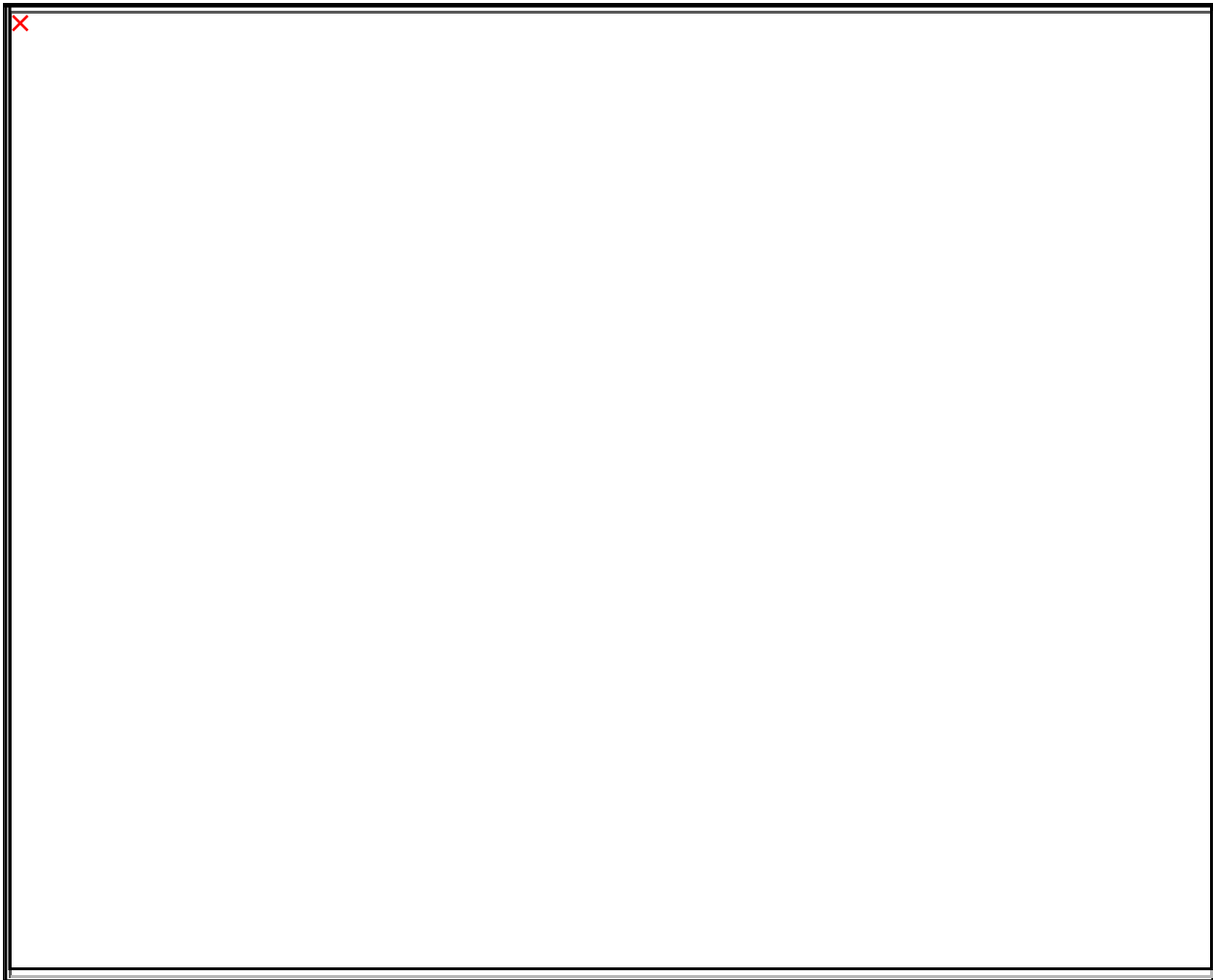


# **Field Studies Program orients International Fellows to unique nature of United States**

*2LT Laura Bremer, International Fellows Program Office*

# **Field Studies Program orients International Fellows\*, families to unique nature of**



# **United States**

Pennsylvania played a key role in welcoming 79 International Fellows and almost 200 family members who are newly arrived in Carlisle for a year at the Army War College. A trip to Philadelphia, birthplace of the American republic, and to Lancaster, model of cultural diversity, provided insights about the heritage and values of the United States.

Fellows and families visited Old Philadelphia and Independence Hall where the founding fathers signed the U.S. Constitution and attended a production of *“Freedom Rising”* at the National Constitution Center. This 360-degree multimedia experience highlighted the story of the U.S. Constitution and [transported the audience back to the American Revolution and the debate about crafting of the constitution](#) , through the American Civil War, the Civil Rights



movement and other key historical moments in American history.

***Fellows and Families in Philadelphia (photos credit Laura Price)***

While in Philadelphia, the International Fellows visited Boeing Corporation’s CH-47 Chinook Helicopter and V-22 Osprey assembly lines and engaged corporate executives on the relationship between Boeing and the Department of Defense and, more specifically, on the complex process of U.S. foreign military sales. Meanwhile, the International Fellow families visited the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

“The visit to Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell was a very special experience,” said Canadian Fellow Col. Ted Middleton. “To stand in the very room where the US Declaration of Independence and Constitution were debated, drafted and signed brought history to life. To

actually see the Liberty Bell and appreciate its legacy put a perspective on the struggle for freedom that most never see,” he added. “The visit to Boeing gave the IFs insight into the relationship between a commercial enterprise and the military enterprise in the provision of defense capability to the United States and the export of defense capability to allies abroad.”

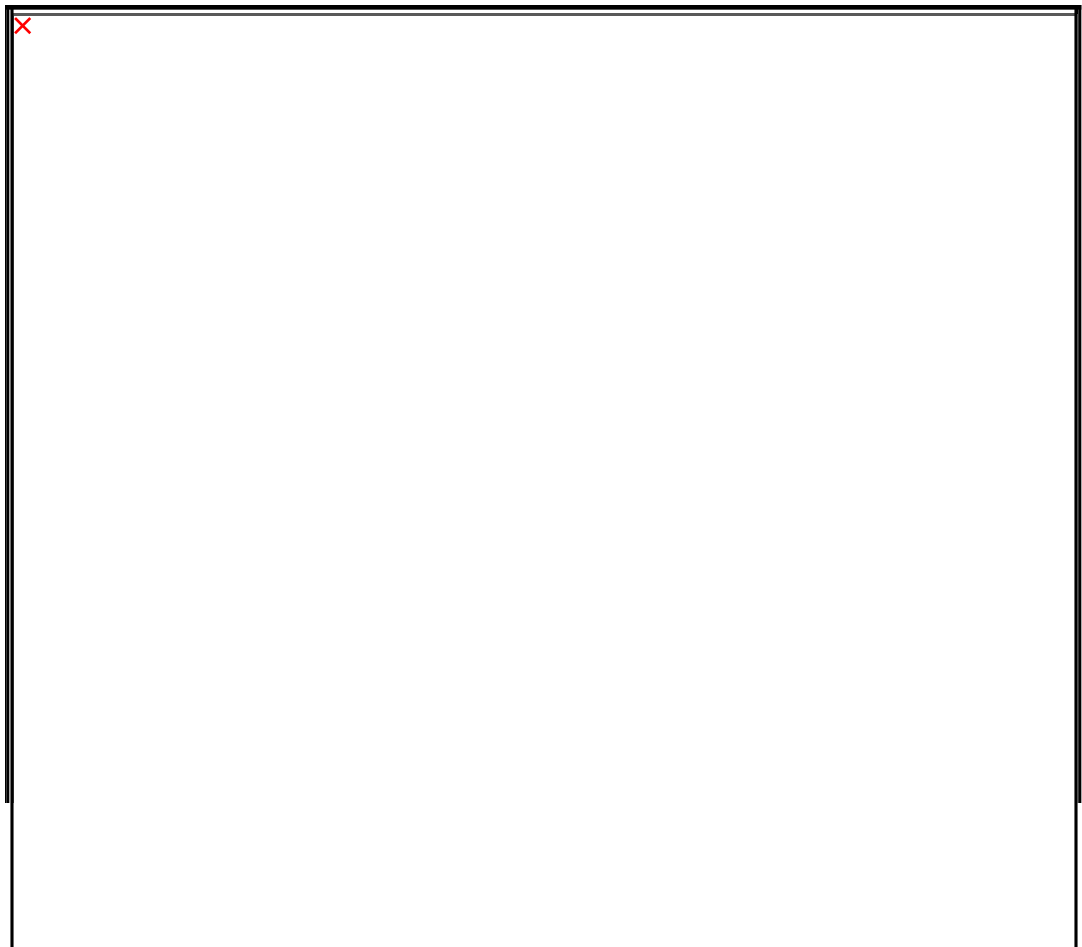
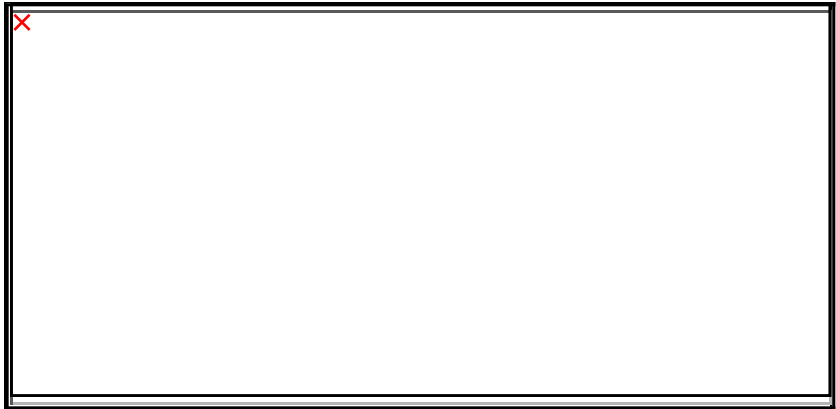
Lt. Col. Juma Sipe from Tanzania remarked on how important it was to understand the origins of the United States to fully appreciate its culture.

“Many great things mark the beginnings of the U.S. as a nation. If a new generation lost touch with

historical realities, this generation is likely to downplay the great values of the nation. A very notable and appreciated reality is the American preservation of its beginnings through historical touch with actual places and material used in achieving the independence.

“The Liberty and Independence Halls in Philadelphia exemplifies the true value the American people have placed in preserving their history. These places are a must visit for a person visiting the United States for the first time,” said Sipe.

The orientation trip included a day in Lancaster County and the Amish farmlands, to provide the international officers a brief insight on how Americans foster political, social



and economic pluralism. A certified tour guide was able to answer specific questions on the Amish culture associated with their visits to farms and cottage industries, like woodworking, quilt making, and crafts.

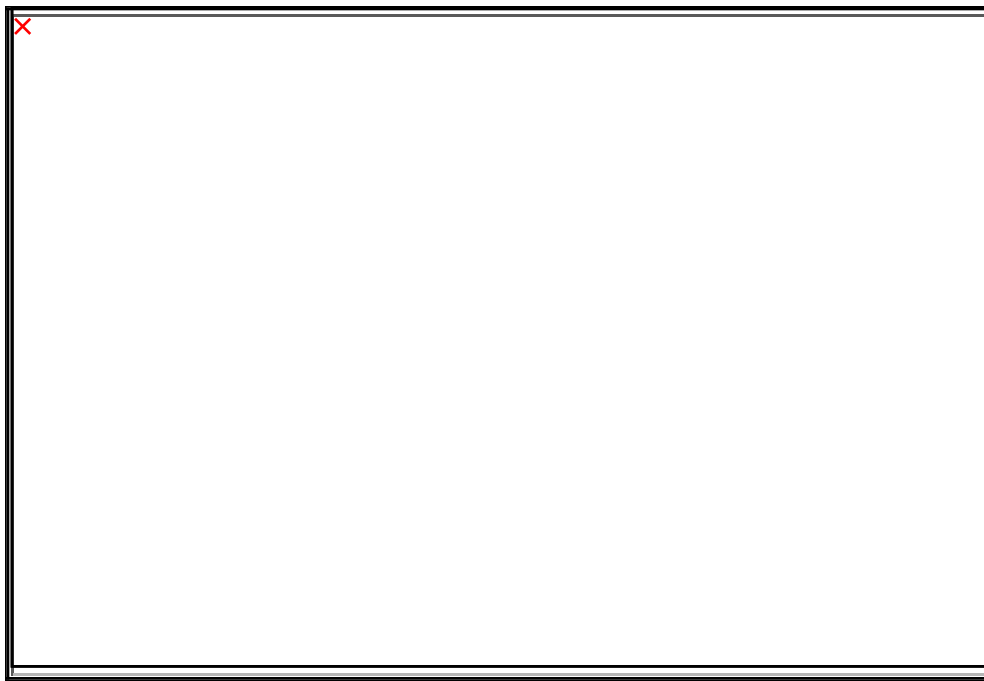
Fellows remarked at the [two seemingly different cultures existing side-by-side in the same community with respect for each other's beliefs with regard to work, worship, and family.](#)

***International families learn about the Amish experience in America.***

“The trip to Lancaster was an interesting look at a unique faith and family based cultural co-existing in harmony with the larger world surrounding it,” said Middleton. “Of particular value was the discussion with the Amish gentleman on the bus, who gave a candid and honest perspective of the commonalities and differences between his chosen way of life and our own. This trip served as an excellent example of cultural inclusiveness in Pennsylvanian society.”

“Despite the melting pot metaphor for a heterogeneous society becoming more homogeneous ... America still has diverse cultural and religious values that seem to have withstood many tests of time,” said Tanzanian Fellow Sipe. “We [from the other parts of the world] get affected by the Western Culture while we are thousands of miles away from the Western world,” he said, noting in contrast that, “Amish people live adjacent to or opposite non-Amish people whom they call the ‘English,’ but they have withstood the change for centuries. Amazing and admirable people! This is a strong sense of personal awareness and determination to preserve their culture.”

Field trips to Philadelphia and Lancaster, among other destinations like West Point, are part of the U.S. Field Studies Program for International Military Students. An integral part of the total training program, the Field Studies Program complements the military education program. The program objectives, to provide the international student with an awareness and understanding of the society, institutions and ideals of the American democratic way of life, are derived from the laws authorizing the programs that make up the Security Assistance Training Program. Field Studies funds are included in course tuition. Additional costs associated with family member participation are borne by the Fellows themselves or by Army War College Foundation funds that have been donated for the purpose of enhancing international family members' experiences in the United States.



With homes leased, cars bought, U.S. banking deciphered, and cell phones in hand, the International Fellows will participate in seminar learning, their children in school, spouses active in English language classes, the Conversation and Culture program, and friendships in the

community. They will leave the United States with an introduction American history and culture and a year of growth both professional and personal.

In addition to the U.S. military officers and federal civilians, the **Class of 2015\*** includes senior military officers of **Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Austria, Australia, Bangladesh., Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo/ DROC, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, UAE, UK, Yemen.**

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