

## USAF Col. teaches strategic logistics, mentors USAWC students

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*Air Force Col. Michael Zick recognized for teaching strategic logistics and mentoring USAWC students.*

Air Force Col. Michael Zick is not only an Army War College faculty instructor but a committed mentor to students and faculty. The Excellence in Service Award acknowledges that.

His desire to go above and beyond to help other stems from his time as the commander for the Air Expeditionary Wing in Kuwait, 2011-2012.

“I was blown away by what I saw daily—how everybody, in incredible heat and sandstorms, just got the job done,” said Zick. “It really re-emphasized to me the importance that as a leader or somebody who is empowered to do things, make sure that you are not the roadblock, that you are always trying to help those that are doing the linework.”

His experience as a pilot flying C-130s provided him an in-depth

perspective on logistics. It wasn't an dropping in the family of handling ... with food and supplies and ammunition, I was moving around tires, Humvees. I was moving around all those things that are part of logistics."

The elective course on National Industrial Base branched out of my interest in logistics.

"I always wondered how the industrial base supports the Department of Defense," said Zick. "It is all those things you don't think about that are key for us to do our job, he said. "How do you make sure the power stays on, on different posts, how do you make sure the water isn't contaminated, how do you make sure the vaccines are there when you need them," he posed as examples.

In his sixth year of teaching at the War College, Zick has not forgotten that the first year of teaching can be overwhelming. He leads a faculty development team, focused on acclimating new instructors to the curriculum and the methodologies appropriate for teaching and guiding senior officers.

"I approach each lesson with how I can share information with the new faculty members and how I can provide a different view of how doing things, other than what we get from our normal lesson preparations," said Zick.

He co-teaches with a new faculty member the first course in the resident education program, introductions to strategic leadership. It serves as a laboratory for the new instructor each year, complete with his encouragement and insights. He also helps faculty adjust to using all the different technologies and platforms in the classroom, like Compass, Blackboard and MS Teams, and works to connect them with the resources they need. Beyond teaching the new instructors, he remains interested in how and how well they acclimate to the college.

His helping hand also extends to the administrative staff. "I am keenly aware that the faculty the instructor that's at the front of the class is the just tip of a very long spear supported by everybody.... It takes all of us to produce the best students we can," said Zick.

Zick leads planning and execution of Industry Day. A key element of the Defense Management curriculum, its design and external participation creates understanding of the military-industry programs and processes. Students engage corporate representatives, from companies large and small, and the military personnel who work the processes. The learning

event already aligns with his passion for regrowth.

As the Air Force Senior Service Representative, he mentored Air Force officers who came to the War College, 2017-2018. He remains committed supporting, mentoring, assisting faculty and students alike.

Through his leadership role as a Rotary club president for Carlisle, Zick serves his community. He helped raise funds to rebuild a kitchenette that served the homeless. Currently, he helps special needs adults find housing and employment through the Arc of Cumberland and Perry Counties, and he works with conservation organizations to plant trees and clear railways.

“I am very cognizant of the fact that you have to give back to your community and those around you because you never know the struggles that might come along,” said Zick. “My plan is to continue service work with my son, to pass on the legacy of service.”

Before joining the War College faculty, Zick served at the Air Mobility Command in roles of increasing leadership responsibility to include, Director of Staff, Assistant Deputy Director, and Deputy Director of Operations, 2012-2016.

Zick earned his B.S. in Aeronautical engineering from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, his M.S. in Aviation Management and a second M.S. in Airpower Studies from the Air Command and Staff College.