

ORIENTATION WEEKEND OVERVIEW

Class of 2019

1. **OVERVIEW.** The US Army War College (USAWC) Department of Distance Education (DDE) will conduct a voluntary two-day orientation for the Class of 2019 at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, on 5-6 May 2017 and on 12-13 May 2017 (students attend one or the other). This optional resident program for new students complements the online orientation course (DE2300) beginning 12 April 2017. You are highly encouraged to familiarize yourself with DE2300 prior to your arrival at the orientation. The goal of the Orientation Weekend (OW) is to help new students get acquainted with USAWC distance education online systems and provide insights regarding course methodology. Each OW delivers the same course content, affording students the opportunity to choose which date better accommodates their schedule. Space is limited for each weekend.

2. **ORIENTATION CONCEPT.** The DDE resident orientation is an opportunity for new students to become familiar with essential DDE enabling technologies, the USAWC scholarly writing standards and the fundamentals of strategic thinking as they begin the two-year online Senior Service College program. The two-day weekend orientation (Friday/Saturday) introduces students to online tools and methods of learning, key internet collaboration tools, graduate level writing skills and critical thinking techniques. Early familiarity with these methods, software applications and skills significantly enhances the student's ability to succeed during the two-year U.S. Army War College Distance Education curriculum. Additionally, faculty will review DDE course requirements and discuss evaluation standards. Finally, students will meet and develop a rapport with fellow students and supporting faculty.

3. **SCHEME OF EXECUTION.** The weekend orientation is designed to help students overcome technological barriers to participation; familiarize students with AWC facilities, faculty and resources; and to introduce key strategic thinking concepts and the adult learning model. The Orientation Weekend starts with a formal welcome by the War College leadership. During the course of the weekend, students will participate in several sessions in both large group and student seminar:

- a. **Effective writing.** Reviews essential AWC required executive writing and analytical skills. Discussion topics include constructing an effective argument, function of an introduction, purpose of an effective conclusion, documentation, and proofing techniques. The session also covers the unique attributes of the USAWC writing, common student errors, and examples of appropriate written documents.
- b. **Critical thinking.** Discusses conceptual skills that aid in deliberate, focused thought.
- c. **Online learning techniques and AWC curriculum overview.**
- d. **Blackboard familiarization.** This session acquaints the student with the main collaboration platform for DDE course participation. Students should review the online tutorial in DE 2300 prior to class to gain maximum benefit.

e. USAWC Compass Familiarization. This session acquaints the student with the essential software applications required to complete key student administrative and academic tasks.

f. Information Technology Assistance (ITA). This session assists student in resolving any AWC connectivity issues and performing the minimum essential baseline actions with one laptop computer or mobile device. As DoD regulations preclude government technicians from working on civilian owned computer systems, students will 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 their laptop has proper certificates installed
- (4) Configuring Internet Explorer, Safari or other web browser, if necessary, to work with courseware
- (5) Ensuring adobe flash player is installed and tested
- (6) Ensuring the QuickTime player is installed and tested
- (7) Ensuring Windows Media Player is installed and tested
- (8) Ensuring Adobe pdf reader is installed and tested

g. USAWC Biography Book Photo

h. USAWC DDE Library resource orientation

4. UNIFORMS. The Army Class B uniform or service equivalent is preferred. Students may wear Class B or service equivalent, i.e.,

- USAF: Short Sleeve Blue Shirt
- USMC: Summer Service “C”
- USN: Summer Khaki w/ ribbons
- Civilian: Business attire (coat and tie or female equivalent)

No utility or field uniforms are permitted.

5. POC for the program is LTC Jennifer Bower, (717) 245-3577 or jennifer.i.bower.mil@mail.mil. If you have administrative questions please contact Mr. Amos Myers, (717) 245-3592 or amos.s.myers.civ@mail.mil or Mr. Mike Semrau, (717) 245-3578 or mike.r.semrau.civ@mail.mil.