

Senior Executive Service leaders advise, invite USAWC Civilian Students

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Richard A. Davis, Army Cyber Command Deputy for Cyber Operations/Director of Operations, Gwendolyn DeFilippi, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Force Management, Manpower and Resources, and Peter B. Bechtel, director of Capabilities, Integration, Prioritization, and Analysis, Army G3/5/7, were just three of the experts

who came to speak and advise Army War College civilian students recently.

Civilian Students have been part of the Army War College for more than 20 years for a simple reason: it works – for the civilians, the military, and the School.

Since 2003, Civilian Student graduates of the senior service colleges are directly placed into senior civilian positions so as to maximize the Army's return on investment and ensure civilian graduates use their senior level competencies across the Army, as is the case with military graduates.

To prepare current Civilian Students for imminent career choices, Senior Executive Service leaders participated in Civilian Career Day, Oct. 11-12. Here to speak about roles and opportunities for civilian strategic leaders were Mr. Peter B. Bechtel, director of Capabilities, Integration, Prioritization, and Analysis, Army G3/5/7; Ms. Gwendolyn DeFilippi, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Force Management, Manpower and Resources; Dr. Pam Raymer, director of the Army Continuing Education System; Mr. James T. Faust, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence/ Army G-2; Mr. Byron J. Young, executive director of the Army Contracting Command; Mr. Richard A. Davis, Army Cyber Command Deputy for Cyber Operations/Director of Operations; Mr. Stacey K. Hirata, chief of

Installation Support Division, US Army Corps of Engineers.

“The Army War College education prepares civilians to be effective at the Service or Agency level, and helps the Services build a bench for future senior executive service positions. Developmental positions after The War College have included directors of strategic planning, staff directors, deputy garrison command positions and directors at large installations, and policy makers at Service level.

“It’s a unique opportunity to interact with military counterparts in a collegial environment, and an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of national security policy and strategy,” said Julie Manta, Associate Provost for Academic Programs and Senior Civilian Adviser here, speaking about the year of graduate studies at Carlisle.

Integrating civilian and military students in a classroom introduces cross-fertilization of ideas, cultures and professions, according to Dr. Robert Nye, Deputy Provost.

“Our intent is to broaden thought of our military and interagency students,” said Nye. “They bring a minority voice to discussions that can bring to bear against group-think and majority voice.”

They add depth and understanding to their military counterparts about how large organizations run at the strategic level, noted Manta. “Civilians understand the management of large systems, given their experience and understanding of the processes and procedures – like resourcing, manning, training, budget, and programs needed to run complex organizations, working with diverse groups across multiple career fields in the federal government.”

In turn, the School is a broadening experience that enhances their own strategic leader skills, as well, such as strategic thinking and critical thinking,” she said.

Senior Civilians, in the grades of GS14 and 15, can apply for selection for an Army War College education through their organization’s civilian leader development program.

This year, 13 of 25 civilian students are Army Civilians. “We typically have about 10 from the Interagency Community: foreign service, intelligence community, homeland security, and Veteran Affairs,” said Manta.

Members of the Class of 2012 left The War College to more challenging assignments than they’d formerly held. Blanche Ostrosky is a strategic planner in Vincenza, Italy. Glenn Wait is Assistant to the Commander with oversight of operations and tenant units at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.; and Saiko Miyamoto is a South Asia desk officer with Army International Affairs, G3/5/7.

