

Norwegian Military Academy classmates reunite at USAWC Graduation ceremony

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International families reflect on their year at Carlisle

The Army War College graduation ceremony was celebration and reunion for two Norwegian officers with ties to Carlisle and to graduating Norwegian Fellow **Col. Ingrid Gjerde**, June 8.

Maj. Sissel Mellgren Mangersnes, **Lt. Col. Hilde Solheim** formed a friendship with Gjerde while attending the Norwegian Military Academy, from 1989 to 1992. Now, back in the United States for the Joint Women's Leadership Symposium in Washington D.C., this week, they embraced the opportunity to witness Gjerde's graduation and visit Carlisle friends.



Both Mangersnes and Solheim spent a year each in Carlisle when their spouses attended the Army War College. Both made the most of experiences and friendships, they noted.

Norwegian Fellow Col. Ingrid Gjerde (center) celebrates her graduation from the U.S. Army War College with Norwegian Army Lt. Col. Hilde Solheim (left) and Norwegian Army Maj. Sissel Mellgren Mangersnes (right), June 8. Mangersnes and Solheim spent a year each in Carlisle when their spouses attended the War College. The three formed a friendship while attending the Norwegian Military Academy.

Mangersnes, now a senior staff officer in Norway's Department of Defense, worked on gender issues with the Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute and attended classes at Dickinson College when her husband, **Col. John Morten Mangersnes**, was in the Army War College class of 2012.

During academic year 2010-2011, Solheim studied Global Eastern Africa at Dickinson College while her husband, **Col. Odin Johannessen** was an International Fellow at the Army War College. She is currently a senior staff officer on the Norwegian Defense Staff.

In an email they co-authored, Mangersnes and Solheim wrote of appreciating their families' great time living in Carlisle and the friendship, friendliness and hospitality of our neighbors and sponsors that they're enjoying this week.

"The schools, the USAWC and the Carlisle Community all welcomed us with warmth and friendliness, including us in their everyday life," they wrote.

"The experience of connecting to people from all over the world, including the U.S., has also touched our lives in a positive way. The friendships we made across the world have shown us that the world is smaller than we thought and people are more alike than we thought.

"We think for sure that the USAWC is in real life contributing to their slogan, 'Not to promote war but to preserve peace'."

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