

Army Civilian University assumes AMSC oversight

TRADOC News Service

Army Civilian University assumes responsibility for AMSC

Feb. 3, 2009 -- Army Civilian University, the institution created this year with the mandate to integrate and optimize Army civilian development and training, is taking its first major step by assuming oversight of Army Management Staff College at Fort Belvoir, Va., by Jan. 30, 2009.

Army Management Staff College is the Army's premier schoolhouse for civilian leader education for basic and advanced leadership and management responsibilities.

The Secretary of the Army and Army Chief of Staff established ACU as a direct answer to multiple detailed studies and analyses recommending greater accessibility and visibility of educational opportunity to its Civilian Corps. An institution based on organizational structure and common standards, rather than the physical construct and central location of a university that one might expect, ACU will serve as the connective tissue between educational institutions focused primarily on Army civilians.

For Army civilians – and for the Army as a whole – this is very good news, said ACU President Jim Warner. "ACU will significantly enhance the Army's capability to deliver training to civilians and provide visibility, accountability and optimization of current assets to the Army and its commanders.

"However, front and center, Army Civilian University's mission is about enhancing our Army's ability to accomplish its diverse and demanding missions during this era of persistent conflict," said Warner. "It's about restoring balance, sustaining the civilian contribution to the all-volunteer force and strengthening the Army's agility and strategic flexibility. The Army can't do this without a trained and ready civilian workforce."

The transfer of AMSC to ACU was established by a Combined Arms Center Fragmentary Order, effective Nov. 26, 2008, and will be executed over a 60-day period, from Dec. 1, 2008 to Jan. 30, 2009.

What is Army Civilian University?

Army Civilian University is the emerging institution charged with the development and oversight of

an enterprise approach to civilian education.

Currently headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Va., ACU is not a physical place where civilians attend – like the Army War College. Rather, it is the organizational unification of select academic institutions that serve primarily civilians in support of the Army mission. ACU was created to achieve greater visibility and opportunity for civilian personnel – while having the adaptability and assets to provide civilians the training that Army and its commanders need most.

ACU supports U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command's establishment of integrated curricula with a standardized, competency-based approach to civilian education and leader development. While ACU will be focused on providing civilians the training the Army needs – and much of this education will be accredited by universities – it is not foreseen at this time that ACU will award academic degrees.

In July 2007, the Secretary of the Army and Chief of Staff of the Army approved Army Initiative 5, "Accelerate Leader Development," giving TRADOC executive agency responsibility for leader development and establishing ACU.

Although ACU's development is in its early stages, the institution's impact over the long term will be significant for the Army. ACU expectations are to:

- Enhance the Army's capability to deliver training to the Civilian.
- Produce trained and ready adaptive civilian leaders who are strategic thinkers.
- Prepare leaders to operate across the full spectrum of operations in an environment of persistent conflict.
- Strengthen the quality of each individual educational institution by ensuring appropriate investment in faculty and facilities while developing strong research and publication programs.
- Create leader development strategies and education systems for Army Civilians, as well as synchronizes an enterprise of well-integrated institutions, building linkages with the larger academic community.
- Assist the Army to develop a clear positive civilian identity, while streamlining leader development and providing cross-functional opportunities.
- Ensure the Army leadership model keeps pace with change and resourcing challenges of the Civilian Corps and the increasing role of Civilians in the leadership positions.

· Streamline activities and operations together into a leader development and education enterprise that develops distinct competency based learning models.

U.S. Army War College Archives - News Article - 03 February 2009