

Symposium helps prepare civilian students

Thomas Zimmerman, Army War College Public Affairs Office

Symposium helps prepare civilian students for next phase of career

March 2, 2010 -- Civilian students of the Army War College met face-to-face with senior leaders to learn about the challenges and issues that may face them in their future assignments during the Civilian Career Days Feb. 23-24 at the Army War College.

The symposium is part of a continuing effort to assist USAWC civilian students in their careers after they complete their studies. In 2006, the Army War College established a Senior Civilian Advisor position to assist in the placement of civilian students after graduation. In prior years, the students returned to their previous assignments.

"The placements are successful primarily due to the involvement of Senior Executive Service Functional Chiefs and Career Program Managers," said Dr. Sara Morgan, USAWC Senior Civilian Advisor. "The senior officials are invited to Carlisle each year to interview Army War College students for placement in the various Army Commands represented."

"The objective is to provide reassignment abilities for the USAWC civilian students to learn the mission, vision, and goals and get us interested in the respective command," said Mary Marshall, USAWC civilian student. "By arranging this opportunity, Dr. Morgan is making sure that USAWC civilian students have every opportunity to be placed in strategic leadership, advisor, and planner positions." Marshall said that students are able to formally accept positions once they complete their studies.

She said that opportunities like these are important to the students.

"Opportunities such as Career Days are important for civilian students because they ensure students are placed in strategic positions where the Army is able to benefit from the educational investment they have made in us for the academic year at the USAWC."

Morgan said that the symposium also helps provide students with the insight into strategic leadership

issues and challenges they will face in their future assignments, according to Morgan.

"It also serves as an opportunity to provide students with information regarding key strategic leader, advisor, and planner career positions for placement consideration prior to graduation," she said. "The Army's senior leadership recognizes the importance of developing civilian leaders. Senior Service College education prepares civilians for positions of greater leadership responsibility, and provides advanced leadership education in order for them to make greater contributions to the Army."

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