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Stephen D. Crocco, Ph.D., recently joined the Army War College as Chief Librarian of the newly integrated library collections at Root Hall and Ridgway Hall.

Crocco's priority will be to make these collections and supporting services function as a single library, much as universities have multiple libraries that are part of the same system. Already, students and faculty can do a single search that will show published holdings in both locations. Increasingly, library users will be able to search for personal papers, oral histories, and other unpublished resources in the climate-controlled environment of Ridgway Hall, part of the Army Heritage and Education Center campus.

Before coming to the Army War College, Crocco was Library Director at Princeton Theological



Seminary. Prior to that, he was the Library Director at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He holds a Ph.D. in Religious Ethics from Princeton University and a master's degree in Library Science from the University of Pittsburgh.

Crocco mentioned a comment by former TRADOC commander Gen. Robert Cone, that there “is no reason not to demand the equivalent of . . . a Princeton-level education in strategy from the Army War College.” “That sentiment fits perfectly with my vision to create a Princeton-level library here,” he said.

“There is still a lot of talk at colleges and universities that the library is the heart of the institution,” said Crocco. “That has changed somewhat with the explosion of online resources. But the library is still the place where students learn how to identify and use the best resources—as well as the resources to avoid.”

“Library staff are as useful as ever, if not more so,” he said. In pointing students in the right directions, they help free students for the really important work of reading, thinking and, then, writing, he added.

The integrated USAWC Library will allow students to more easily draw upon the unpublished manuscript materials in Ridgway Hall. “Every subject has a history,” he said, referring to students’ research projects. “At some point, every project has to account for that history.”

Stephen D. Crocco, Ph.D., Chief Librarian

at USAWC.

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