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Feb. 17, 2015 -- When Maj. Gen. Kristin Lund of Norway attended the Army War College, she was one of 41 International Fellows in the Class of 2007, was selected by her peers to be the International Fellows Class president, and earned a master's in Strategic Studies alongside 297 U.S. military leaders and civilian national security managers. Since her June 2007 graduation, Lund was promoted to Brigadier General and posted as Deputy Commander Norwegian Army Forces Command; was appointed Chief of Staff of the Norwegian Home Guard – a responsibility equivalent to that of a U.S. Service Chief of Staff – and, in 2014, was appointed to command of the United National Peacekeeping Force, Cyprus (UNFICYP).

Today, the Army War College formally recognized her service at the highest position in a multinational organization by welcoming Maj. Gen. Lund into the International Fellows Hall of Fame in Carlisle Pa. Maj. Gen. William E.



Rapp, Commandant of the Army War College inducted Lund into the small and prestigious company of those international Army War College alumni who have achieved the highest military positions.

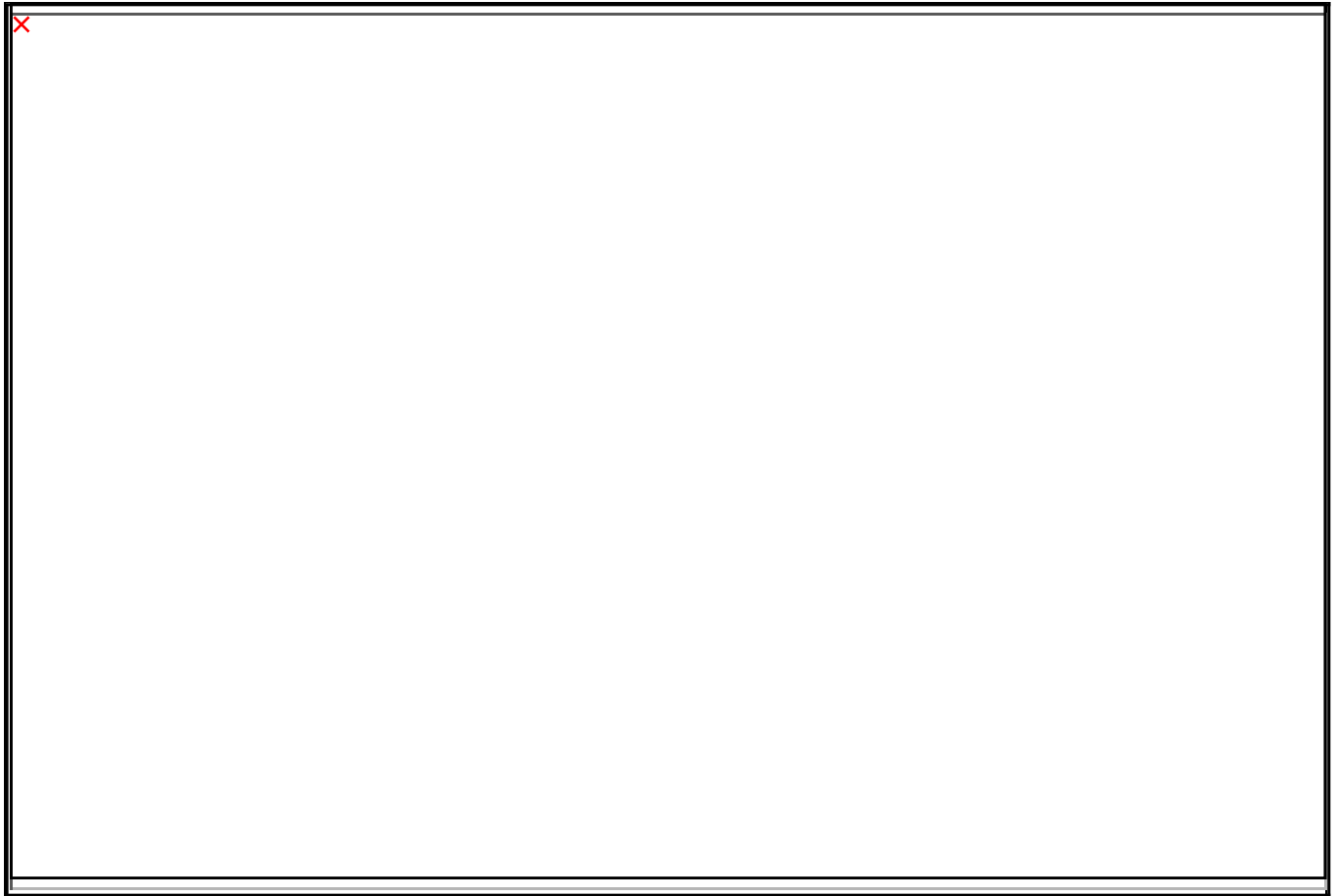
Norwegian Maj. Gen. Kristin Lund receives congratulations from USAWC Commandant Maj. Bill Rapp, who is the 53rd international graduate to be invited into the International Fellows Hall of Fame, and the first woman.

Her achievements greatly honor her alma mater, and highlight the fact that the armies of the world send us their best officers,” said Col. John Burbank, director of the USAWC International Fellows Program, the largest among the senior service colleges. “This ceremony today demonstrates how our international friends who study, work out and socialize together at this institution typically move on to assume important positions of trust and responsibility in their own country. Eight years ago, when Gen. Lund attended the Army War College, this institution made a

difference in her life and career.”

“To study at the Army War College is truly an academic and cultural experience for life,” said Lund to the student body who attended her honors. “The insights into other countries’ armed forces and their way of thinking strategically and operationally is always valuable.

“The network that you can establish, however, is priceless,” she said. “There are so many occasions when I have met fellow graduates from the Army War College and on all those occasions our joint experience in this institution



has provided a very good starting point for cooperation.”

Lund urged today’s USAWC students to seize the opportunity to learn more about other cultural and military organizations and engage in critical thinking. “I found that I did not need to agree with the US foreign security policy to earn valuable insights from the proponents of that policy, and even though I couldn’t convince others of my point of view, they were receptive to my argument and could understand the issue was not black-and-white.”

She described her current command of a UN mission as one in which a tactical issues can “in the blink of an eye” become political. There’s great need for carefully deliberating the pros and cons in that operational environment, she said, noting that, “I find that an understanding for other people and other cultures has enhanced my ability to make the right decisions.”

As she shared anecdotes from recent assignments, she mentioned name after name of Army War College graduates with whom she could immediately connect. “Despite very different cultural and professional backgrounds, there was a common set of cognitive reference points that made our meeting more effective, she said about working with Georgia’s Brig. Gen. Vakhtang Kapanadze, a USAWC Hall of Fame grad, when Norway

was supporting the development of the Georgian National Guard.

“As chief of the Norwegian Home Guard, I have also had the privilege to be part of the longest lasting reciprocal exchange program that the U.S. Department of Defense maintains with any nation – that of the Minnesota National Guard and the Norwegian Home Guard, said Lund. Both the former and current Minn. Adjutants General are USAWC grads, as are key officers from the Argentina and the United States with whom she coordinates as force commander of UNFICYP.

Lund is the first Norwegian female Army officer to reach the rank of Major General, the first female international officer at the Army War College, and the UN's first female Force Commander of a UN peacekeeping force. She is a veteran of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon; the Gulf War in 1991; Bosnia with the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and later with the NATO-led force; and in Afghanistan with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), 2003 to 2004. Her professional interests include logistics, CIMIC (civilian-military cooperation/ coordination) and Light Infantry (Homeguard). Her work on behalf of gender equalization within the Norwegian Armed Forces was honored with the Norwegian Armed Forces Equality Award in 2004.

The U.S. Army War College International Fellows Hall of Fame includes 53 members, each of whom has attained the highest position in his or her nation's armed forces or who have held an equivalent position by rank or responsibility in a multinational organization. The first induction was held in March 1988. The Army War College has graduated 1380 international officers from its yearlong graduate-level program; 600 of these have been promoted to general officer rank. The program exists to promote mutual understanding and good working relationships between senior U.S. officers and senior officers of select foreign countries.