of experience in history research and education, and academic leadership. He earned a master's degree in History at the University of North Carolina in 1984. For the next three years, he balanced Ph.D. work with USMA responsibilities as instructor and director of a series of core and elective courses. He completed his doctorate before leaving West Point for Fort Leavenworth's Command and General Staff College and School for Advanced Military Studies. Since 2000, he served for two years in the Military History Division before being selected as a Professor USMA and deputy department head. He served as Head of the Department of History since 2005. As department head, he implemented curricular reforms in interdisciplinary learning and the cultural education of cadets. He established the Center for Oral History and the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

Betros published two books, **West Point: Two Centuries and Beyond**; and in 2012, **Carved from Granite: West Point since 1902**.

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