

## **Distance Class of 2020 graduates July 24; Lt. Gen. Charles Flynn, the U.S Army Director of Operations, Plans and Training is the guest speaker.**

By Elena Patton, Public Affairs Office 23 July 2020



*Lt. Gen. Charles A. Flynn will be the guest speaker for the 2020 Distance Education students on July 24. Flynn is the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7, Headquarters, Department of the Army.*



*Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy caps the two-year studies of the Distance Class of 2020 with a discussion of strategic leadership roles and responsibilities.*

The Distance Class of 2020 will celebrate its graduation at locations that

are literally around the world. The graduation ceremony is set for Friday, July 24 at 9 a.m., to be broadcast live from the Army War College's Bliss Hall at [www.armywarcollege.edu/live](http://www.armywarcollege.edu/live), featuring guest speaker Lt. Gen. Charles Flynn, the U.S Army Director of Operations, Plans and Training.

Video of the full ceremony will be available Friday afternoon at [www.youtube.com/usarmywarcollege](http://www.youtube.com/usarmywarcollege). Ceremony photos and graduates' photos will be available in Class of 2020 albums at [www.flickr.com/photos/usawc](http://www.flickr.com/photos/usawc)

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Lt. Gen. Charles Flynn is the Army Deputy Chief of Staff, G3/5/7 responsible for Army operations, plans and training. His service includes command of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 504<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, deployed to both OEF and OIF; 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division at Fort Bragg and Iraq; and 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Following division command, he served as Deputy CG, US Army Pacific Command and, prior to his current assignment, he was Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, G3/5/7.

Flynn is a graduate of the US Naval War College and the Joint Advanced Warfighting School with a master's degree in Joint Campaign Planning and Strategy from National Defense University.

The graduates have earned a USAWC diploma and Joint Professional Military Education Certificate and, for most, the master's degree in Strategic Studies.

The graduating class of 2020 distance education includes almost 400 graduates, comprising Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps officers in the active force, Reserve, and National Guard as well as federal civilian employees of the Army, DoD, DoJ, DVA and Congress among others. International officers in the class represent Japan, Lithuania, among others.

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July 23, 2020 – The two-year curriculum of the Army War College Distance Class of 2020 concluded today with a special engagement with Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy.

The majority of the engagement on Blackboard consisted of a live Q&A session, which he encouraged by saying that he learns just as much from the students as they learn from his expertise and experience.

McCarthy's presentation centered on several important themes ranging from great power competition and defense management to the Army's people-centric priorities. He spoke candidly about Army senior leaders' roles with respect to urgent topical issues, like race relations and sexual assault and harassment in the Service.

His comments on the South China Sea enhanced the students' experience in the capstone exercise, the South China Sea 2023 Matrix Game, which they completed yesterday.

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July 22, 2020 -- Today the Distance Education students executed their capstone exercise, the South China Sea 2023 Matrix Game. This exercise allows students to synthesize all they have learned over the past two years, said Sylvester Brown, deputy director of the USAWC Distance Education Dept. This war game takes a real-world, international problem and combines it with some artificial elements to test the students' strategic thinking skills while problem-solving, he said.

The last two weeks of the two-year graduate program explores the integrated application of the DIME elements of power: Diplomatic, Informational, Military and Economic. This exercise fell primarily under the diplomatic portion, although it combined all DIME elements.

In addition to the major events, interactions within the seminars continue to play a pivotal role in every activity; the Socratic seminar dialogue functions as the foundation for learning from the rich experience and expertise of each other.

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July 17, 2020 – The two-year distance education version of the signature Army War College functions as the capstone exercise for those whole Distance Education Program, that is being conducted entirely online this year. “I think it is toughest on the students, said Col. Francis Frazier, SRC director. “I am really impressed with the energy students are bringing to this.

“We are working hard to get them the best experience we can,” said Frazier.

The remotely delivered SRC this year includes a particularly valuable set of speakers and topics, appropriate to the final set of engagements for these students. They include, among others -- Ambassador Robert Emmet

Lighthizer, U.S. Trade Representative; William Joseph Burns, president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and former United States Deputy Secretary of State; Charles Thomas Cleveland, retired Army Lt. Gen. who commanded the United States Army Special Operations Command; and Brig. Gen. Adam C. Volant, Director of Operations, US Army Cyber Command.

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July 13, 2020 -- This week begins the Second Resident Course of the USAWC Distance Class of 2020, July 13-24. Physical attendance at Carlisle for the 14-day course is replaced this year by an enhanced version of the distance learning the students have mastered for two years.

The special revamp of SRC includes synchronous activities with expert speakers and strategic leaders – and within the seminar.

This course includes mostly colonels, lieutenant colonels, and international fellows—predominately in the Army Reserve and National Guard—who balance online learning with civilian job, Reserve duties, and home life. These SRC students started their studies in Summer 2018.