

# "Faculty focus: Officer takes on second Army career path"

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## Faculty focus: Officer takes on second Army career path

First Year Faculty member and director of the Regional Studies course, Lt. Col. Jerome Sibayan's contributions to the USAWC Distance Education Program led to his appointment as the General Colin Powell Chair of Military and Strategic Studies.

It came as a surprise to Sibayan who learned of the honor just prior to the Academic Awards Ceremony, which singled out achievements like his, January 21. Academic Chairs are presented to faculty members who by their extraordinary teaching, scholarship, and service contribute significantly to accomplishing the Army War College's educational mission.

After spending the majority of his military career in the engineering field, Sibayan embarked on a second career path when he was selected for the Professor Army War College Program. In March 2009, he enrolled in the Security Studies doctoral program at Kansas State University.



"It's a great opportunity," said Sibayan. "I picked that discipline because I wanted to have a degree that would be useful at the War College," he said about the field that required learning Chinese in order to read the data needed for his dissertation. "It's almost like learning three languages," he said.

After two years as a resident student at Kansas State, Sibayan returned to the Army War College to join the faculty of the Department of Distance Education, and complete his dissertation, "A social network analysis of China's Central Committee." Sibayan was awarded a PhD in May 2013, and now focuses his academic interest on the Cold War, East Asia, and China.

As an Army War College professor for almost three years now, Sibayan finds it fascinating and rewarding.

"It's been eye opening how much thought and planning has to go into a course," he said. He benefits in from seeing students gain new perspectives on the United States and the world, he said.

Sibayan relates well to the online learners of the Distance Education Program, having been a student in the Distance Class of 2008. He was deployed to Iraq during his second year of studies and understands firsthand the difficulty of completing the program while being deployed with a military transition team.

"It's kind of interesting in the sense that I can honestly feel the pain of the students who are deployed trying to do this program," he said. "I really do understand the challenges."

Sibayan's parents emigrated from the Philippines, settling in Oregon where he found his way to Army ROTC

and civil engineering at Oregon State University. Assignments in combat engineering and Corps of Engineers districts led to four years as Chief of the Stryker Transformation Team at Fort Benning. Even though he has an entirely different military career now, Sibayan maintains his licensure in engineering .

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