

# Two-day orientation gives prospective students leg up on 2 years ahead

*Robert D. Martin, USAWC Public Affairs*

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*Distance Education Class of 2017 meet peers, faculty, librarians, IT specialists*

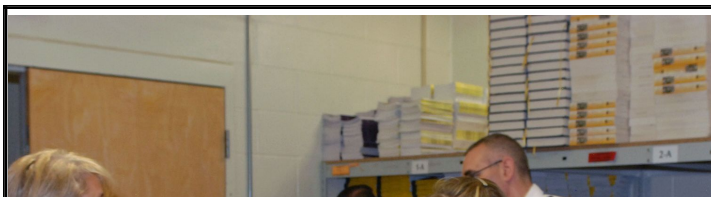


Dr. Clayton Chun, Department Chair for Distance Learning, welcomes class of 2017 distance education students as they begin their two days of orientation at the Army War College, at the Letort View Community Center today.

Today, a percentage of the 450 distance education students who will soon begin their two years of learning visited the Army War College and Carlisle Barracks to orient themselves to the place, the people, and the processes. Their online courses begin July 9, but 158 members of the DE Class of 2017 took advantage of one of two orientation weekends offered by the staff and faculty of Distance Education.

"I enjoyed the orientation weekend, and am glad I attended," said Army Lt. Col. Melaina Sharpe. "The IT guys were super and helped me get my ancient laptop up to speed for the course and the USAWC software we will be using.

"I also found the critical thinking seminar and meeting my classmates very helpful," said Sharpe, who will soon begin her studies remotely, until first resident phase at the mid-way point in June 2016.



The Distance Education Program is a rigorous, two-year program of instruction that enables students to work a regular full-time job and still make time for a War College degree. Students return to the Army



War College twice, at mid-course and end-of-course for two-week resident phases. Once the students have completed two years of requirements, they can earn the Master of Strategy Studies degree.

*International Fellow Col. Jane Servaes of the British Royal Army receives her books as part of the DE Class of 2017 Orientation.*

The orientation included introductory guidance about USAWC Library resources and access, USAWC blackboard software, and online collaboration, and a seminar on graduate-level writing.

This year 12 Congressional Staffers and 3 International Fellows will attend the distance learning course at the Army War College offering a different perspective and collaboration on online forums.



Col. Kurt O'Rourke, Faculty Instructor (middle right), leads his seminar down the hall of flags between Root Hall and Bliss Hall to their next session during DE Class of 2017 Orientation, today



Larry Miller, Faculty Instructor (left) looks on as Lt. Col. Jerome Sibayan, Faculty Instructor, discusses creative writing with International Fellow Canadian Col. Matthew Houssmann and Congressional Staffer Timothy Wang during DE Class of 2017 Orientation, today

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