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*Lt. Gen.
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McMaster, director of Army Capabilities Integration Center, spoke openly about the myths of future wars, challenges facing the force and the importance of the human dimension of conflict to the Army War College Class of 2015 in Bliss Hall on Aug. 21.

Frank discussion was the theme of the day for the Army War College Class of 2015 in a Bliss Hall address by one of the Army's leaders of experience and vision.

Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster, director of the Army Capabilities Integration Center, spoke openly about the myths of future wars, challenges facing the force, and the importance of the human dimension of conflict.

"In order to properly plan and be successful, you have to understand the human and political dimensions of war," he said. "You have to determine what is driving conflict before you can engage."

He also stressed the importance of balancing the competing demands of change and stability with respect to strategy.

“We focus, at times, too much on change - not continuity,” he said. “Before we try to develop new strategies, we have to understand the past, making sure to incorporate what we have learned as we try to predict the nature of war in the future. We’ve learned the importance of this in a painful way after the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.”

McMaster outlines four challenges facing the Army and DoD that will play a vital role in planning for the future – the dwindling budget, the robust military industrial complex, a war-weary culture and a neglect of history. These challenges must be overcome with creative solutions from leaders like the students at the War College, he said.

“We need you to provide insights and think about these challenges,” he said. “This is an exciting time to serve, you can help shape the future of our nation.”

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