

Jones applies 30-year policy, strategy experience to War College

By Thomas Zimmerman

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Frank Jones, talks about international influences with students Col. Brian Foster and Col. Dan King after a recent seminar discussion.

Many people have heard the saying “find a job you love and you’ll never work a day in your life.” Frank Jones, professor of Security Studies in the Department of National Security and Strategy, seems to have found that job.

“This has been one of the best experiences in my life,” said Jones of his time as an Army War College faculty member. “The high quality of the students, the caliber of the faculty and the opportunities to personally learn are things you won’t find anywhere else.”

Jones, a life-long strategist, began his career as an intern at Army Headquarters in 1979 and built to a position as the Principal Director, Strategic Plans and Research for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense. He originally came to the War College in 2001 as a visiting professor and came back full-time in 2006.

“The ability to learn from both the students and my fellow faculty along with the ability to study long-term issues and challenges are what make this place special,” he said. “In the seminar rooms you’ll find a very fulfilling, productive and stimulating experience.”

The change of the students during their 10-months here is noticeable, he said.

“I’m always impressed by the intellectual growth of the students as a result of their time here,” he said. “They are never the same person on graduation that they were at convocation.”

Experience as a practitioner at the strategic level is one of the things he brings to the table as a faculty

member, he said.

“I hope that with my 31 years of service I am able to share my knowledge and experience in the world of policy and strategy,” he said. “I’ve worked with and for many senior government policy makers and experts in this arena as a former [Senior Executive Service] officer. I hope I’m able to share some of the things I’ve learned with the students.”

The War College experience and curriculum forces both students and faculty to challenge their beliefs and views in a positive way.

“It really forces you to clarify your ideas on any given situation,” he said. “You’re surrounded by experts from all the armed forces, government and our international partners. The exchange between everyone is the key. It makes you question your assumptions in a true peer give and take.”

His time here has also allowed him to complete a life-long dream to write a book. “Blowtorch: Robert Kramer and American Cold War Strategy,” is due out in the spring. “I can tell you right now, without being able to discuss ideas and concepts with my fellow faculty and students, this would have never happened,” he said about the book that will discuss Kramer, who Jones considers one of the most influential national security experts of the Cold War era.

The national security expert paid the Army War College the ultimate compliment.

“There have been a lot of things that I’ve learned here that I wish I’d learned earlier,” he said with a laugh.