

Buzby stresses importance of ethical leadership

Thomas Zimmerman, Army War College Public Affairs Office

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Rear Admiral Mark H. Buzby, deputy chief of staff for Global Force Management and Joint Operations, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, spoke in Bliss Hall April 1 as part of the Commandants Lecture Series. His talk focused on his time as commander, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and the importance of ethics. Photo by Megan Clugh.

April 1, 2009 – The unique operating environments around the world that the U.S. military operate in and the complex ethical dilemmas each present was the topic of the fourth lecture in the Commandants Lecture Series April 1.

Rear Admiral Mark H. Buzby, deputy chief of staff for Global Force Management and Joint Operations, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, spoke frankly about his time as commander, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and the importance of ethics.

"There is a lot of interest in what we do," he said. "We have a huge responsibility for the lives we are charged to protect."

He shared with the students, staff and faculty in Bliss Hall the importance of maintaining their ethical bearing, no matter the situation.

"You have to balance the mission against whatever you are experiencing personally," he said. "That's why leadership is so important." He said the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines at Guantanamo Bay performed brilliantly with a difficult mission.

Buzby provided valuable insight according to members of the audience.

"He's a Sailor's Sailor," said **Cmdr. Joe Keenan**, War College student. "His experience makes him highly qualified to talk about this subject."

"In contrast to those scholars, all civilian theorists of military ethics and the just-war tradition, Rear Adm. Buzby was the first speaker in this year's CLS to represent senior-level professional leadership in the military," said **Dr. David Perry**, Professor of Arms, Department of Command, Leadership, and Management. "His candid reflections on the challenges facing troops guarding detainees at Guantanamo, and the importance of upholding very high standards of integrity in spite of those challenges, were very well received."

"It was great for him to come and explain ethical senior leadership from his perspective," said Navy **Capt. Al Lord**, the USAWC Navy Senior Service Representative. "The CLS presents the issues of ethics from both a theoretical and practical aspect. As a senior military officer he was faced with very significant challenges and it was very beneficial to hear about these decisions from someone who had 'been there.'"

Commandants Lecture Series

The theme for this year's lecture series is Ethics in Strategic Military Leadership: Theory and Practice. The series presents prominent speakers representing diverse backgrounds, expertise and varied perspectives. Invited speakers include both senior military leaders and academic experts.

Previous speakers in this year's CLS were: Dr. Martin Cook, Professor of Philosophy at the U.S. Air Force Academy and author of "The Moral Warrior"; Dr. Albert Pierce, University Professor of Ethics and National Security at National Defense University; and Dr. Michael Walzer, Professor Emeritus at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and author of "Just and Unjust Wars."