

Class of 2010 is largest international class to date

Carol Kerr, Army War College Public Affairs Officer

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The USAWC class of 2010 includes 50 officers from 49 nations of the world – up from a recent average of 40 per student body. The 25 percent increase in international fellows reflects the importance of diverse voices and diverse experiences for students developing thinking skills and deepening their understanding of the international security environment.

Three nations are represented for the first time: Kazakhstan, Serbia and Tanzania. Pakistan is represented by two Fellows. They join the ranks of more than 1000 IFs since 1978. In late September, the college will honor a 2002 Canadian alumnus whose achievements have earned him a place in the USAWC International Hall of Fame. Gen. Walter J. Natynczyk currently serves as the Chief of the Defense Staff, Canadian Forces, and will be honored by the current class here Sept. 23.

Amb. Carol van Voorst will play a key role this year influencing the process by which the Fellows, student representatives from the State Dept and USAID, and the U.S. military officers learn from each other. The new deputy commandant for international affairs is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service with the rank of Minister-Counselor. She served as the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Iceland from 2006 to 2009.

She referred to herself as the dean of the international fellows. "And, as the senior State Department representative here, I bring the interagency community to the war college," she said at class orientation recently.

She asked students to open themselves to new perspectives.

"Consider that you might be wrong," she said, referring to a 1650 quote from Gen. Oliver Cromwell that she considers a fundamental today. "The international fellows are here to question your assumptions and their role is important for the students here and for those in government who must make decisions.

"We are going to try to fill you with material that you will draw on later," she said about the USAWC

curriculum. "It's difficult to go back and develop more knowledge at the time of decision. Try to develop the kind of capital you will need in your future career," she urged.

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