

So begins academic year 2023 at USAWC

By Elena Patton, Public Affairs Office 10 August 2022



Future Soldiers, recruited from the Harrisburg Recruiting Battalion as part of the Army's Future Soldier Program, attended the Opening Ceremony at Carlisle Barracks, August 8

The U.S. Army 3rd Infantry Regiment also known as The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, the U.S. Army Drill Team, the U.S. Army Band—Pershing's Own performed at the Opening Ceremony for academic year 2023 at the Army War College, August 8.

Carlisle Barracks, Pa.—Students, faculty, and six Future Soldiers ushered in the new academic year of 2023. Convocation revealed what students can expect over the next year and recognized the faculty who will lead students in their course work. The Opening ceremony followed, to celebrate the start of the year by bringing in the Army's best ceremonial bands and drill team.

“Like concrete that grows in strength and durability as it cures, your strength and durability will grow as you learn about yourselves, build trust in one another, and demonstrate respect for the unique perspectives that each of you has to offer,” said Maj. Gen. David Hill, the 53rd Commandant of the U.S. Army War College, during Convocation.

The unique perspectives, including those from Korean, Japanese, and Ukrainian international fellows, and the commitment and effort of the faculty are part of what makes the Army War College the institution of choice for

developing strategic leaders, said Hill.

“I could not be more excited to serve with you this year,” said Hill.

Students heard from their class president, who offered advice on how to make the most of their Carlisle Experience.

“Take advantage of the many opportunities offered here at Carlisle,” said class president for the academic year 2023, Col. Franyate Taylor.

“Get to know fellow students, faculty, researchers, and staff officers. Seek opportunities to build relationships and your portfolio of knowledgeable individuals. Maintain yourself, your family, and your balance,” said Taylor.

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony included performances by the U.S. Army 3rd Infantry Regiment also known as The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, the U.S. Army Drill Team, the U.S. Army Band—Pershing's Own, and a retreat ceremony.

“I served with the Special Guards in my country, and this is what I did for four years, said class vice president and Nigerian international fellow, Col. Ahmed Dikko. “This brought back a lot of memories. Military traditions can be very different. Yet, they can merge at a point and be very, very similar.”

This year's opening ceremony was unique because six Future Soldiers recruited from the Harrisburg Recruiting Battalion attended.

The Army's Future Soldier Program is a delayed entry program that allows individuals to commit to joining the Army without directly shipping to Basic Combat Training.

“The future program can run up to 365 days, said Staff Sgt. Tyler Blumenstock from the Harrisburg Recruiting Battalion, Carlisle Recruiting Company, York Recruiting Station. “That way, when we enlist High School seniors, we start them out slow, we believe in the crawl, walk, run in our future Soldier program. We see them every Thursday when we start physical training. By the time they are to ship out, they are ready and there are no surprises at basic training.”

Why they chose to serve

“I am looking at the Army to provide experience and to help me through college as well,” said Demitrous Combs.

“Many of my family members are in the Army,” said Victoria Halcott. “I did not know what I wanted to do, so this is a great pathway and experience to open my horizons to see what I want to do.”

Caleb Bricker wants to follow in his grandfather’s footsteps and save lives on the battlefield as a medic.

“Being a naturalized citizen [from Vietnam] who moved to the United States, I want to give something back to the United States,” said Quan Ngo. “It has provided me so much. I just want to provide back,” Quan Ngo.

As part of the celebratory start to the academic year 2023, the following seven faculty were appointed as academic chairs:

General Douglas MacArthur Chair of Research—Dr. Antulio Echevarria

Henry L. Stimson Chair of Military Studies—Professor Robert Bradford

General George S. Patton Chair of Operational Research and Analysis—Mr. James Markley

Admiral William F. Halsey Chair of Naval Studies—Col. Jonathan P. Klug

General John J. Pershing Chair of Military Planning and Operations—Dr. Brett Weigle

General Brehon Burke Somervell Chair of Management—Col. Maurice L. Sipos, Ph.D.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower Chair of National Security—Dr. Mark Duckenfield