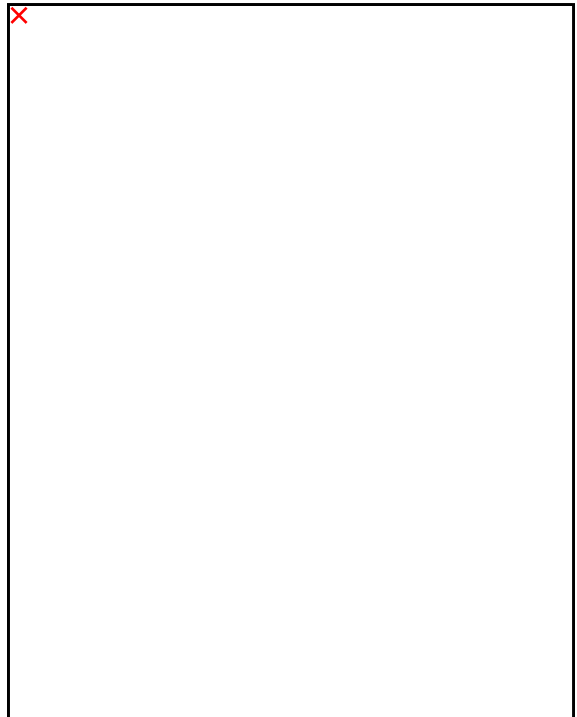


# USAWC student 'egg drop' teaches lesson

*Public Affairs staff report*

## USAWC student 'egg drop' teaches lesson about creativity

*Col. Walt Mercer shows that his egg remains intact after being dropped from a ladder as part of an exercise in the Creative Leadership elective at the Army War College. The course teaches future senior leaders the importance of creative thinking. courtesy photo.*



March 31, 2010 -- Army War College students participating in the Creative Leadership elective raised eyebrows as they walked into the Root Hall gym for an exercise on March 23. The students were asked to design a system that would enable a raw egg to survive the drop from a height of eight feet. The catch? The system components must be made of edible material. The entries ranged from loaves of bread, heads of lettuce, pizza crust filled with marshmallows, and a parachute contraption made with dried seaweed. Of the 13 systems, ten eggs made it through undamaged.

Back in the seminar room, the after action review commenced. The group discussed creativity concepts presented in the elective, validated some of the instruments on personal preferences, and shared their thoughts on how they embarked on the "silly" task. Tying the exercise into a current operations application, Prof Chuck Allen, wrote three letters on the board—"I-E-D"—and asked how the exercise related to military's approach to protecting servicemembers against the most deadly weapon faced in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Creativity is about solving real tough problems that have defied other solutions and require novel ways of thinking," said Allen. "As presented in the elective, developing and supporting creativity in organizations is a necessary skill for senior leaders."

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