

Seminar allows National Guard leaders to learn more about The War College, issues facing Army

Thomas Zimmerman, Army War College

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Twenty five senior National Guard leaders came to the Army War College recently to discuss strategic issues with USAWC faculty and talk face-to-face with USAWC students as part of the Adjutants General National Security Seminar.

Each year the USAWC offers an opportunity for the 54 state Adjutants General and Deputy Adjutants General to come to Carlisle Barracks for one week during the resident academic year. This year marked the largest class in the recent history of the program according to **Col. Oliver Norrell**, USAWC Army National Guard Advisor.

In addition to updates on national security issues, participants exchange ideas with the resident class on issues affecting the Army and provide USAWC students with insights regarding issues confronting the senior leadership of the National Guard. New this year was presentations by the Director of the Army National Guard and the Army National Guard G3.

Many of the officers have found the experience so beneficial they have attended multiple times, according to Norrell.

“This program provides a great opportunity for the officers to gain an exposure to the views of our students who will be or advise the future leaders of our military,” he said. “In addition, the officers are able to share with our students the unique perspectives of our Army and Air National Guard leaders. They are able to share, face-to-face the issues and challenges they face from the state and local level to national level issues and policies.”

“I’ve really been able to gain some valuable insights on some of the challenges that the Guard is facing around the country and not just in my own state,” said **Brig. Gen. Harold Reed**, Chief of Staff for the Wyoming Air National Guard. He said that the question and answer sessions with the guest speakers and in the student seminar were especially helpful.

“We all – active Army or Guard and Reserve – have common issues and challenges,” he said. “In order for us to operate cohesively as a team, we need to share ideas.”

AGNSS can provide a greater understanding to the expert War College programs and institutes.

“While they are here the attendees are able to learn more about programs like BSAP, DSC and the distance education program,” he said. “This was in addition to updates from PKSOI, CSLD and SSI. Although many of them are graduates of our programs or have previously been exposed to them, this opportunity can reinforce their understanding and appreciation of our mission and the benefits that our graduates derive.”

AGNSS fits perfectly into the mission of educates and develops leaders for service at the strategic level said Norrell.

“We bring our students here to increase their knowledge and exposure to what may be a new and different way of viewing the military and the world in general,” he said. “By expanding their horizons and by creating opportunities for them to interact with senior leaders who may operate outside their realm of current knowledge and experience can significantly improve their knowledge and provide a deeper understanding of our national defense challenges and policies.”