

Army War College speaker's bureau provides real world experts to York College students.

By Robert Martin 02 October 2018



Army War College students from left to right Lt. Col. Jeffrey Greenwald, Mr. George Link, from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, Army Lt. Col. Brett Verneti and Mr. Nathaniel Walbridge, Defense Intelligence Agency take questions from the

Four United States Army War College students spoke at a panel discussion on contemporary intelligence issues at York College's Wolf Hall Sep. 25. The York College Intelligence Analysis Department of History and Political Science hosted the panel discussion.

The York College event is one of more than 300 speaking events supported by Army War College faculty, staff and students each year. Across the southcentral Pennsylvania region, senior military officers and federal representatives share expert insights and experiences at civic organization events, in college and high school classrooms, veterans' ceremonies, and more.

Students share their expertise on topics like U.S. operations in

Afghanistan, leadership, the U.S role in humanitarian assistance, ethics, and the role of the military in response to ISIS.

York College academic panel

“It’s nice to have Dr. Weaver tell us about his experiences but rarely do we get someone who actually has been through what we are learning about today,” said sophomore Max Vargo a student at York College. “We read about intelligence operations, and can get a good idea of what they are. But, we don’t get the human element, so getting Army War College officers to come here allows us to understand more about the field we want to get into,” he said.

“I really found what Lt. Col. Verneti said about the North Korea very interesting,” said Vargo. “When he described what could happen if there was an unexpected regime change in North Korea, the chaos that would follow and the massive amount of people that could flood into South Korea is something I would not have thought of.”

“My goal with hosting this panel discussion is to bridge the gap between theory and practice,” said Dr. John M. Weaver, Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator Intelligence Analysis Department of History and Political Science. “Having Army War College students that actually work in the real world on intelligence and national security issues speak to the students on contemporary threats allows them to have a deeper understanding of complicated issues that face our nation,” he said.

The USAWC panelist were Marine Lt. Col. Jeffrey Greenwald, Mr. George Link from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, Army Lt. Col. Brett Verneti and Mr. Nathaniel Walbridge, Defense Intelligence Agency fielded questions from about 50 students attending the discussion, e.g., Where you stand, what are the most pressing threats that you see in the world today? And, how do you assess the sharing of intelligence with other global partners in the world? And, are intelligence analysts in your respective organizations more able to perform their jobs today than they were pre-9/11 -- and if so, how?