

USAWC Department of Distance Education Orientation Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where is the DDE resident Orientation Program held? All sessions will be held at Bliss Auditorium and Root Hall Bldg. **651 Wright Ave, Carlisle Barracks 17013.**

2. What is the uniform for Orientation weekend? Business casual is the uniform for Orientation Weekend. Men in slacks or khakis, sport shirt and/or sweater; women in slacks, khakis, or skirt with top or casual dress. On Day 1 (Friday) Day 2 (Saturday) students will take their biography photo. This is the only time students will wear military uniform. For the photo only, students will wear Class B or service equivalent, i.e.,

- USAF: Class B Short Sleeve Blue Shirt
- USMC: Summer Service "C"
- USN: Summer Khaki w/ ribbons
- Civilian: Business attire (coat and tie or female equivalent) Note: This is a head shot only pants and shoes and headgear are not necessary.

3. Who pays for my TDY to Carlisle? You are responsible for the cost of the voluntary resident orientation. If your unit chooses to put you on orders and pay for your orientation, the per diem rate for Carlisle/Mechanicsburg (Cumberland County) is \$166.00. Maximum lodging allowance is \$107.00, and the meal rate is \$54.00. The proportional meal rate is \$36.00 for the first and last day of TDY. Note that the government per diem rates are higher in adjoining Harrisburg/Dauphin County. TDY for Department of the Army Civilian Students is paid for by HQDA.

4. Is attendance mandatory? No. Attendance is highly encouraged, but not mandatory. The orientation is designed to allow new students to meet USAWC faculty/admin and ask questions about the program. Students can either chose to travel to Carlisle and attend the two-day orientation in person or participate virtually. Key sessions will also be recorded and will be available online in the DE2300 course on Blackboard, so students can review the topics covered.

5. Where will I stay? You may choose to stay at any hotel in the area. Please see the "HOTEL INFORMATION" link on the orientation page for further details.

6. Do I need a rental car if I plan to fly? Yes. No transportation is provided for these weekends. The nearest airport is Harrisburg, PA. which is approx. 20 min from Carlisle.

7. Are meals provided? No. The Pretzel Cafe is in Root Hall and provides several breakfast and lunch items. The bowling alley, which is a three-minute walk from Root Hall, offers short order items. There is also a small food court on post (at the Post Exchange/Commissary) and several Carlisle area restaurants you may choose from.

8. Will I need to bring books/supplies/laptop/etc.? You may wish to bring a laptop or tablet and note taking materials. This will allow you to access information systems while here. Wireless access is available during the orientation.

9. Will there be IT support available? Local technical support personnel will be available to assist you on an as needed basis. You must have attempted to complete Block 1 of DE2300 to be eligible for technical support at orientation weekend. Keep in mind that DoD regulations preclude government technicians from working on civilian owned computer systems, so prior to attendance at the orientation weekend students will need to assess and verify their hardware/software for compatibility/suitability for the DDE program of instruction by: (1) Verifying access to the DDE student web site – (add to favorites) (2) Ensuring their laptop can access courseware (3) Ensuring Adobe pdf reader is installed and tested. Our NEC Service Desk Support options:

- Email usarmy.carlisle.netcom.mbx.nec-service-desk-email@army.mil
- Web <https://apps.armywarcollege.edu/support/>
- Phone 245-3000 option 2

10. Who do I contact if I have further questions? POC for the Orientation program is COL Robert Disney at robert.j.disney6.mil@army.mil or robert.disney@armywarcollege.edu. If you have administrative questions, please contact Mr. Amos Myers at amos.s.myers.civ@army.mil or Mr. Mike Semrau at mike.r.semrau.civ@army.mil

11. What can I do now to prepare myself for this course? If you haven't done any academic writing recently, you may want to review Army War College writing requirements here: <https://ssl.armywarcollege.edu/dde/cadaddendum/index.cfm>

12. For those attending Virtually the Help Desk number is 717-245-3000

13. Students that do not have a CAC Card will need to plan additional time to stop by the Visitor Center Located off Jim Thorpe Rd right next to the main gate. You will need Passport/Driver license, or some other form of government issued Photo ID to get a visitor pass. There visitor center contact information is: <https://www.armywarcollege.edu/visitorcenter/> or 717-245-3721.