

Army War College will investigate and adjudicate alleged plagiarism

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July 30, 2014 – As has previously been announced, the Army War College will conduct an Academic Review Board to fully and fairly investigate the allegations that retired Col. John Walsh plagiarized a paper he wrote in 2007 while an Army War College student.

The Academic Review Board will follow its standard procedures and issue a written report about the alleged plagiarism, including findings and recommendations to address further action, as appropriate. The authority to take administrative or disciplinary action, as appropriate, remains with the U.S. Army War College.

Neither the Department of Defense Inspector General nor the Department of the Army Inspector General will conduct any formal oversight of the Academic Review Board procedures, although both will be notified prior to the release of the USAWC finding to retired Col. Walsh.

July 24, 2014 --

The Army War College initiated its own analysis of the paper and determined that there was reasonable cause to refer the case to the US Army War College Academic Review Board, which is the routine process for an allegation related to academic standards, academic integrity or academic progress.

The Academic Review Board is the part of the fact-finding and deliberative process used for all cases of suspected plagiarism or misconduct for a neutral, independent review of the case. The Academic Review Board is composed of faculty members responsible to review the evidence and make a recommendation to the Army War College leadership. The board process is outlined in the current policy memo entitled, Disenrollment from the US Army War College. The policy guidance has been followed in a variety of disenrollment cases over the years.

The process was initiated by notification to the individual specifying the facts and circumstances supporting the belief that the student has failed to meet academic integrity. The board considers written material submitted by the student or graduate; the individual may appear before the board and present information.

The Academic Review Board reviews the weight of evidence, and makes a written report with analysis of the alleged failure; a finding as to whether the alleged failure occurred; and a written recommendation as to whether the student should be disenrolled and/or other actions taken, as appropriate.

The ARB consults with a legal advisor who will review the ARB report for legal sufficiency. Proceedings under Carlisle Barracks Memo 350-7 are administrative, not judicial.

The Army War College policy then and now notes that substantiated allegations of plagiarism may result in dismissal from the program. There have been 8 cases since 1990 for which the Army War College revoked the graduation status of a former student after graduation: 6 for plagiarism and 2 for misconduct. If the plaque bearing graduates' names has already been hung in front of the college, they have had their name removed from the metal plate.

Then and now, we presume the integrity and professionalism of our highly qualified and experienced students is intact, unless there is reason to believe otherwise.