

Air Force vice Chief of Staff Talks of Leadership and the Next Steps

By Robert D. Martin II 24 January 2019



(Carlisle Barracks) - The Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force visited the Army War College yesterday to discuss leadership principles, issues facing the U.S. Air Force squadron growth and competition of resources between sister services and commercial enterprises.

In Bliss Hall, Gen. Stephen "Seve" Wilson, started his presentation to the class of 2019 speaking about the importance of keeping balance in one's life, to ensure warfighters are ready every day. He said he tries to hold himself to the philosophy of "2-10-5-7," which is the same philosophy he recommends to all his Airmen.

These numbers (2-10-5-7) translate into; 2 hours in the morning for yourself (fitness, meditation, reading), 10 hours for work, 5 hours to unplug and get away from work, and 7 hours for sleep.

Next, he spoke about the importance of ‘truth to power, and the need for military leaders to be honest and give clear advise to leaders in senior positions. He used the historical examples of the Civil War and the Bay of Pigs and noted the advice given to Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy during these critical times to illustrate his point. Noting that a military leader’s word matters now more than ever.

He gave examples of the expectations senior leaders will have of the class of 2019 as they graduate and move into positions as senior leaders and advisors. He said they are to continue the exceptional careers that brought them to the War College, but, noted they need to add the additional tools they learned while here. They will need to critically think at a higher level, move from tactical to strategic, be innovative, take ownership of their decisions, be people of character, and live by their core values.

Gen. Wilson presides over the Air Force Staff and serves as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Requirements Oversight Council and Deputy Advisory Working Group. He assists the Chief of Staff of the Air Force with organizing, training, and equipping the 670,000 active-duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian personnel serving the Air Force at home and overseas.