

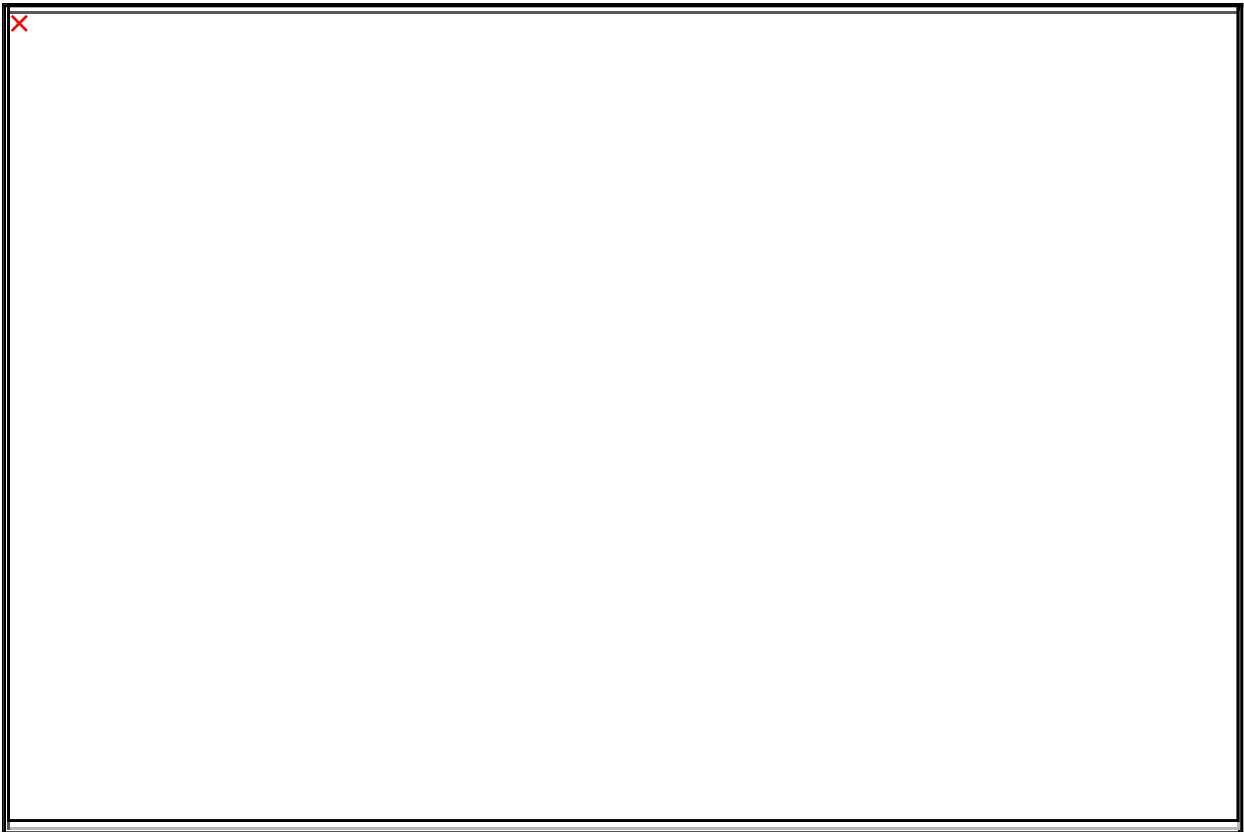
College and Class leadership unveil the Class of 2012 graduation plaque

Army War College and Class leadership dedicate the Class of 2012 graduation plaque.

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Oct. 27, 2014 -- Members of the Class of 2012 returned to Carlisle for the Oct. 24 ceremony to dedicate

their
Army
War



College graduation plaque, now displayed on the front of Root Hall, the academic building named for Elihu Root, Secretary of War who established The War College in 1901. The 2012 plaque joins the long bronze row of plaques bearing the names of Dwight Eisenhower, Ray Odierno, Charles Eassa and Paul Conti, among others.

This is what pride looks like. Members of the class of 2012 traveled far distances

to review their place in history.

The event marked the formal recognition of all the members of the Class of 2012's distance program, resident program, International Fellows, and USAWC College Fellows, now serving at home and abroad.

"[They are] successfully applying the skills they obtained or refined during their courses of study at the U.S. Army War College," said Army War College Provost Dr. Lance Betros. "We especially recognize those members of the Class of 2012 serving far from home and in harm's way."

"It is absolutely the strength of the nation that comes through these doors," said Commandant Maj. Gen. Bill Rapp about the class representation of all the Services, civilian comrades and international fellows. "These plaques represent your connection to the Army War College and the ideals that make all of our Armed Services so strong."

Representing fellow graduates 2013 resident graduates, Col. Charles Eassa said, "At our convocation, Maj. Gen. Martin charged us to develop ourselves professionally in preparation for the responsibility of senior leadership and service at the strategic level." We took [Commandant] Maj. Gen. Martin's charge seriously. We engaged each other and our faculty to gain a deeper perspective on the meaning and understanding of our profession, why we exist, how we approach complex problems, and grasping complexity."

The class of 1912 probably did much as we did, he said. Then as now, the college and students are committed to exploring our profession and being prepared to defend our nation. "In 1912, they struggled as one-third the Army was stationed in the Philippines; large contingents were stationed in Hawaii and Panama, focused on the Pacific. They were wrestling with new technologies like the machine gun, the radio, trucks, and airplanes. They built relationships that brought them through world wars."

A hundred years from now, a colonel from the class of 2112 will dedicate their plaque, noted Eassa. They will study us and the actions that we take in the next several years as we put to use the Army War College experience, new insights, new tools and relationships.



**Commandant
Maj. Gen. Bill
Rapp (l) and
Command Sgt.
Major Malcolm
Parrish (r) look**



on as Class of
2012 graduates
Col. Charles
Eassa (2nd from
left) and Col Paul
Conti unveil the
Class of 2012
graduation plaque

on Root Hall, Carlisle Barracks.

Representing the 2012 distance education graduates, Lt. Col. Paul Conte recounted a comment heard early in his two-year education that, 'when you're done with this you'll never look at news the same way again'. "At first, I thought they meant you're never going to look at news again -- true, because after all the homework, there wasn't time for anything else!"

Now, he sees both the plaques and the news through a different lens.

When I first got here, I saw these plaques as dates with a lot of names, said Conti. "... these names on these plaques -- these folks are solving the global issues of our times. When you watch the news, and you see ebola, ISIS, Afghanistan, Syria ... there's somebody on one of these plaques who is working diligently behind the scenes to try to bring resolution or do the best they can to advise folks to make decisions to solve these conflicts.

That's what changed, he said. That's why "you won't look at news the same way again."