

You are only as good as the team behind you -- Croatian Defense Minister Krsticevic

By Robert Martin 24 May 2018



Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister of Croatia Damir Krsticevic walks with USAWC Deputy Commander Col. Ken Adgie through the hall of flags after his induction into the International Hall of Fame



Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister of Croatia Damir Krsticevic address the class of 2018 sharing his experiences and insights during his induction into the International Hall of Fame



Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister of Croatia Damir Krsticevic shakes the hand of Maj. Gen. Jon Jensen of the Minnesota National Guard. The Minnesota Guard and the Croatian Army are part of the State Partnership program.

(Carlisle Barracks, 22 May) - Damir Krsticevic, Croatian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, returned today to the halls of the Army War College where he once was a student in 1998.

The U.S. Army War College formally recognized the career achievements of Damir Krsticevic in a ceremony of induction into the International Fellows Hall of Fame, an elite group of 67 graduates who attained preeminent military or national positions.

“Entering Carlisle Barracks this morning brought back memories of one of the best years of my military career,” said Krsticevic, who noted, “the enthusiasm, the growth, the chance to learn and engage in discussion with some of the finest military minds, leaders and colleagues from the United

RELATED LINKS

[US Army War College Facebook](#)

[US Army War College Flickr](#)

States and other countries,”

“I attended the Army War College two years after the war ended,” he said, about Croatia’s War of Independence. “Now, new horizons were opening up as I learned through reading, writing and discussion. We covered topics of Thucydides, the relevance of land power and complex planning.

“We were also tough on each other, using critical strategic thinking and negotiation techniques to cut through our opinions, biases and interests. We learned from each other,” he said about his student year at Carlisle.

“You are the future leaders, all of you, apply what you have learned and create an environment with your subordinates,” Krsticevic said to the leaders, faculty and students of the USAWC Class of 2018, gathered to recognize the honor. “It is critical to give everyone on your team a chance to contribute to the best of their ability. My own experience in leadership has repeatedly shown that this is the key to success.

“I have found that even a driven and focused leader is only as good as the team behind him,” he said. “Building a winning team is a deliberate process in which no effort is to be spared.”

Krsticevic is a Homeland War veteran, commander of the 4th Guards Brigade and post-war Deputy Chief of General Staff of Croatian Armed Forces. He started his military career as an active participant and volunteer in the Homeland War. He was commander of the 4th Guards Brigade during the liberation operations of the occupied territories of the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, including Operations WINTER 94, SUMMER 95, STORM, and MAESTRAL.

In 1998, he was appointed commander of the Training Command and soon after that Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Croatian Armed Forces. He retired in 2000 as Major General.

Krsticevic has held the political offices of the Chairman of the Homeland Security Council of the President of the Republic of Croatia; he served as member of the Croatian Parliament, and was Head of the Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

The U.S. Army War College International Fellows Hall of Fame was established to provide a prestigious and visible means of honoring USAWC International graduates who have attained, through military merit, the highest positions in their nation's armed forces, or who have held an equivalent position by rank or responsibility in a multinational organization.

