

The Indomitable Distance Education Class of 2023

By Robert Martin 28 July 2023



Maj. Gen. David Hill Commandant of the Army War College address the DDE class of 2023 during their graduation ceremony, July 28 from the Wheelock Bandstand.

On the historic Indian parade ground of the Army War College, the Class of 2023 culminated two years of study as they were addressed by Ms. Susan Eisenhower during their graduation ceremony. Eisenhower, is an author, international security expert, and the granddaughter of the legendary President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The ceremony took place on Friday, July 28, with Maj. Gen. David Hill, the 53rd Commandant of the Army War College, commences the event by applauding the indomitable Distance Education Class of 2023.

"In leadership, it's not the academic degree one holds that defines greatness, but the transformative change one catalyzes," said Hill. "The Army War College has always held that thoughtful, strategic thinking is the foundation of the most effective leadership. In addition to educating students, our curriculum aims to develop critical thinkers who can imagine, organize, and implement solutions on a global scale. We develop strategic

leaders for a world in transition, not just to award degrees."

"In my own experience, I've always thought that leadership is a process rather than a goal. Learning and unlearning, listening more than speaking, and seeing that positive influence comes from developing others are all important aspects of this process. It has encouraged me to see these qualities in my interactions with some of you and hear them from your professors."

"I appeal to each of you to lead with empathy, act with integrity, and constantly pursue excellence as the keepers of our common peace, strategists, and carriers of hope," said Hill.

Ms. Susan Eisenhower took the stage, congratulating the graduating class on their remarkable achievements. Recognizing the unique challenges of distance education, Ms. Eisenhower also acknowledged the support of the graduates' families, whose encouragement played a crucial role in their success.

"It is an honor to be with you here today to congratulate this graduating class on your remarkable accomplishments," said Eisenhower. "Distance education is particularly challenging when considering how many moving parts there were to your life as you studied. Today is also a moment to congratulate family members for the support they gave today's honored graduates."

'You'll be forever tied to this distinguished institution. The War College has given you their all, the source of their knowledge and wisdom, the spirit of their history, and a sense of national purpose.'

"We are living in truly remarkable times, a period fought with great danger but also with opportunity. The distant horizon of global survival, stability, and peace is now yours. Congratulations to this wonderful class of 2023," said Eisenhower.

The Class of 2023, representing the Joint Force, consists of 356 graduates, including 274 Army officers, 9 Navy officers, 20 Air Force officers, 9 Marines, 35 civilians, and 8 International Fellows. The Distance Education program at the Army War College is a two-year distance learning program that enables participants to earn a master's degree in strategic studies, equivalent to the education received by resident students.