

Army War College recognizes two early graduates: ‘You have what it takes to make decisions for the toughest problems’

By Curt Keester 21 May 2019



Army Lt. Col. Jason Johnson and Israeli Fellow Col. Yuval Gez each received an Army War College diploma, a master's degree of Strategic Studies in Wil Washcoe Auditorium May 21, 2019.



(Left to Right) Maj. Gen. John Kem, Army War College Commandant, presents Lt. Col. Jason Johnson with his diploma and master's degree, May 21. Col. Jeffrey Settle, Associate Provost, and Richard Lacquement, Dean accompanied Kem.



(Left to Right) Maj. Gen. John Kem, Army War College Commandant, Israeli Fellow Col. Yuval Gez with his diploma and master's degree, May 21. Col. Jeffrey Settle, Associate Provost, and Richard Lacquement, Dean accompanied Kem.

The formal graduation ceremony of the Army War College Class isn't until June 7, but mission requirements sometimes require exceptions. This year, two Army War College students graduated early and their families, friends, faculty, and the War College leadership created a small but no small but significant event to mark the occasion of their graduation.

Army Lt. Col. Jason Johnson and Israeli Fellow Col. Yuval Gez each received an Army War College diploma, a master's degree of Strategic Studies and the congratulations of the military and academic leadership of the Army War College in Wil Washcoe Auditorium May 21, 2019.

"You all were highly proven tactical leaders when you got here, and now we're asking you to step up to a different level and be true enterprise

strategic leaders to make a difference," said Army War College Commandant Maj. Gen. John Kem.

"In a world of ever-increasing complexity and velocity of change, one of the things we need more than ever is more intellectual effort. Hopefully that's been re-sparked, re-kindled inside you.

"Even in the day-to-day, you'll get back out there to your jobs -- people will start worrying about the topic du jour and the crisis of the moment. The reality is the intellectual precedes the physical particularly at senior levels because you're not as physical as you use to be.

"The real demand on you is how you can think and bring teams together, and I know the academic curriculum this year helped you for going forward. The rigors of the academic program, the readings, the discussions, the many hours in Bliss Hall are behind you, but they shouldn't be forgotten," said Kem.

Lt. Col. Jason Johnson said the most significant thing he'll take away from his time at the War College is ... "the network of new friends and colleagues, U.S. military, interagency and international. Time again it's proven after our professional military schools that we will see each other and work with each other again."

Israeli Col. Yuval Gez said, "I'm going to read the newspaper totally differently tomorrow morning because I've become aware of the complexity of the environment all over the world ...

"I learned to ask two questions, whether we are doing the right thing, and whether we are doing the thing right," said Gez.

Johnson was recognized as a superior graduate.