



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY WAR COLLEGE AND CARLISLE BARRACKS
CARLISLE, PENNSYLVANIA 17013-5210

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Congratulations on your selection to attend the United States Army War College in the Class of 2017! You will find this to be a year of professional and personal growth of great value to you, your family, and your nation.

The Army War College's role is to produce strategic leaders and ideas invaluable to the Army, Joint Force, and nation. As you deepen your knowledge of the profession and your skills as senior leaders, you'll have opportunity to take part in research projects, on an individual or group basis, and contribute substantively to the larger forces' understanding of key strategic issues.

We are proud of our senior military "professors of practice" and our academic professors who, working together on faculty teams, will support and guide you through this important year of development. You'll be able to tap into a great pool of resources: library and archives; research and writing support; assessment tools with personalized feedback; global networks of academics and practitioners; and studies, war-gaming and working groups exploring emerging strategic issues.

Your colleagues this year will include members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard, senior civilians of US national security agencies and 80 senior military officers from nations throughout the world. This diversity of experience and insight will enrich your understanding of the joint, interagency and international security environment in which a senior leader operates today.

Since 1757, Carlisle Barracks has enjoyed a close relationship with our neighbors in Carlisle and surrounding neighborhoods. Since the earliest days of our nation, this small base was the ideal size, location, and personality to "beta-test" new schools for the Army. The first Army schools of artillery and cavalry, and even field medicine began at Carlisle Barracks. Success triggered a dozen Army schools to move to larger installations until 1951 when the Army chose the college town of Carlisle for the Army War College. Today, the community forms a supporting hometown atmosphere for US and international families. The military post is much like a campus: a magnet for student gatherings and family activities. Here, we are close enough to the National Capital Region and New York City to interact with the diplomatic, informational, military and economic leaders and experts who represent the nation's strategic power.

If you are weighing family togetherness at Carlisle against family stability at your current location, I urge you to give weight to the benefits of a family year together at Carlisle. Our military today finds enough operational reasons to keep families apart-treasure time you can spend together at the Army's "best small hometown." Contact a member of the Class of 2016 for their thoughts on family life at Carlisle, or contact my staff via the 'Welcome 2017' web site. Our outstanding on-post family homes, a close-knit community, extraordinarily convenient access to fitness, community, retail, and youth services makes this year a very smart choice for families. Know that you are *job one* for every faculty member, researcher, administrative staffer and post employee here. This is equally true for your families.

I'll bring your attention to a few key resources for your transition. Look for an email from my G1/Personnel Officer with instructions for mandatory online in-processing steps to complete before arrival. Find an insider's view of the student academic experience and the opportunities that await students, spouses, teens, and children on the Welcome 2017 web site at www.carlisle.army.mil/experience, and take advantage of the 'Got a Question' option. Join our online community at www.facebook.com/usawc.

I look forward to congratulating you in person for your selection to the U.S. Army War College. This will be a tremendously positive year for you as a student and I'm confident it will be one of your family's favorite postings.

Strength And Wisdom!

Sincerely,



William E. Rapp
Major General, U.S. Army
Commandant