

149-year-old battle provides strategic insights to modern dilemmas

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Insurgents set fire to Carlisle Barracks then fled to rejoin rebel forces for a battle of significant influence over the minds of War College students.

U. S. Army War College students and International Fellows traveled to Gettysburg on Sept. 25 and 26 to learn strategic lessons about the 149-year-old Gettysburg Campaign that took place during the Civil War. Each seminar rode buses to the battlefield, took a tour and gained insights from the battlefield.

At least that's what Leonard Fullenkamp, Professor of Military History and Strategy urged the students to gain. "See the battlefield through the prism of the 21st Century," he said. Fullenkamp asked the students to see the political significance to military activity.



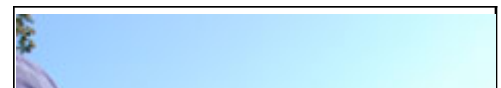
Seminar 6 students examine Civil War era bullets, aka Minie Balls, during a staff ride at Gettysburg, Pa. Sept. 25, 2012. Photo by Tom Conning.

Boone Bartholomees, Professor of Military History and Strategy led Seminar 6's group around the battlefield where he spoke of

how the nature of war is enduring.

"The underlying logic of war, the fact that it's fought for political reasons and it has these various characteristics that are part of its very nature, is just as easy to see here as it would be in Afghanistan," he said. "They will see people handling the same kind of problems, maybe at a different scale, with a different technology."

Col. Fred Dummar, Army War College student had travelled to Gettysburg seventeen



years ago to study the tactics when he was a captain and mentioned he didn't consider the overall strategy for the Confederate invasion. "It fits in nicely because you start to see how senior commanders are thinking and interacting with political leaders which, I think, is more appropriate to the War College mission" he said. "One of the most interesting things to me is the interactions of both senior commanders with the president[s]. Both how they interpreted what the political objectives were and how that influenced their actions."

Boone Bartholomees, Professor of Military History and Strategy speaks to Seminar 6 students at Devils Den during a staff ride to Gettysburg, Pa. Sept. 25, 2012. Photo by Tom Conning.



Fullenkamp described the political objectives behind the Union and Confederate governments prior to the staff ride during a noon-time lecture held in Bliss Hall. Students were able to view portions of the movie *Gettysburg* on Sept. 24 to familiarize them with the Gettysburg campaign.



Bartholomees talks to Seminar 6 students on Seminary Ridge during a staff ride to Gettysburg, Pa. Sept. 25, 2012. Photo by Tom Conning.

The trip is part of the students' most recent course, the Theory of War and Strategy, which focuses on understanding how and why battles are fought as they are. To do this, one must understand the larger operational, strategic, and political context in which they occur. "The staff ride attempts to bring history to life for the students and encourage a dialogue between the students as they view it through the lens of the shared combat experiences of the seminar," said Frank Jones, the course director.