



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY WAR COLLEGE AND CARLISLE BARRACKS
CARLISLE, PENNSYLVANIA 17013-5217

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

ATWC-A

5 December 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF AY05

SUBJECT: Academic Information for AY05

1. Congratulations on your selection to attend the U.S. Army War College (USAWC). Our founding father, Secretary of War Elihu Root, believed that Army War College students should “study and confer on the great problems of national defense, military strategy, and responsible command.” Your year at the College will give you the chance to explore many dimensions of military leadership at the strategic level. It will be a rewarding experience. It will also be a year full of choices for you.
2. The Class of 05 will register through largely internet-based transactions. The letter from MAJ Randy Readshaw, the Director of Human Resources, provides instructions on your first transactions with the College and how to access to the College’s internet site.
3. The College Curriculum Catalog, available on the College internet site, addresses the structure of the academic program, the evaluation system and other matriculation requirements for the Master of Strategic Studies (MSS) Degree.
4. On the College website you may also browse recent editions of Parameters and Strategic Studies Institute (SSI) publications including the Key and Strategic Issues List (KSIL). The KSIL will be a helpful resource as you begin your own research. You may also want to browse the electronic resources and recent publications of the USAWC Library including the topical bibliographies and the Recommended Reading List.
5. Your seminar teaching team has four principal faculty members. Three of these come from the resident teaching departments: Command Leadership and Management (DCLM), National Security and Strategy (DNSS), and Military Plans and Operations (DMSPO). The fourth is a Seminar Historian who will enrich the historical content of the core courses. One member of your teaching team will be your Faculty Advisor (FA). The FA is the primary counselor on your progress through the College. Meet your FA early and establish an effective dialog.

ATWC-A

SUBJECT: Academic Information for AY05

6. Communicative arts will also feature prominently in your early days at the College. A diagnostic writing exercise will help identify strengths or areas for improvement. As part of your degree requirements, you will write a major paper, the Strategy Research Paper (SRP). Although the SRP is generally shorter than a formal thesis, it is intended to be an in-depth research effort that focuses on a contemporary security issue. Various research and writing awards are given to particularly noteworthy papers and many of them are distributed to senior leaders in the Army and defense community.

7. The College has two relatively new programs worth of particular mention:

a. The Advanced Strategic Arts Program is an opportunity for approximately fifteen students to participate in a very detailed analysis of campaign planning and execution. Students interested in this program will be asked to apply in the early fall. Successful completion of this parallel program yields the USAWC Diploma and the MSS degree.

b. The Professor USAWC Program selects two Army officers each year to attend graduate school to begin the process of obtaining a Ph.D. These officers return to the USAWC College faculty to teach and conduct research leading to the final awarding of their Ph.D. within three years of return. These officers then generally serve on the faculty until their mandatory retirement date. Applicants may include students from class in session or other Army officers who have completed MEL1 professional education. If you are interested in this program please contact the Dean's office to register your interest. We have a short time-line to brief and select candidates, coordinate with PERSCOM, and file applications with appropriate graduate schools. Getting an early start is imperative.

8. The College depends very much on the information that you provide in your registration questionnaire and attendant on-line surveys. This is particularly true in regard to the information you report about your own familiarity with strategic issues, the College program, and your skill with computers. Give this preliminary survey your full attention; it will be a very significant input to any subsequent changes to the College curriculum. The results of the survey will be posted during the academic year.

9. You have no doubt heard a great deal about the USAWC from friends, mentors, senior officers, and colleagues who have attended before. Their perspectives on the experience they had are important and valuable, but the curriculum and academic program here change significantly from year to year. Ultimately, how the year develops for you and your family is a matter of many personal choices that you will make. The threshold requirements for success are defined in the Curriculum Catalogue. To sustain

ATWC-A
SUBJECT: Academic Information for AY05

a dynamic and vigorous intellectual environment here, a broad range of supporting and complimentary events are also programmed. Many of these are voluntary; few are mandatory. The bounty of opportunities that are provided can sometimes cause frustration in making choices. We will always try to keep you apprised of schedule changes so you can pace your level of commitment and balance that with your family plans. Having a discussion with your family and very early on with your FA is critical to helping you develop a meaningful learning plan and navigating the choices before you.

10. We look forward to working with you. If you have any questions that cannot be answered through an on-line resource, please contact one of the other identified staff members, or the Dean's office. We want to make your registration as smooth as possible. Have a safe trip and thank you for completing the on-line survey.

Encl

//s//
WILLIAM T. JOHNSEN, Ph.D.
Dean of Academics