

# Canada's chief of the defense staff honored

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## Canada's chief of the defense staff honored by Army War College International Hall of Fame



*Gen. Walter J. Natynczyk, Chief of the Defence Staff Canadian Forces, was inducted into the Army War College International Hall of Fame Sept. 23. Natynczyk is a 2002 graduate of the Army War College. Photo by Megan Clugh.*

Sept. 23, 2009 – "It's all about relationships," said the Canadian graduate of the U.S. Army

War College, reflecting on impact of that experience in his development as a senior leader.

Gen. Walter J. Natynczyk, Chief of the Defence Staff Canadian Forces, was inducted into the Army War College International Hall of Fame today and addressed former classmates, faculty members and students of the current Class of 2010 here.

### **Role USAWC played in his development as a senior leader.**

"I'm a strategic leader because of what happened here," said the 2002 graduate. "Completing this class was a significant milestone in my life. I am the leader I am today because of the faculty and staff here."

Natynczyk urged the international fellows and US students of the class to recognize the value of relationships started here and leveraged later.

"Here we build up binds and trust in the international community that endure," he said. "Focus on the relationships, get to know each other. That is what is going to endure."

Natynczyk is the 31<sup>st</sup> inductee into the USAWC International Hall of Fame, which honors those foreign officers who completed the Army War College program and have attained the highest positions

in their nations' armed forces or equivalent position in a multinational organization. The Army War College has educated 1020 graduates of 122 nations since 1978.

**Career highlights include key roles with U.S. military**

Following the Army War College, Natynczyk was appointed deputy commanding general, III Corps and Fort Hood. He deployed in January 2004 with III Corps to Baghdad, Iraq, serving first as the deputy director of Strategy, Policy and Plans, and subsequently as the deputy commanding general of the Multi-National Corps (Iraq) during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Natynczyk led the Corps' 35,000 soldiers, consisting of 10 separate brigades, stationed throughout the Iraq Theatre of Operations.

Upon his return to Canada, he assumed command of the Land Force Doctrine and Training System. He was subsequently appointed Chief, Transformation, where he was responsible for implementation of the force restructuring and the enabling processes and policies.

Natynczyk was promoted to Lieutenant General, and assumed the responsibilities of the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff on 28 June, 2006.

Natynczyk was promoted to General and installed as Canada's Chief of the Defence Staff on July 2, 2008.