

# DEP Class of 2010 tests concepts with new exercise

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## Distance Class of 2010 tests concepts with new exercise



*Members of the Army War College Distance Education Class of 2010 listen to a noon-time lecture in the Omar Bradley Auditorium June 25.*

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June 24, 2009 -- After a year of reading, studying, writing, researching and collaborating behind a computer screen, the 350 members of the Distance Education Class of 2010 reported to the Army War College June 15 for the first of their two resident sessions.

The two-week sessions allow students to participate in seminar group sessions, attend lectures and work with classified material relevant to the course of instruction.

"The first year is really based in independent learning. The second year focuses on collaboration," said Col. Sue Myers, first year studies director. "That's why these resident sessions are so important."

The distance program is a two-year program as opposed to the 10-months of the resident course, but that's not the only difference.

Instead of mailing in papers or handing them to their faculty advisors, students log onto a secure website. The site provides students with primary and supplementary materials and allows students to participate in real-time discussions. This site is the focal point for faculty-student interaction, for viewing multimedia course work, constructing papers, sending course papers, and receiving evaluated work.

"The program allows students to immediately apply what they are learning to their professions," said Myers.

*Members of the Distance Education Class of 2010 talk on the Root Hall Patio before the Army Birthday celebration June 15. The 350 students came to Carlisle Barracks for the first of their two, two-week resident sessions. Photo by Spc. Jennifer Rick.*



### **New exercise tests students**

As part of the resident session, student participated in the first ever First Resident Course Exercise.

"The FRC Exercise is designed to enhance the students' strategy formulation skills by rationalizing U.S. global interests to a specific regional crisis," said Kevin Dowling , distance education program course developer. "As it draws heavily from concepts studied during the first year it serves as a mini-capstone for first year studies."

The exercise is split into two parts that take place over three days. During the first phase students focused on global issues and interest. In phase two, students assume the roles of the interagency. This exercise focused on a fictional crisis in Darfur.

"Students' are assigned roles and provided role descriptions of various senior players in the interagency," said Dowling. "The role play is designed to give the seminar discussion of the Darfur crisis some organizational and bureaucratic context, is so common to the interagency process where national policy is decided."

During their two-week session the students traveled to Washington D.C. to visit government and other agencies , underwent APFRI assessments, sat in on noontime lectures, and had a chance to make new colleagues during social events.

The distance program consists of 10 courses, with topics from Strategic Leadership to Strategic Challenges for the 21st Century. In addition to the program courses, every student in the Distance Education Program will take an elective course during the second Resident Course.

Since its inception in 1970, the Distance Education Program of the Army War College has been a MEL-1 accredited program.

Like the resident course, the distance program confers upon the graduates the Masters of Strategic

Studies degree.

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