

# Next generation of FLAGS leaders ready to share leadership lessons

By Thomas Zimmerman

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*Sixteen Army War College spouses have recently completed the Facilitating Leadership and Group Skills facilitator training and are ready to share their lessons learned during two upcoming sessions, the first starting Jan. 28. Photo by USAWC photo lab.*

Dec. 12, 2012 -- Leadership is important at all levels and it doesn't matter if you wear a uniform, just ask the determined group of 16 Army War College spouses participating in the Facilitating Leadership and Group Skills facilitator training.

"This is a unique program specific to the Army War College, but it is not just a military spouse training workshop," explained **Lisa Towery**, program director since 2007. "It provides the opportunity for more effective leadership abilities and skills in the roles that they may take on in the future."

FLAGS, offered at the USAWC since 1992, is a volunteer-based to help senior military spouses become strategic thinkers and problem solvers.

"The setting is an experiential learning workshop and provides the opportunity for self-awareness and validation with further opportunities to learn more from those who are in the group," said Towery. "Everyone learns group dynamics through the group experience and they learn a lot from what is presented, but they ultimately learn more through each other."

"The FLAGS Workshop provides opportunities for participants to learn more about facilitation, leadership, and group skills as well as refine their personal style in managing conflict and stress, difficult behaviors, and strategic communication," said **Christine Yuengert**, Military Family Program Coordinator and manager of the FLAGS program. "The FLAGS Course offers each participant an

opportunity to see the bigger picture and understand the dynamics often present while interacting and relating with other people.”

“This has been an eye-opening experience and the skills I’ve refined will help me in almost any environment or situation,” said student spouse **Chuck Long**. “This has really helped give me insights and awareness of traits and behaviors that make it easier to facilitate group discussions.”

“This has helped me realize both the seen and unseen stresses in our lives and how we can better deal with them,” said spouse **Jennifer Presley**. “I really wanted to become more involved while we are here at the Army War College and this was a perfect way to do so.”

“FLAGS has really helped me grow both personally and professionally,” said spouse **Kim Baker**. “I’ve taken part in similar courses like this before but nothing has been as valuable as this experience.”

The FLAGS program uses video, small and large group activities, personal reflection, partnerships and other multiple venues to provide insight into how strong leaders develop their strategic thinking skills.

The FLAGS One Week Workshop will be delivered twice Session 1 Jan. 28 – Feb. 1 and Session 2 March 11-15. The course will run Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Signups for the workshop will begin Jan. 3. Those interested in taking the course can contact the Military Family Program at 245-4787 or by email at [Christine.e.yuengert.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Christine.e.yuengert.civ@mail.mil).

FLAGS is open to all spouses of the Army War College, student, faculty or staff. Consideration is given for attendance to USAWC staff employees based on space availability.