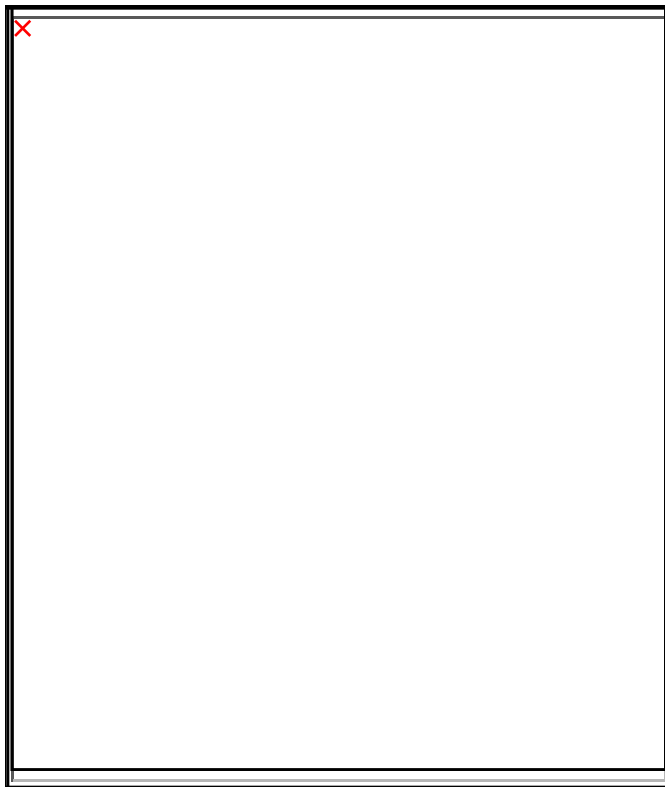


Former U.S. Ambassador to Brunei joins Command Group at Army War College

Carol Kerr, Public Affairs Office

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Jan. 30, 2015 -- Daniel Shields, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service with the rank of Minister Counselor, began his assignment with the Command Group at the U.S. Army War College in January 2015. Previously, he had served as the U.S. Ambassador to Brunei



Darussalam in Southeast Asia from 2011 to 2014. He will bring to the Army War College his experience as an Ambassador and will function as the diplomatic advisor to the Commandant.

The Army War College will leverage his insider insights and statecraft skills to complement the educational experience here, where students examine the opportunity and synergy of national influence through diplomacy, economics, and information means, as well as the military.

He expects to be able to inject a senior civilian perspective, an interagency perspective, and a diplomatic perspective in the discussions

that are going on in the Army War College, he said.

Shields will have been in the Foreign Service 30 years as of April 2015. He describes his career path as a triangle, moving between Japan, China, and Southeast Asia. "Pretty much

my whole career has been focused on Asia and the Pacific. Now that I am at the Army War College, I'd like to engage in anything that makes a connection between my own experiences and the things that people here are interested in," he said. "I'm particularly interested in those issues that relate to the U.S. rebalance to the Asia Pacific region and how the diplomatic and military elements of that fit together."

"The Asia Pacific region is a place where the United States has been involved for a very long time and in the future we'll need to be more and more involved in as partners. The rebalance can't be a purely military effort. The military component is important, but it's vital that we also emphasize the diplomatic and economic dimensions," he said, referring as an example to the Trans-Pacific Partnership effort to expand trade links, and efforts to promote U.S. exports to the region and to make sure U.S. companies and workers have a stake in the economic relationship between the United States and Asia and the Pacific.

"The interaction between the military instrument of power and other instruments of statecraft is critically important," he noted. "On the diplomatic side, it's all about persuasion and it is vital that there always be a strong link to the military component."

"The militaries in many countries around the world, certainly in the Asia-Pacific region, are key players in the societies as a whole. Military-to-military exchanges are essential," Shields noted. "In many cases, what we say has more credibility when it's coming from a person who is wearing the U.S. military uniform and can talk about his or her military experiences.

"So, I strongly support military-to-military partnership and engagement. I think it can do a great deal to advance the interests and the values of the United States and our partners," he said. In the same vein, Shields anticipates the mutual benefit of relationships across the student body, faculty and staff, to include interactions with International Fellows -- in some cases to mentor, but particularly to learn their perspectives.

The Ambassador's engagement with Army War College students pre-dates his arrival. He participated in several seminar sessions by video this past fall, when his reporting date to the college had been delayed. "I was asked to stay on in Brunei longer than expected. In the interim, being able to do those video conferences was a way for me to keep a hand in, in terms of participating in the work and the intellectual activity of the War College. I was grateful for the opportunity," said Shields. "I'm also grateful for the fact that I can interact now with



seminars at a starting time like 9 a.m. rather than 9 p.m. Brunei time."

U.S. Amb. Daniel Shields, right, and Prof. Brian Gouker consider Army student Lt. Col. Curt King's assessment of an exercise scenario set in Southeast Asia, as part of the students' course on Theater, Strategy and Campaigning.

Having left the warm, tropical Brunei behind, he and his wife, Sangeeta, and their daughter Sonali are now enjoying the snow and their proximity to his extended family in his native eastern Pennsylvania.

While in Carlisle, he is looking forward to seeing some Dickinson College basketball. He readily admits that passion for basketball was a factor that influenced his youthful decision, in the glory years of the Georgetown Hoyas basketball program around 1980, to pursue his bachelor's degree at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. In 2001, he earned a master's degree from the National War College.

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