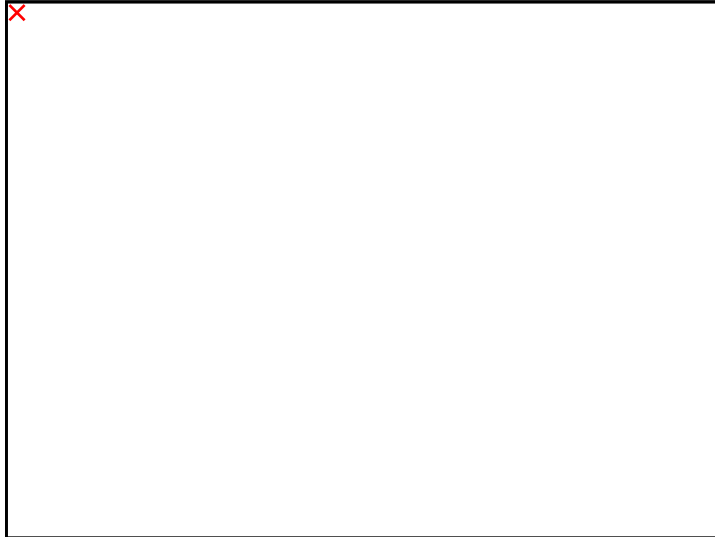


# Students hit the streets of NYC

*Thomas Zimmerman, Erin Stattel and Carol Kerr, Public Affairs Office*

## USAWC students hit the streets of New York to see lessons in action



*During the first day of the New York City academic trip, the students broke into 29 small groups to visit more than 30 different organizations.*

***This group visited Dow Jones. Photo by Thomas Zimmerman. want [more photos?](#)***

Nov. 23, 2009 -- Nearly 350 Army War College students invaded New York City for four days Nov. 18-21 to see applications of strategic leadership they have been learning about in seminar since August.

"There are several learning objectives that are accomplished by taking the students to New York City," said **Dr. Jim Helis**, chairman of the Department on National Security and Strategy. "The first is exposure to senior leadership in a non-military or civilian organization that is either government run or private. That complements their course on strategic leadership. Students can develop an appreciation for domestic issues and participate in urban affairs that affect strategic development by seeing all the complexities of running a city."

Seeing the lessons in action and how to apply them in their own careers is one of the focal points of the trip.

"The learning occurs there in New York, but part of the experience also occurs here when they share their experiences with the rest of their seminars. We really want them to take advantage of what strategic opportunities there are out there and capitalize on the opportunity to speak with civilian leaders on behalf of the military," said Helis.

During the first day, the students broke into 29 small groups to visit more than 30 different organizations.

"The visits were outstanding and relevant to what we are studying," said **Lt. Col. Mark Towne**, who visited the NYPD Counterterrorism Division and the Dow Jones. "The intent of this trip is to see how these organizations fit into national strategy and the two visits I had today showed how they fit into the national commitment to counterterrorism and the role of the media in covering strategic issues. I think we accomplished our intent."

**Czech Republic Col. Vladimir Barca** also went on the visit and agreed.

"It was very interesting overall," he said. "With globalization all democratic countries are potential targets for terrorism so there was a lesson for everyone in the room."

Another small group visited the Office of Emergency Management.

"There were some similarities to my job, for instance, complications of dealing with various offices and coming up with creative solutions to problems," said **Air Force Lt. Col. Hector Cruz**.

***Another group visited the NYPD Counterterrorism Department.***



The application of DIME, or the four elements of national power, was a common theme during the visits.

**Lt. Col. Jonathan McColumn** visited Patriotic Partners, a company that specializes in assisting small businesses.

“One of the best parts of the visit was that the CEO sat with us and gave us advice and tidbits from her time as a strategic leader for her company,” he said. “She stressed that the moral aspects of the decision making process at the strategic level is vital, which very clearly applies to those in the military. Until we can clearly define the problem we can’t find a solution.”

“My visit to the Port Authority really showed me how important the economic factor of DIME is,” said **Lt. Col. Sergio Dickerson**. “It helps give us a strategic

perspective on how vital shipping and commerce are to not only New York but the rest of the country.”

**Lt. Col. Carla Campbell** visited the US mission to the United Nations to get a better perspective on the diplomatic element.

“It was a unique experience. I had never been exposed to the UN and how the US fits into that mission,” she said. “This really culminates on how we play in a larger political arena in a global environment which fits very nicely into our curriculum.”

A visit to Columbia University provided a different viewpoint for **Col. Jan Apo**.

“Our speaker was a professor from Columbia University and he was very critical of the current strategy in Afghanistan, but it was good insight to see from his perspective and his point of view.”

**Lt. Col. Rhonda Smillie** visited the Environmental Protection Agency sewage treatment center and new water filtration site.

“There’s tremendous strategic vision required to serve a city of this size, dealing with interagency coordination, federal regulations, state regulations and the politics of where to put a sewage treatment center,” she said. “We saw the application of what we’re learning in class about dealing with the complexity of regulations, politics, expenditure of dollars, and security involved for protection of the infrastructure.”

On day two a panel made up of **Amb. Roseanne DiCarlo**, U.S. Alternative Representative for Special Political Affairs to the United Nations, His Excellency **Philip J. Parham**, United Nations Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Rep. for the United Kingdom, and **Kiplin Perkins**, UN Department of Field Support, discussed the United Nations.

Some of the topics were peacekeeping operations, environmental concerns and the role of the UN today.

“The experience with the UN is a close encounter with the diplomatic community and an appreciation for the UN can factor into different jobs,” said Helis. “I hope they take away an appreciation for contemporary domestic issues and can fit that into their thinking of National Strategy so they have a better appreciation of the role of the UN and our allies’ views,” he said.