

# USAWC says goodbye to another class of graduates

*Maj. Gen. Robert Williams, U.S. Army War College Commandant*

## **Commandant's farewell to the class**

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"May you live in interesting times" has been used variously as a blessing or a curse. It is reality for the students and international fellows ending your passage through the Army War College year of instruction, reflection and development.

This past year will persist in your memory as a reminder that we are all citizens of the world. We know that the special bonds of friendships created here will serve as buoys in this chaotic world. We trust that the critical insights realized here and the ethical principles deepened here will serve as beacons through turbulent times.

The world is too complex to accomplish national security objectives through military means alone in the future, as you have heard many times from guest speakers this year. We must understand the role and capabilities of other U.S. agencies, the environmental and political considerations of other nations, and the socio-economic conditions of the world's citizens. Through dialogue here with colleagues and the academic guests who influence our world, you are prepared to engage the world in a new way.

The Army War College year is unique among all others. You were enriched academically and you were invited to select from more additional opportunities than one year makes possible. From the moment you created your individual learning plan, you recognized that this would not be the year the Army War College faculty designed. This was the year you designed. You took responsibility to seek out and exploit opportunities to learn from others, develop relationships, and sharpen critical thinking skills and communication competencies. It was your judgment at in choosing family focus, social activities, community engagement, and lifestyle changes for fitness and health. I hope that your Army War College diploma will be a symbol of both professional and personal development here.

The Army War College represents a lifelong commitment to education. You'll undoubtedly find reason to reach back for faculty expertise and for publications to inform your understanding and decisions. Additionally, I urge each of you to consider the USAWC year as an opening salvo in your lifelong commitment to educating yourself and challenging yourself. I challenge you to be the smart, agile leader we will need for the "interesting times" in

which we live.

U.S. Army War College Archives - News Article - 02 June 2009