

## U.S. Army War College welcomes, convenes Resident Class of 2022

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Convocation begins the academic year for Army War College Resident Class of 2022, in Carlisle Pa, Aug. 13, 2021. The formal event introduced the 380 joint, interagency and international students to the faculty of academic and military professionals.



Qatari Navy Cmdr Ghanim Al-Kaabi, vice-president of the Class of 2022, speaks to his fellow students about making the most of the opportunity for personal and professional development, Aug. 13, 2021, at the Army War College Academic Convocation, Carlisle Pa.



Army Col. Ian Lauer, Class of 2022 President, spoke at the Army War College Convocation, Aug. 13, 2021, introducing his leadership team: Navy Cmdr Ghanim Al-Kaabi of Qatar, Army Col. Tonya Sebold, USAF Lt. Col. Chuck Redmond, Navy Cmdr Emily Turton.

The Chief Academic Officer, Commandant, Class President and Vice President welcomed the U.S. Army War College Resident Class of 2022 to "a beautiful Army outpost of intellectual and professional development." For the formal Academic Convocation, 380 Army War College students, all national security professionals, gathered in Bliss Hall and in seminar rooms throughout Root Hall, maintaining COVID protocols, Aug. 13.

**Provost Dr. Jim Breckenridge introduced the faculty as partners, guides, leaders, mentors**

"Your experience at Carlisle Barracks will likely be the last time in your professional careers for prolonged study," said Provost Dr. Jim Breckenridge. Use wisely this small window for deep learning before your post-graduate responsibilities as leaders and advisors, he urged.

"To assist you in your studies and intellectual pursuits is a superb faculty of

dedicated teachers, schools, and professionals | a variety of discipline. They bring to the school a wealth of talent and, above all, an intense desire to teach, research, and serve,” said Breckenridge. “They ... will guide you, lead you, and mentor you.

“They are your partners for the next year and, we hope, long into the future,” he said before presenting the faculty and these academic leaders: Dr. Edward Kaplan, Dean of the School of Strategic Landpower; Dr. Carrie Lee, chair of the National Security and Strategy; Army Col. Michael Hosie, Ph.D., chair of Command, Leadership and Management Army Col. Douglas Winton, Ph.D., chair of Military Strategy, Planning, and Operations and Army Col. Heather Smigowski, chair of Distance Education.

Faculty award winners, promotion honors, distinguished fellows, emeritus professors and newly selected honorary academic chair holders were met with applause.

***Commandant Maj. Gen. Steve Maranian welcomed students into the ranks of Eisenhower, Patton, Schwarzkopf, Odierno, Scaparotti, Dunford, and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin***

“The Joint Chiefs of Staff have assessed the changing character of war and determined that it will demand a different kind of strategic leader,” said Maranian. “Our objective is to prepare intellectually confident senior officers – able to manage the continuous integration of national instruments of power and influence, and ready to manage the unprecedented degree of global integration under conditions of disruptive change.

“Change is underway throughout the force – it’s not waiting for you. We’re depending on you to return to the force with a heightened ability to analyze critically, resolve problems and lead through change, apply ethical decision-making in ambiguous situations, leverage all of the talent you can attract to your team, and bolster your team’s resilience in what is sure to be an ever-increasing operational tempo,” he said.

“Your future will be more complicated and more complex than you expect,” said Maranian. “Your ideals and ethics will be tested. Your competitors will be more potent and their strategic asymmetric and more elusive than in the recent past.

“Your education here will prepare you .... Transform yourself for a transforming international security environment.”

***Class President Col. Ian Lauer spoke for the 380 resident students:***

### ***uncertainty our only certainty***

“We represent the Joint Force with 24 USAF students, 15 USMC and 10 USN students, 2 US Space Force students, and 1 Coast Guard student,” said Lauer. “We represent the total force body with 28 students serving in our National Guard and 34 in our Reserve components.

“We have emerged from the stress and ambiguity of a change in duty station and job ... Our international fellows have already experienced months of schooling, traveled from across the world – in some cases without families – just to prepare themselves for the academic year,” he said about the 80 International Fellows from 75 allied and partner nations.

“Feeling just as much foreigners in a foreign land are our joint and interagency colleagues to whom ... the unfamiliar service norms cannot simply be a trivial annoyance,” he said of the 24 civilian students representing 6 separate government agencies.

“Our composition is a product of neither randomness nor altruism,” he said. “Rather, it reflects the demands of the strategic environment and a glimpse into the future we may face. Upon graduation, we ... must navigate the complexities of competition and conflict. We must transcend traditional parochialism and promote diversity.

“With uncertainty as our only certainty, we will embrace the USAWC motto – Strength and Wisdom – in order to prepare ourselves to play a dynamic game with ever-changing rules,” said Lauer.

### ***Class Vice President Qatari Navy Cmdr Ghanim Al-Kaabi spoke of opportunity, solidarity, and hard work***

“I am confident that this course will become an essential component of the future military,” said Navy Cmdr. Ghanim Abdulla Al-Kaabi of Qatar, the Class Vice President & International Fellows President.

After a week of briefings from both AWC leaders and experts in fitness and wellness, he noted the first lesson of the war college – “discipline and self-control ... to build a strong body and sharpen a stubborn will,” he said.

The Army War College represents opportunity to refine choices, and shape character, said Al-Kaabi, “Being within the USAWC campus promotes solidarity and cooperation ... and enhances a sense of honor and service.”

