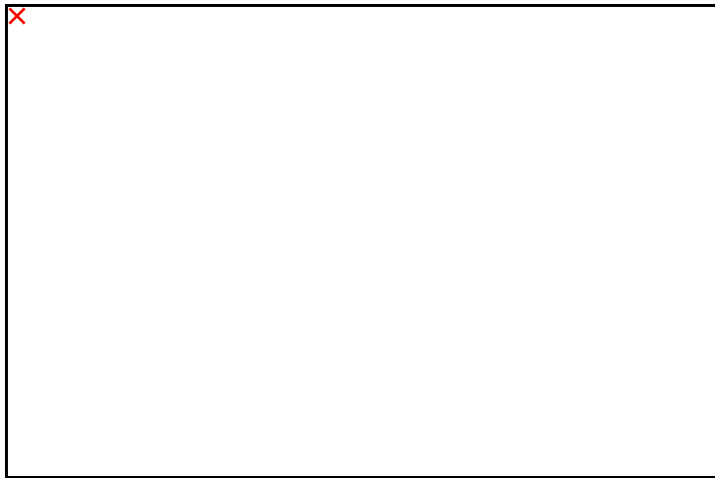


Course brings senior reserve officers to USAWC

Thomas Zimmerman, Army War College Public Affairs Office

Course helps senior reserve officers to stay on cutting edge of military education



Senior Reserve Component Officer Course attendees listen to a panel discussion Feb. 24 in Wil Waschoe Auditorium. During the week-long course, more than 30 senior reserve component officers came to the Army War College to discuss national security decision-making, contemporary national security issues and joint processes for land power development. Photo by Scott Finger.

March 1, 2010 -- The Army War College welcomed more than 30 senior reserve component officers for the 48th Senior Reserve Component Officer Course Feb. 22-26.

The main purpose of the course is to familiarize senior Reserve Component leaders with the USAWC and its curriculum, according to Col. Joe Charsagua, Director, Reserve Component Integration and Army Reserve Adviser to the Commandant. During the course participants also review and discuss national security decision-making, contemporary national security issues and joint processes for land power development.

The course is designed to be an opportunity to exchange ideas on issues affecting the entire military, including force integration, equipping and manning, and joint processes and land power development, according to Charsagua.

"This is a great opportunity to see again the great programs here at the Army War College," said attendee Brig. Gen. Dwayne Edwards, Deputy Commanding General, 108th Training Command in Charlotte N.C. and USAWC 2005 graduate. "The opportunity to talk with the students and learn what they are concerned about is really valuable."

The attendees are fully integrated into the resident classes and listen to guest speakers and learn about the USAWC institutes and organizations.

"The greatest value in this event is the cross-pollination that occurs between the resident students and the SRCOC guests," said Charsagua. "Students gain an appreciation of the issues facing senior RC leaders that they can discuss frankly in the seminar environment."

The course is also an opportunity for the leaders to see with their own eyes the student experience at the Army War College.

"The reserve component senior leaders get to share their insights with students and they in turn gain an appreciation of the academic program at the Army War College, the caliber of the students attending, and hopefully to return back to their commands to encourage their junior officers to aspire and apply for resident attendance at the senior service colleges, in particular the Army War College," he said.

The keynote speaker for this year's course was the Honorable Dennis McCarthy, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. He spoke about the continually changing nature of warfare and the issues and challenges facing the Reserves.

On the last day of the course the participants travel down to the Gettysburg battlefield where Army War College faculty link expertise in the leadership domain with lessons of Gettysburg to demonstrate that the strategy, sacrifice and leadership lessons are as applicable in 2009 as they were in 1863.

"Being able to come here and see first-hand what we're teaching our future senior leaders in this collaborative environment was fantastic," said Brig. Gen. Daniel York, Division Commander of the 104th Training Division located at Vancouver Barracks, Wash and USAWC grad. "I hope that the students were able to learn from me because I learned so much from them."