

# USAWC Class of 2009 to graduate June 6

## Army War College to graduate next generation of senior military leaders



*Members of the Class of 2008 applaud the speaker during their graduation last year. The Class of 2009 will graduate on June 6, at 9 a.m. at the Wheelock Bandstand. file photo*

June 2, 2009 -- Afghanistan, Iraq, the Global War on Terrorism and other operational challenges await the students who will graduate from the U.S. Army War College here Saturday, June 6 at 9 a.m. at the historic parade ground's Wheelock Bandstand.

Commencement speaker, Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston, will address the resident students in the Class of 2009. Since 2009 is the Year of the NCO, it is most fitting that the Sergeant Major of the Army addresses these future military leaders.

Preston has served as the Army's senior NCO since January 2004. As Sergeant Major of the Army, Preston serves as the Army Chief of Staff's personal adviser on all enlisted-related matters, particularly in areas affecting Soldier training and quality of life.

Preston will address the USAWC Class of 2009 with comments about the role of noncommissioned Soldiers and the special responsibilities of noncommissioned officers, NCOs, in meeting the Army's operational demands in Iraq and Afghanistan. The SMA has served in leadership positions throughout his 34-year career, to include the Combined/Joint Task Force-7 in Baghdad. He travels frequently to visit deployed Soldiers, most recently to Iraq.

The graduating Class of 2009 consists of 336 students, which include 147 Army, 24 Army Reserve, 27 Army National Guard, 25 Air Force, three Air National Guard, four Air Force Reserve, 11 Navy, two Navy Reserve, 14 Marines, three Marine Reserve and one Coast Guard Officer.

Thirty-three civilians from the Department of the Army, Defense Leadership and Management

Program, Department of State, National Security Agency, and Department of Homeland Security, are also in attendance, as well as 42 International Fellows, foreign military officers from – Afghanistan, Albania, Australia, Bahrain, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom.

The U.S. Army War College, educating senior leaders since 1901 – in Carlisle since 1951--was established "not to promote war, but to preserve peace."

The Army's most prestigious institution for the study of strategic landpower, prepares senior officers of the Army, Marine Corps, Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard to serve in the highest command and staff positions in the Armed Forces of the United States.

[In case of inclement weather, digital signage at the gates will announce change in venue. The ceremony will be moved to the Bliss Hall auditorium, with guest seating in Reynolds Theater, and within Root Hall in conference and seminar rooms.]

### **Child care available during Commandant's Reception, Graduation**

Child, Youth and School Services will have extended hours during the Commandant's Reception June 2 from 5 to 9 p.m. Children ages infant to preschool will be at the Moore Child Development Center and children age 5 to 18 will be at Youth Services. Snacks will be provided.

A babysitter list is provided for those who prefer to keep children at home. The list must be signed for by a student of faculty member.

The Moore Child Development Center will open at 8 a.m. on June 6 child care during the Army War College Resident Graduation. Children must be 8 weeks to 5 years old, and must be registered at the CDC in advance. The cost will be \$3.50 an hour per child.