20TH ANNIVERSARY
COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE FOUNDATION, INC.

COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE

FOUNDATION NEWS

No. 39/Fall 2026

U.S. Army Command and General Staff College

Command and General Staff College Foundation



Former CAC, TRADOC commander delivers annual Colin L. Powell Lecture

– page 19

INSIDE:

- Updates from College leaders
- Fort Leavenworth and International Halls of Fame
- CGSC Organizational Day
- International Family Fishing Derby

...and more!

Command and General Staff College Foundation
★ and Alumni Association ★

Beyond the Classroom

For twenty years, you have stood with us in the gap – providing the "Margin of Excellence" to the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

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Enhancing Leader Education



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Tribute to the 9/11 Generation

by Lt. Gen. Robert L. Caslen, U.S. Army, Ret., Chairman

As the new Foundation Chair, I want to take a minute to introduce myself. Being commissioned in 1975 in the aftermath of the Vietnam war, I had the privilege to serve for 43 years, culminating as the superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point from 2013 to 2018. Before serving as the West Point superintendent, I was the senior commander during the drawdown of U.S. forces from Operation Iraqi Freedom, and remained for 22 months rebuilding the Iraqi military with the foreign military sales program. Prior to that assignment, I served as the Combined Arms Center commander, and before that as the commander of the 25th Infantry Division and Multi-National Division-North in Iraq.

Returning to Fort Leavenworth as the Foundation Chair is truly an honor and privilege. I am grateful to lead an organization whose mission is to support the leadership development of our Army's next senior leaders and their families.

Aside from my introduction, in the backdrop of our recent 25th year anniversary of 9/11, I want to take my remaining space to recognize and applaud the 9/11 generation. We have all heard of the "Greatest Generation" – those who grew up during the Great Depression and served in World War II under the most challenging of circumstances. They were known not only for their patriotism, resilience, and sacrifice, but also for how they came home and built a more prosperous economy and nation for generations that followed.

Much like the Greatest Generation, today's generation of young Americans have understood what is at stake and have continued to answer freedom's distress call. Often referred to as the "9/11 generation," the young men and women who have served during the last 25 years represent America's best. They are a generation of men and women that saw our country attacked and internalized the fact that our very way of life was now threatened. Each came from a different background, drawn to serve our country and our way of life, and are bound together through shared hardships.

Seeing first-hand the threats and attacks to our nation, they volunteered to serve – knowing full well that they can be sent into harm's way to confront the enemies of our nation on obscure battlefields halfway around the world. Many have lost friends dearer to them than their own blood brothers and sisters, yet they never wavered or questioned. They quietly counted themselves worthy to stand among the generations of Americans that have gone before them, quietly standing in the gap between the evils of the world and the values of our nation and our Constitution and the American people.



PHOTO BY MARK H. WIGGINS

New CGSC Foundation and Alumni Association Chair Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Robert L. Caslen, left, welcomes Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Jerry Neff and Joe Close as two of the newest trustees during the Foundation board meeting on Sept. 29, 2026, in the Arnold Conference Room of the Lewis and Clark Center on Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. (photo by Mark H. Wiggins)

The fact that they have chosen the path they are on right now truly makes them the best our country has to offer. The best are not necessarily in the corporate boardrooms – don't ever think for a moment that the people running our corporations have anything on them. They are privileged to have the one advantage that all of them covet…that you will know many of life's truths – they'll know about what is going on in nations where global terrorism festers, and in many other places.

This generation has seen much in these last 25 years, and because of this, they know some of life's hard truths and some of its purest devotions. They will never have to guess. History will gloriously record their service and their sacrifice to our country. And they have no idea of the honor it is for an old guy like me to have stood among their ranks and consider them brothers and sisters in arms.

President George H.W. Bush once said "If anyone tells you that America's best days are behind her, they're looking the wrong way." I truly believe that our nation's best days are ahead of us – because of the incredible men and women of this generation who wear the cloth of our nation, who say every day "Send Me!"

Thank you for your support of the CGSC Foundation. I look forward to helping continue the mission.



Building for the Future

by Lora Morgan, President/CEO

AS WE CELEBRATE THE CGSC FOUNDATION'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY, I FIND MYSELF REFLECTING ON HOW FAR WE'VE COME AND WHERE WE'RE HEADED. One of the most exciting signs of our future is taking shape inside the Lewis and Clark Center.

If you've visited recently, you may have noticed construction near the food court. Behind those walls, we're building a new home for the CGSC Foundation and Alumni Association!

For me, this is more than an office renovation. Our new location will nearly triple our space, bring our team together, and make it easier to welcome students, faculty, families, alumni, and visitors. Watching the progress has been exciting, and I look forward to welcoming you when our doors open.

None of it would be possible without our donors, trustees, community partners, and College leadership. Thank you for investing in our future and helping turn this vision into reality. I hope you share our excitement about what comes next.

Continuing Our Mission

Even as construction continues, we're finding new ways to strengthen support for the College. I'm especially excited about our new **National Lamp of Knowledge Partner Program**, which invites businesses and organizations nationwide to invest in academic excellence, research and innovation, military family education, and national security dialogue.

Use the QR to learn more and to register for the D.C. event

On Dec. 3, we'll gather in Washington, D.C., with CGSC alumni, friends, and prospective supporters. Events like this are about more than fundraising. They help us build lasting relationships with people who believe in developing our nation's future military leaders.

We're also preparing for our National Security Roundtable, March 8–10, 2027, when civilian leaders will visit Fort Leavenworth to meet the remarkable students and faculty of CGSC firsthand.

Remembering and Recognizing

As we look forward, I also want to recognize three individuals whose service has helped shape our Foundation.

I extend my sincere appreciation to Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Christopher Hughes as he concludes his service as our board chair. Chris has led with dedication, thoughtful guidance, and a steadfast commitment to our mission. His leadership and support have meant a great deal to me and to the Foundation. Thank you Chris, for all you have given to our organization.



PHOTO BY MARK H. WIGGINS

CGSC Foundation and Alumni Association President/CEO Lora Morgan leads the Foundation's board of trustees on a tour of the new Foundation office space during the board meeting on Sept. 29, 2026.

On Oct. 13, we lost a dear friend and founding trustee, Col. (Ret.) William G. "Bill" Eckhardt. His leadership and dedication helped build the Foundation we celebrate today. We are deeply grateful for his contributions, and I encourage you to read his tribute in this edition.

At year's end, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Mark H. Wiggins will retire after providing communications support since 2005. Through the *Foundation News*, our websites, publications, and events, Mark has helped tell our story for more than two decades. Mark, thank you for your dedication and friendship. Enjoy more time with family, travel, disc golf, and perhaps a good beer or two!

Looking Forward with Gratitude

Thank you, too, to everyone who has supported the Foundation, including those responding to our year-end appeal.

Twenty years ago, our founders envisioned an organization dedicated to making a difference at CGSC. Today, we're building on that vision, quite literally.

Our location may be changing, but our mission remains the same: **providing the margin of excellence that helps prepare the leaders our nation will depend upon tomorrow.**

Thank you for being part of our journey. I wish you and your families a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year!

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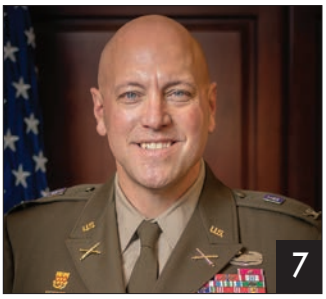
The Command and General Staff College Foundation (CGSCF) was established December 28, 2005 as a tax-exempt, non-profit private corporation to foster a strong relationship between the military and private sector, to enrich the College's academic environment, enhance the institution's research activities, maintain contact with alumni, and encourage excellence in the faculty and student body to ensure the preparation of outstanding leaders for the Armed Forces of the United States and its allies by providing resources not available from public funds. The Command and General Staff College *Foundation News* is published by the foundation to inform students, faculty, alumni, and other stakeholders about CGSCF plans and activities. The inclusion of U.S. Army, Fort Leavenworth and/or CGSC news and information in the Foundation magazine does not constitute an endorsement by the Department of the Army, Fort Leavenworth or the CGSC.

The CGSC Foundation is an equal opportunity provider.

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ON THE COVER

General (Ret.) David G. Perkins presents the annual Colin L. Powell Lecture for students of the CGSC Class of 2027 at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College Aug. 26, 2026, in the Eisenhower Auditorium of Fort Leavenworth's Lewis and Clark Center. (photo by Mark H. Wiggins)

FROM THE EDITORS

In this edition, we feature the Colin L. Powell Lecture Series and the Fort Leavenworth and CGSC International Hall of Fame induction ceremonies. We also include updates from the commandant and CGSC school directors, and highlight CGSC Organization Day and our annual International Family Fishing Derby. Looking ahead, we announce Wreaths Across America Day on Dec. 19 and the launch of our 2027 Scholarship Program in January. We also spotlight other Foundation initiatives, including the Simons Center and our speaker programs. Finally, we honor with sadness Founding Trustee Bill Eckhardt, who passed away Oct. 13. We hope you enjoy this 39th edition of the Foundation News.

Command and General Staff College Foundation
★ and Alumni Association ★

WE SUPPORT THE COLLEGE IN THREE AREAS:
SCHOLARSHIP • OUTREACH • SOLDIER AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Our Vision

The CGSC Foundation and Alumni Association is a preeminent nonprofit educational organization that provides resources promoting the advancement and development of America's warfighters and future senior leaders through professional military education. We demonstrate our dedication through programs and initiatives that cannot be achieved through traditional federal funding. We are an influential champion of the College across the Army, the nation, and with allies and partners.

Our Mission

The CGSC Foundation and Alumni Association supports and champions the institution, faculty, students and alumni of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College through scholarship, outreach and Soldier and family programs to ensure the institution and graduates are prepared for the challenges of the future.

Our Value Proposition

The CGSC Foundation and Alumni Association enhances the development of agile and adaptive leaders by helping connect the American public with the Army and the College in support of multi-service, interagency, and international leaders.

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Note: [XX] is the state of residence

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Update from the Commandant

Training, educating, and developing leaders for "How the Army Fights"



PHOTO COURTESY COL NORRIS

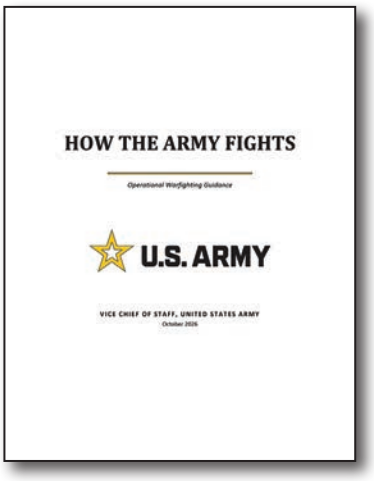
Col. David Norris

by Col. David Norris
Commandant, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College

The Army's new ***How the Army Fights*** framework gives the force a clear operational imperative: tactical prowess is critical, but it must translate into a campaign advantage for the Joint Force. It describes an Army that generates operational maneuver through four interdependent elements of land power—*Convergence, Strike, Close Battle, and Endurance*—while operating in an environment marked by persistent observation, compressed decision time, extended range, and increased lethality.

Our Responsibility: Technology will remain important, but *How the Army Fights* correctly places the Soldier and leader at the center of warfighting. *Judgment, discipline, intellectual agility, and the will to endure remain decisive*. Our responsibility at the Command and General Staff College is to develop leaders who possess those qualities and are *day-one ready* to apply them at scale in a war fighting formation.

How the Army Fights, published in October 2026, is unclassified and available for public download.



For the **U.S. Army Command and General Staff College,** this is both a call to action and an opportunity. Our task is not merely to add new terminology to existing courses. It is to develop leaders who can think, plan, communicate, and lead at the tactical and operational level in a manner consistent with how the Army must fight and win. At Fort Leavenworth, we will incorporate this framework across our curriculum and throughout the College's three schools: the Command and General Staff School (CGSS), the School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS), and the School for Command Preparation (SCP).

The **Command and General Staff School** will ensure that the student officers who attend the Command and General Staff Officer Course (CGSOC) understand the tactical and operational problems the Army is solving. Students must grasp the relationship between *tactical actions and campaign outcomes*, as well as the role of theater armies, corps, divisions, joint partners, allies, and the institutional Army in creating those outcomes. Our curriculum will use the four elements of land power as an integrating framework for the practical application of command and control, maneuver, fires, sustainment, intelligence, protection, and joint all-domain operations.

The **School of Advanced Military Studies** will continue its essential role in developing the Army's most capable operational thinkers and planners. Its students will examine *How the Army Fights* as a framework for applying operational art in joint and combined campaigns. They will test the framework against historical experience, contemporary challenges, and future operational problems. Most importantly, they will develop the ability to frame complex problems, identify opportunities, design campaigns, and translate commanders' aims into feasible and sustainable operations.

This means practical application - not academic study alone. In practicums, exercises, and assessments, students will confront the Army's most difficult problems: *operating under observation; sustaining dispersed forces across distance and time; converging effects across domains; shaping the enemy in depth; and creating opportunities for formations engaged in close battle*. In practicum, student officers must make decisions amid uncertainty, friction, and time pressure, then explain how their decisions contribute to a commander's tactical and operational purpose.

The **School for Command Preparation (SCP)** will prepare commanders and command teams to lead formations within this framework from their first day in command. Commanders must understand that readiness is more than training proficiency or equipment status. It is a formation's ability to contribute to a larger operational design, maintain cohesion and discipline under pressure, integrate partners and enablers, and endure contested conditions. The school will emphasize leader development, mission command, organizational climate, and the disciplined stewardship necessary to generate formations that are tactically lethal and operationally relevant.

– (COMMANDANT) continued on page 11

Command and General Staff School (CGSS)

Continuing to deliver warfighters to the force

by Col. Richard Ikena
Director, Command and General Staff School



PHOTO COURTESY COL IKENA

Col. Richard Ikena
Director, CGSS

THE COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF OFFICER COURSE (CGSOC) IS LASER-FOCUSED ON TRAINING AND EDUCATING FIELD GRADE OFFICERS ON APPLIED WARFIGHTING AND LEADERSHIP. Our faculty understand that we must teach and research at the intersection of doctrine and the most difficult and demanding problems we face in an increasingly complex and lethal operating environment. *Training and educating leaders for war is our purpose*.

To achieve our purpose, we thread *critical warfighting concepts* throughout the depth and width of our course. Our *two major outcomes* are producing the most lethal **warfighters** *and* preparing them for **leadership** at the organizational level given a dynamic operational environment. Our school prepares leaders to enable tactical and operational success for our Army, which is the foundation for the Joint Force.

> *Training and educating leaders for war is our purpose.*

Two of the updated "ways" that your *America's School for War* is accomplishing the "ends" or "outcomes" of warfighting and leadership at the organization level are through educating and enabling our leaders with the *complexity toolkit* and executing our curriculum through *the five R's*.

Complexity Toolkit

Field grade officers must learn, continuously develop, and apply many vital skills and competencies to enable warfighting and leadership at the organizational level in today's operating environment. The Command and General Staff School packaged these skills and competencies into what we call the Complexity Toolkit. The critical skills included in the toolkit equips our staff officers to navigate the increasingly complex and uncertain operational environment, ensuring our officers and forces remain agile, resilient, and effective in meeting future challenges. The following are the core of the complexity toolkit:

Critical Thinking. Evaluate information objectively, mitigate cognitive biases, and apply robust reasoning to enhance decision-making in complex geopolitical contexts and rapidly evolving situations.

Systems Thinking. Apply frameworks like the Cynefin and VUCA (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, Ambiguity) frameworks to understand complex adaptive systems, recognize interconnections, and develop resilient strategies that adapt to dynamic operational environments.

Creative Thinking. Leverage techniques to generate innovative solutions, enhance strategic communication, and foster a culture of continuous innovation within the force.

Data Literacy/Application. Skillfully integrate multi-domain data, apply advanced analytics, and develop comprehensive data strategies to drive evidence-based decision-making across all levels of military operations.

Super Intelligence (SI). Effectively utilize SI tools (previously Artificial Intelligence or AI) to enable officers and organizations to fight and win on the modern battlefield. We are leveraging SI to significantly *enhance* capability but not replace the basics and fundamentals that are grounded in our doctrine and curriculum.

The Five R's

The current CGSOC experience, regardless of modalities (resident course, non-resident blended or distance learning), is based on the foundation of the five R's: Rigor, Readiness, Relationships, Resiliency, and Recommitment.

Rigor. The world-class CGSS faculty remain agile and professionally committed to providing the most rigorous Intermediate Level Education (ILE) experiences through curriculum that is always grounded and current within the latest operating environment for our warfighters.

Readiness. CGSS graduates are educated and learn the skills and competencies needed to provide their unit impactful and relevant day one warfighting readiness and leadership.

Relationships. The CGSOC environment and experiences enable the professional opportunity to enhance the student's professional network from within the U.S. Army and Joint Force as well as international and interagency professionals.

Resiliency. Professional Military Education provides great opportunities for both professional and personal resiliency both formally and informally. The faculty, curriculum, and individual officer provide the art and science of the profession to be impactful years into the future.

Recommitment. CGSOC is an inflexion point within a commissioned officers professional experience that provides them a great opportunity to examine their commitment to the profession of arms and re-commit to being an organizational level leader grounded in warfighting and leadership.

School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS)

The virtues and vices of design and systems thinking

by Col. Paul "Slew" Vicars, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Air War College, and SAMS
and
Col. Dwight Domengeaux
Director, School for Advanced Military Studies



PHOTO COURTESY COL DOMENGEAUX

Col. Dwight Domengeaux
Director, SAMS

THE U.S. ARMY'S SCHOOL OF ADVANCED MILITARY STUDIES (SAMS) IS RENOWNED FOR EDUCATING SKILLED MILITARY PRACTITIONERS AND WARFIGHTERS who "understand the operational environment (OE) as a complex interactive system," as stated in the executive summary of the July 2025 edition of *Joint Publication 5-0*. Through rigorous study and practice, SAMS graduates become experts at operational design and the multi-domain system of systems approach to warfare.

Design and Systems Thinking (DST) has been the premier course in the SAMS curriculum for decades, and for good reasons. The most obvious is that systems thinking is a very insightful process for drawing understanding out of complex problems. Further, design is a useful way for commanders and staff to synthesize those insights, visualize the OE, and direct battlefield action. But there are other virtues students of DST gain—humility, creativity, and confidence. Likewise, students are taught to avoid certain vices that DST can also promote—paralysis and aloofness.

There are no single right solutions for complex military problems. But there are many acceptable solutions and even some good ones, and there are a great many bad or positively harmful ones. SAMS students often hear that there are two types of plans, "a plan that won't work and a plan that might work." They also learn that complex problems are not judged by a standard of right or wrong solutions, but of better or worse. Students of DST learn quickly that the problems they will be asked to solve are broader in scope, and less accessible than any they have yet encountered. It is humbling to look at a vast range of options and know that only a few of those possible solutions "might work."

That humility is the engine behind the creative activities with which DST seeks to arm students. As Clausewitz astutely noted, our intellect finds uncertainty fascinating and revels in the wealth of possibilities that complex environments avail. The challenge is not only to unleash their own individual creativity, but to teach them to lead and inspire teams to explore, analyze, synthesize, and create viable military options that might work in a complex OE.

Having been humbled by the scope of the problems and armed with the creative tools to address them, DST students are provided several opportunities to practice and develop confidence with the new tools they have been given. While DST has a challenging academic element aimed at reorienting the way students view the world, it also has a strong practical element. Students are given the opportunity to lead, fail, learn, and grow confidence in their leadership via numerous exercises throughout the course. The aim of the DST course is to routinely humble the students with tasks that require creative leadership to build their confidence in the knowledge and ability that they have gained in SAMS.



PHOTO BY JIM SHEA/CGSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

School of Advanced Military Studies students explore a wargaming methodology alongside its developer, Stephen Box (right) March 31, 2026, on Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Developed over years of tabletop wargaming and coaching, it closely mirrors military decision-making. Box's visit was sponsored by the CGSC Foundation in coordination with Matt Yandura, SAMS Assistant Professor and author of the SAMS course "Future Operational Environment."

However, like all tools, DST can equally urge vice instead of virtue. DST forces students to remove the boundaries by which they are accustomed to scoping problems. They can subsequently find themselves paralyzed in a couple of ways. First, students can often find themselves paralyzed by possibilities and unable to discern where to begin analyzing the infinite aspects of the environment and problem (admiring the problem) in search of an answer they will never find. SAMS students are taught how to deal with the challenge of decision paralysis that can result.

The other vice, aloofness, is similar to paralysis but has a different cause. Rather than being overwhelmed with the scope, the practitioner displaying this vice turns the

– (SAMS) continued on page 11

School for Command Preparation (SCP)

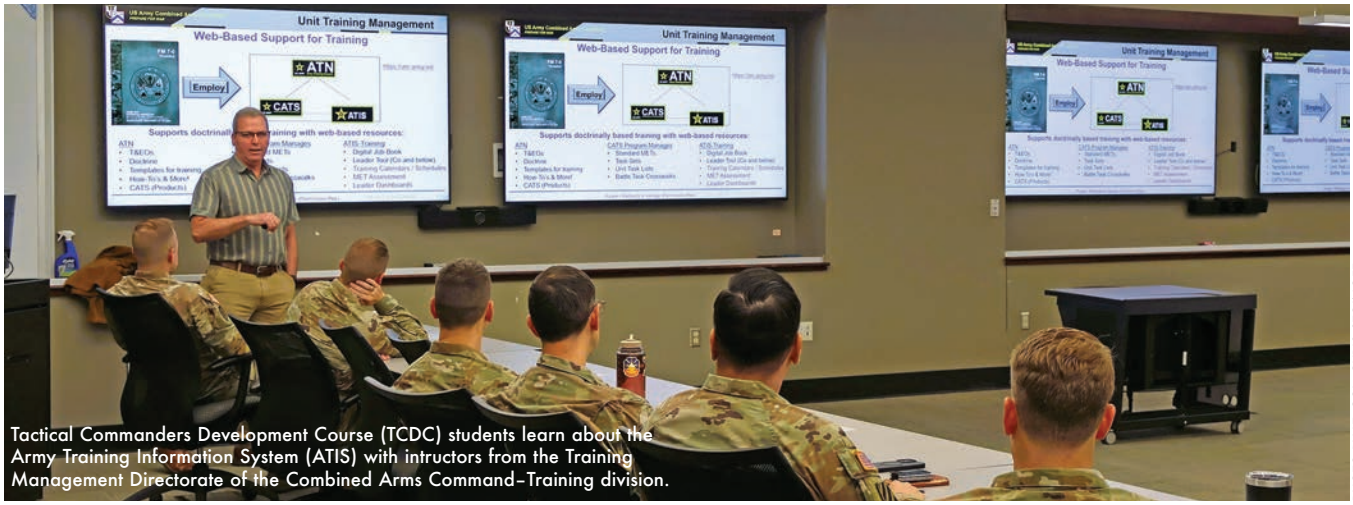
Reinforcing the Commander in Unit Training Management



PHOTO COURTESY COL MOSIER

Col. Duane Mosier
Director, SCP

by
Dr. Audrey E. Ayers
Curriculum Developer, School for Command Preparation and Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Military Learning
and
Lt. Col. Chris Stoinoff
Instructor, School for Command Preparation



Tactical Commanders Development Course (TCDC) students learn about the Army Training Information System (ATIS) with intructors from the Training Management Directorate of the Combined Arms Command–Training division.

PHOTO BY LT. COL. CHRIS STOINOFF

AS THE EXECUTIVE AGENT FOR THE U.S. ARMY'S COMMAND PREPARATION PROGRAM, THE SCHOOL FOR COMMAND PREPARATION (SCP) DEVELOPS BATTALION AND BRIGADE COMMAND TEAMS TO LEAD THEIR FORMATIONS WITH AGILITY AND DECISIVENESS TO WIN ON THE MODERN BATTLEFIELD. SCP owns and executes the Chief of Staff of the Army's Pre-Command Course, as well as tailored follow-on courses such as the Tactical Commanders Development Course (TCDC). TCDC prepares future commanders by improving their ability to drive the operations process, develop tactical competency across their formations, and demonstrate the ability to synchronize their unit's warfighting functions to enable combined arms maneuver. To make these tactical commanders successful in this endeavor, SCP places special emphasis on the commander's role in training management and leader development.

Training Management Importance

From the company to corps echelons, Army leaders apply training management principles to maximize unit readiness and provide predictability for Soldiers and their families. Success in this endeavor requires leaders who understand the substantial role a commander plays in training management. For example, a commander should deliberately communicate training requirements and priorities in published training guidance, and then further refine that plan in quarterly training briefs and unit training meetings. When done correctly, training management drives the day-to-day business of companies, battalions, and brigades.

Training Management focus TCDC

Given the commander's importance in this process, TCDC promotes effective unit training management as a valuable tool and the curriculum devotes significant instructional hours to the concept. Students begin their education by diving into the Army's current policies and doctrine on unit training management, which provides a lens to reflect on their personal experiences with previous training programs. The students also identify the traits of successful leader development programs and visualize how they will train and certify their subordinate leaders. These reflections and visualization form the first step in developing their commander's intent for training and allows them to establish realistic goals before they assume command.

Over the subsequent days, TCDC students discuss training, leader development, and observations from combat training centers with several guest speakers. Students have separate discussions on training management and unit readiness with the commandant of the Command and General Staff College and the commanding general of Combined Arms

– (SCP) continued on page 11

– (COMMANDANT) from page 7

Collaboration with the Operational Force: Across all three schools, we will strengthen collaboration with Army headquarters, joint organizations, allies, and partners. *The College's curriculum must remain connected to the realities of formations preparing for conflict*. Feedback from commanders, recent exercises, observations from experimentation, and lessons from operational units will inform our curriculum design and faculty development.

The Army has provided the framework. Living our motto, CGSC will prepare the leaders who put it into practice. *Ad bellum, pace parati* – Prepared in peace for war.

– (SAMS) from page 9

solution into such a theoretical academic adventure that they become aloof to the need for action. Those indulging this vice create exquisite understanding and connect a great number of elements in the problem, but never synthesize the outcome in a way that is usable for commanders to direct action. Overcoming this vice requires DST practitioners to remember that the primary aim of DST is driving action in the military context, not just understanding the system.

The DST program is one of the major reasons why SAMS grads are highly sought after across the joint force. The program not only arms students with the fundamentals of design and systems thinking, but it also instills the virtues of humility, creativity, and confidence, while cautioning against paralysis and aloofness.

– (SCP) from page 10

Command. Finally, the Training Management Directorate, as the proponent for training management, provides students with current trends in unit training and a demonstration of the Army Training Information System, which serves as the Army's training system of record.

The culminating event of TCDC is a practical exercise in which students draft their Commander's Intent and Planning Guidance for unit training and leader development. Students begin by defining their training environments and analyzing the mission essential tasks of their future units. The students prioritize their requirements, develop training objectives, and incorporate leader development plans into their guidance.

The TCDC instructors help the students refine their guidance by leveraging their own experiences as former commanders. Collaboration among the students encourages agility in thinking and generates tangible products to enable accountability during execution of training management.

On the final day of TCDC, students brief their commander's intent, training guidance, and leader development plan to their peers. Their peers reinforce accountability by providing candid feedback on the effectiveness of their fellow students' proposed training guidance. Students depart TCDC with revised products and confidence in their application of unit training management.

Our Commitment

Commanders, regardless of component, must drive training management and leader development in their units. Through courses such as TCDC, these commanders iterate on their plans to improve unit combat readiness today and build the leaders of the future. SCP remains committed to arming these commanders with the knowledge to effectively apply training management on the first day of command.

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PHOTOFLASH

CGSOC Class of 2026 graduates

The Command and General Staff Officers Course Class of 2026 graduated May 29, 2026 in a ceremony in the Eisenhower Auditorium of the Lewis and Clark Center on Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Lt. Gen. Jim Isenhower, commanding general, U.S. Army Combined Arms Command and Fort Leavenworth, was the keynote speaker.

The CGSOC Class of 2026 included 951 total graduates of which 718 were Army (Active, Reserve, National Guard); 68 from the U.S. Air Force, 12 from the U.S. Navy; 25 from the U.S. Marine Corps; one from the U.S. Coast Guard; five from the U.S. Space Force; two government civilians; and 120 international students.

The 2026 class earned 54 Master of Military Arts and Science degrees; 860 Master of Operational Science degrees; and 155 Advanced Warfighter Certificates.

Read the full story online:
https://www.cgscfoundation.org/cgsoc-class-of-2026-graduates-260529

PHOTOS BY DAN NEAL/CGSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Major Andrew L. Scholl, right, receives the General George C. Marshall Award from ceremony guest speaker Lt. Gen. Jim Isenhower, commanding general, U.S. Army Combined Arms Command and Fort Leavenworth, honoring him as the top U.S. graduate in the Command and General Staff Officers Class of 2026 during the graduation ceremony May 29, at the Lewis and Clark Center.



Maj. Aleksander Granberg, Norway, right, receives the General Dwight D. Eisenhower Award from ceremony guest speaker Lt. Gen. Jim Isenhower, commanding general, U.S. Army Combined Arms Command and Fort Leavenworth, honoring him as the top international graduate in the Command and General Staff Officers Class of 2026 during the graduation ceremony May 29, at the Lewis and Clark Center.

PHOTOFLASH

SAMS Class of 2026 graduates

The School of Advanced Military Studies Class of 2026 graduated May 21, 2026. in a ceremony in the Eisenhower Auditorium of the Lewis and Clark Center on Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Maj. Gen. Trevor Bredenkamp, President and Commanding General, Army University, was the keynote speaker.

A total of 129 master's and doctorate degrees were conferred to graduates of the Advanced Military Studies Program, the Advanced Strategic Leadership Studies Program, and the Advanced Strategic Planning and Policy Program.

In the photo at right, Army University President/Commanding General Maj. Gen. Trevor Bredenkamp, left, presents Lt. Col. Tyler B. Folan, U.S. Marine Corps, with the Col. Michael "Scott" Flurry Award during the ceremony,

Read the full story online:
https://www.cgscfoundation.org/sams-2026-graduation



PHOTO BY JIM SHEA/CGSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PHOTOFLASH

CGSOC Class of 2027 kicks off with international flag ceremony

The U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC) conducted its annual International Flag ceremony Aug. 17, 2026, at the Lewis and Clark Center on Fort Leavenworth. CGSC Commandant Col. David Norris was the keynote speaker.

This year's class of 1,044 students includes 87 international military students from 79 countries.

Read the full story online and watch video of the ceremony:
https://www.cgscfoundation.org/cgsoc-class-of-2027-kicks-off-with-international-flag-ceremony



PHOTO BY JIM SHEA/CGSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Fort Leavenworth Hall of Fame welcomes two

by Pvt. 1st Class Wilfred Salters
U.S. Army Combined Arms Command Public Affairs

FORT LEAVENWORTH HONORED ITS LATEST INDUCTEES INTO THE FORT LEAVENWORTH HALL OF FAME, MAY 13, 2026 AT THE LEWIS AND CLARK CENTER.

Maj. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis and retired Brig. Gen. Colleen L. McGuire were recognized for their significant contributions to the achievement, tradition and history of Fort Leavenworth and the U.S. armed forces.

"Today is a special day. It is a special day for our community because we get to honor two individuals who, through their honor, duty and integrity, have given so much to the Army and Fort Leavenworth," said Maj. Gen. Karen Monday-Gresham, U.S. Army Combined Arms Command deputy commanding general – U.S. Army Reserve. "These inductees represent guideposts for how Army officers should conduct themselves."



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Maj. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis

Maj. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis was born in Champlain, New York, on Feb. 3, 1805, and graduated from the U.S. Military Academy West Point in 1831. In 1861, Curtis was named head of the District of Southwest Missouri and ordered to clear the state of Confederates because of his extensive military experience.

His most important contribution to Fort Leavenworth came in 1864 when he led the Union to victory at both the Battle of Pea Ridge and the capture of Helena, Arkansas, a key Mississippi River port. In 1864, he was appointed head of the newly established Department of Kansas at Fort Leavenworth, where he eventually ended major Confederate operations west of the Mississippi River.

Dr. Curtis S. King, a retired U.S. Army major and former Fort Leavenworth history instructor, accepted the honor on Curtis' behalf.

"Curtis had to be very tactically adept," King said. "He is an undefeated general, and there aren't many of those around. He won at Pea Ridge, he won Westport — which was three days' worth of battle — and again at Mine Creek, so Sam Curtis knew his tactics."

"He was not only an undefeated general, he was the savior of Fort Leavenworth," King added.

The second leader honored at the ceremony was retired Brig. Gen. Colleen L. McGuire, whose induction spotlights a modern legacy of pioneering leadership. This lifelong commitment to the uniform started with a critical choice she made just after finishing high school.



PHOTO BY PVT. 1ST CLASS WILFRED SALTERS, CAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Retired Brig. Gen. Colleen L. McGuire, right, poses in front of the shadowbox honoring her as a member of the Fort Leavenworth Hall of Fame during the induction ceremony at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, May 13, 2026. At left is Maj. Gen. Karen Monday-Gresham, the U.S. Army Combined Arms Command deputy commanding general–U.S. Army Reserve, the host of the ceremony.

McGuire enlisted in the Army Reserve after high school while attending the University of Montana. Upon graduation, she received a Regular Army commission and branched into the Military Police Corps.

In 1992, she graduated from Fort Leavenworth's Command and General Staff College. From there, she took on many assignments, including operations officer for the 16th Military Police Brigade, public affairs officer for Joint Task Force-Somalia, executive officer for the 503rd Military Police Battalion, and public affairs officer for United States Army Alaska.

After an assignment to the Office of the Secretary of the Army at the Pentagon, she returned to Fort Leavenworth to command the 705th Military Police Battalion. She later served as commandant of the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks. In 2006, McGuire deployed to Baghdad for 19 months as provost marshal for the Multi-National Corps-Iraq. In 2008, she was promoted to brigadier general and appointed commanding general of the Army's Criminal Investigation Command. She retired in 2012.

"Today, with great humility, I accept this honor not as a recognition of individual achievement alone but as a reflection of the people, the mentors, the soldiers, the leaders who've shaped my journey and the extraordinary institution that is Fort Leavenworth," McGuire said.

The Fort Leavenworth Hall of Fame, established in 1969, recognizes individuals whose service at the post significantly shaped the Army's history, reputation and mission.

Read the story online and see more photos:
https://www.cgscfoundation.org/hof-260513

U.S.–Dutch history focal point of latest CGSC International Hall of Fame induction



PHOTO BY MARK H. WIGGINS

From left, Maj. Gen. Patricia Wallace, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Reserve, U.S. Army Combined Arms Command and Fort Leavenworth, Lt. Gen. Jan-Willem Maas, commander, Joint Support Command, Netherlands, and CGSC Foundation President/CEO Lora Morgan stand at attention during the national anthem at the start of the CGSC International Hall of Fame induction ceremony for Maas, Oct. 16, 2026, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

by Sarah Hauck
CGSC Public Affairs

MANY U.S. ARMY COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONIES HAVE A MOMENT WHERE THE INDUCTEE REMINISCES ABOUT THE "BEST YEAR OF THEIR LIFE" at the Command and General Staff Officer Course and the lasting friendships with sponsors and classmates.

Lt. Gen. Jan-Willem Maas, commander, Joint Forces Command, Netherlands, and latest inductee at the Oct. 16, 2026, ceremony, instead spoke to the withstanding partnership of the U.S. and Netherlands, which spans centuries.

"This relationship [U.S.-Dutch] did not start with a treaty signed by cautious men in a quiet room. It started with a decision on a beach, before anyone knew how the story would end. And it never really stopped," Maas said. "Two and a half centuries later, Dutch and American soldiers still train on each other's soil. American officers walk through Dutch academies, and Dutch officers walk through American ones, just as they do here. Somewhere along the way, without much ceremony, this became the oldest continuous friendship the United States has with any nation. It is not the loudest alliance, nor the largest, but it is one of the steadiest."

A direct reflection of the alliance is Maas and 67 other Dutch officers' attendance at CGSC's Command and General Staff Officer Course since 1943.

Maas, a graduate of the CGSOC Class of 2011 and School of Advanced Military Studies' Advanced Military Studies Program Class of 2012, explained lessons external to the syllabus have shaped his career and leadership, both of which earned him a spot in the IHOF.

"When I was asked to stand here today, my first thought wasn't about myself. It was about all of you, because this institution doesn't just train officers. It builds friendships between nations, one person at a time, decades before those individuals even realize it. That is certainly applicable to me," he said.

The sentiment was echoed by classmate, Col. Micah Hutchins, CGSC's newest director of the Department of Sustainment and Force Management, who, like Maas, had returned to the Lewis and Clark Center after 16 years.

Hutchins expressed pride in seeing a classmate, long-term friend, and fellow logistician be recognized for his career and leadership.

Both Maas and Maj. Gen. Patricia Wallace, Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve, U.S. Army Combined Arms Command and Fort Leavenworth, emphasized to the current CGSOC students in attendance to the potential of each of their careers following their 10 months at CGSC.

"This induction is more than a recognition of professional achievement; it celebrates service, leadership, character,



PHOTO BY JIM SHEA/CGSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Maj. Gen. Patricia Wallace, Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve, U.S. Army Combined Arms Command and Fort Leavenworth (left), presents the induction certificate to Lt. Gen. Jan-Willem Maas, Commander, Joint Support Command, Netherlands, for his induction to the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College International Hall of Fame Oct. 16, 2026, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.



PHOTO BY MARK H. WIGGINS

CGSC Foundation President/CEO Lora Morgan presents Lt. Gen. Jan-Willem Maas, Commander, Joint Support Command, Netherlands, with a gift of a miniature Fort Leavenworth Lamp designating him as an honorary life constituent of the CGSC Foundation during the International Hall of Fame induction ceremony Oct. 16, 2026, at the Lewis and Clark Center, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

and the enduring contributions of an outstanding leader," Wallace said. "It also demonstrates the potential within every student in this institution and the immense value of our shared investment in professional military education. For the current class here today, this is an opportunity to witness history and see what is possible."

With his induction, Maas is the 311th overall and 8th Dutch inductee to the IHOF.

Maas began his service to his nation in 1991 when he was commissioned into the field artillery.

His early career covered several assignments in the field artillery before he was selected in 1998 to study law, with a focus on international law, at Maastricht University.

Upon completion of his law degree, he was posted to the 1st German-Netherlands Corps in Münster as a legal advisor. He then served in the headquarters of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) as the legal advisor to the German commander, while simultaneously filling the G5 plans position. Following this, he was posted to the General Policy Division of the Royal Netherlands Army Staff and served as a legal advisor for the Operational Training Center, before commanding the Training Battalion South in Oirschot.

Post-command, he attended the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College where he graduated from the Command and General Staff Officer Course in 2011 and the School of Advanced Military Studies' Advanced Military Studies Program (AMSP) in 2012.

Returning from the United States, he was appointed to be the chief of staff at the Principal Directorate of General Policy Affairs. In February 2014, he was promoted to colonel and appointed as head of the Cabinet of the Commander of the Royal Netherlands Army.

In September 2016, as assistant chief of staff J5, he was responsible for long-term planning and policy. Upon his departure from IGNC in March 2019, he was promoted to brigadier general and assumed command of the 13 Light Armored Brigade in Oirschot.

In January 2022, he was appointed to be the deputy chief of staff for plans at Joint Force Command Brunssum to develop NATO's defense plans. He was appointed to his current position of commanding general of the Joint Support Command in September 2023.

About the CGSC International Hall of Fame

In 1973, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the Kansas City Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars, and the Alumni Association – now known as the CGSC Foundation – jointly established the International Hall of Fame.

The hall's purpose is to provide a prestigious and visible means of recognition for international graduates, who through military merit, attained qualifying positions of importance in their respective country's armed forces or who have held an equivalent position by rank or responsibility in a recognized multinational military organization.

To date, CGSC has inducted 311 international graduates from 83 different nations into the IHOF.

Read the story online for more photos and the video of the ceremony:
https://www.cgscfoundation.org/ihof-261016



Foundation hosts CGSC Organization Day

by Mark H. Wiggins
Managing Editor

THE CGSC FOUNDATION AND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HOSTED THE U.S. ARMY COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE ORGANIZATION DAY OCT. 2, 2026, ON THE PATIO OF THE LEWIS AND CLARK CENTER ON FORT LEAVENWORTH.

More than 400 CGSC students and their families attended the event, which included activities for the kids and adults alike.

"We had a great turnout for this first-ever CGSC Organization Day," said Stephenie Cole, the Foundation's director of operations who planned and coordinated the event. "We also had some great sponsors who showed up to run their stations and meet the Soldiers and their families. Thanks to their support, the students, families, and faculty had a great time."

The event included the ever-popular bouncy houses for kids, kids and grown-up corn hole games, a scavenger hunt that allowed families to tour the Lewis and Clark Center where their Soldier is spending their time.

A crowd favorite was the dunk tank, where David Bornn of the CGSC International Military Student Division and CGSC Associate Dean of Academics Greg Penfield took turn after turn getting drenched as a seemingly endless line of kids gleefully hit the target.

There were also stations for popcorn, hotdogs, water and Weston Brewery beer. Additionally, the Combined Arms Research Library set up a *Story Walk* on the walkway between the Lewis and Clark Center, and the library and also ran a crafts station in the children's section of the library during the event.

Special thanks go to the sponsors:
First Command Financial Services – represented by District Advisor George Harris; Air – represented by Elizabeth Callender and Andrew Santiago; Frontier Community Credit Union – Leavenworth, Kan.; Arvest Bank – represented by Cory Trowbridge, branch manager - Lenexa; O'Malley's Pub – Weston, Mo.; Fort Leavenworth FMWR; and What's Up Weston - represented by Megan Jantos and Lynn Searcy.



PHOTOS BY MARK H. WIGGINS



A young CGSC family member enjoys one of the hundreds of hotdogs served during CGSC Organization Day hosted by the CGSC Foundation and Alumni Association on the Lewis and Clark Center patio Oct. 2, 2026.

(Left) Command and General Staff College students, faculty, staff and family members gather on the Lewis and Clark Center patio during the CGSC Organization Day, hosted by the CGSC Foundation and Alumni Association, Oct. 2, 2026.



David Bornn from the CGSC International Military Student Division resets the dunk tank seat as more children line up to send him to his fate again during CGSC Organization Day hosted by the CGSC Foundation and Alumni Association on the Lewis and Clark Center patio Oct. 2, 2026. Bornn and CGSC Associate Dean of Academics Greg Penfield (right, wrapped in a towel) volunteered for dunk tank duty.

PHOTOS BY MARK H. WIGGINS



A young family member sends CGSC Associate Dean of Academics Greg Penfield into the drink.



Combined Arms Research Library staff provided craft stations for kids and a *Story Walk* during CGSC Organization Day hosted by the CGSC Foundation and Alumni Association Oct. 2, 2026.



CGSC kids filled two bouncy houses non-stop during CGSC Organization Day hosted by the CGSC Foundation and Alumni Association, Oct. 2, 2026.



CGSC Organization Day sponsor Cory Trowbridge of Arvest Bank, right, and Lt. Col. Sherita Young take a break from grilling and serving hot dogs during the CGSC Organization Day Oct. 2, 2026.

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Former Fort Leavenworth commander delivers Class of 2027 Powell Lecture

by Mark H. Wiggins, Managing Editor

Retired U.S. Army Gen. David. G. Perkins presented "What is a Major For?" as the guest lecturer for the annual Colin L. Powell Lecture Series Aug. 26, 2026, in the Lewis and Clark Center on Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

"Don't take [CGSC] for granted," Perkins said, addressing the students of the Command and General Staff Officers Course (CGSOC) of the Class of 2027. "Make great use of it and know that the reason the Army does it is because you are so critical to what the Army is doing today and what the Army is going to do in the future. In some ways you are disproportionately influential."

Perkins went on to explain that the students coming out of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC) have more potential and will have more opportunities to shape the largest service in the United States than they really should be allowed to have. He told the story of how the Airland Battle Doctrine was implemented by training and educating the majors, the students, at CGSC. The intent was that after the course they would go out into the Army to help teach the new doctrine at the unit level, thereby transforming the whole Army. So, in the end, Perkins said, what majors in the Army are for is to drive change in the Army at scale. More than a thousand students graduating each year bring the new ideas to the force to help grow and change the Army.

Perkins also described what a "major is for" using a deployment example from his time as a brigade commander in Iraq. He said majors have to figure out what their organizations can do on their own versus what they need help from others to accomplish the mission.



PHOTO BY MARK H. WIGGINS



General (Ret.) David G. Perkins presents the annual Colin L. Powell Lecture for students of the CGSC Class of 2027 at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College Aug. 26, 2026, in the Eisenhower Auditorium of Fort Leavenworth's Lewis and Clark Center.

PHOTO BY MARK H. WIGGINS

"[Majors] run the processes," Perkins said. "They run the planning processes, they understand the line and block diagrams – both the official line and block diagram and the unofficial line and block diagram."

"Now that you're a young field grade officer, what you have to start transitioning is to not only be a master of your branch, but also understanding what your branch brings to the fight and how it interfaces with the enterprise," Perkins said. He explained this transition using an example of how he once had to prepare the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on an issue that he knew intimately, but of course the chairman did not. He said he had to explain the details in a usable way for the chairman, which illustrates the need for staff officers to not only be able do the staff work, but to also be the translator for it and prepare senior leaders so they can engage at their level.

"What you are for" Perkins said, is to drive change. How you accomplish "what you are for" is to run the battle staffs at brigade and division level.

Perkins took questions from the students for a period of time and then concluded with one briefing chart about the Army Profession and Ethic. He said while his main presentation was about what majors were for, the bigger picture of what Army officers are for in general is to be the stewards of the profession. Using a discussion he had during a deployment with a foreign general as a guide, Perkins spoke about the essential characteristics



PHOTO BY MARK H. WIGGINS

Retired Gen. David G. Perkins concludes his remarks for the Class of 2027 Colin L. Powell Lecture by speaking to each officer's role in the stewardship of the Army profession.

of the U.S. Army profession: honorable service, military expertise, trust, stewardship of the profession and espirit de corps.

At the conclusion, then CGSC Foundation Chair Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Chris Hughes along with Command and General Staff School Director Col. Richard Ikena, presented Perkins with a Colin L. Powell Lecture Series commemorative coin from the Foundation in appreciation for his presentation.

After presenting the Colin L. Powell Lecture Perkins spoke with students in the School of Advanced Military Studies Class of 2027.

> "What you are for... is to drive change.

After his time with the students, Perkins conducted an office call with CGSC Commandant Col. David Norris, and later with Gregg Thompson, deputy to the commanding general, at the Combined Arms Command headquarters. Later that evening he was the keynote speaker for the CGSC Foundation's Colin L. Powell Lecture Series Dinner in downtown Kansas City.

Foundation Chair Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Chris Hughes introduced Perkins at the dinner event after explaining what the CGSC Foundation is "for."

"The CGSC Foundation's purpose is to make them successful," Hughes said, pointing at a table of CGSC students who attended the event. "If we can make them successful, they will enable everyone in this room to do whatever you deserve to do as an American citizen."

After his description of the Foundation mission, Hughes introduced Perkins saying he remembered Perkins' guidance to him when he worked for him in his last assignment at the Army Recruiting Command and Perkins was his boss as the commander of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command.

"Always, always, do what is right," Hughes said Perkins told him. "And that has stuck with me to this day. That is the character of the man we have here tonight."

Perkins centered his remarks at the dinner around a general topic he called "Your Army Today." But he centered his comments around Fort Leavenworth and how he came to believe that Fort Leavenworth, and by extension, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, is the heart and soul of the Army.

Perkins spoke about an experience he had with a foreign military service chief who couldn't believe how the U.S. Army culture encouraged young leaders not to hide problems, but to highlight them and what they would do to avoid the same problems in the future. Perkins said he thought to himself, "That culture comes from Fort Leavenworth."

Perkins described how the Army brings majors together at CGSC and then send them back out into the Army and where they inculcate that learning culture into the entire Army. He said he learned a lot by seeing

– continued on page 22

– from page 21



PHOTO BY MARK H. WIGGINS

After presenting the Colin L. Powell Lecture to students of the Command and General Staff Officer's Course Class of 2027, retired Gen. David G. Perkins speaks with students in the School of Advanced Military Studies Class of 2027 in the Eisenhower Auditorium of Fort Leavenworth's Lewis and Clark Center.

an after-action review through the foreign general's eyes and realizing that he had taken this culture for granted.

After the Q&A period with the audience, CGSC Foundation President/CEO Lora Morgan presented Perkins with a Fort Leavenworth Lamp statuette in appreciation for his time with the Foundation and its guests.

The evening concluded with the Foundation's Simons Center Program Director Col. (Ret.) Todd Schmidt and Deputy Director Lt. Col. (Ret.) John Nelson leading the attendees in singing "The Army Song."

About Gen. (Ret.) Perkins

General David G. Perkins, U.S. Army, Retired, served as the 15th commander of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) responsible for designing, acquiring, building, and constantly improving the U.S. Army. While at TRADOC, he led the efforts to develop and publish both the doctrine of Mission Command and the concept of Multi-Domain Operations. Perkins retired in 2018 after 42 years of distinguished active-duty service.

Perkins previously served as the 21st commander of the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth and commandant of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College from November 2011 to February 2014, where he was the lead for synchronizing leader development across the Army, the management of the Army's training support and training development enterprises, and the development and integration of the doctrine the Army uses to fight and win our Nation's wars.

Perkins also served as the commanding general of the 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and U.S. Division North in Iraq. Prior to that command he served as the brigade commander for the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) during the invasion of Iraq, commanding the unit's "Thunder Run" into Baghdad that led to the fall of the regime.

Perkins was commissioned into the armor branch upon graduation from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1980. In addition to the assignments previously noted, he held leadership positions in armor and mechanized infantry units in Europe, the United States, and the Middle East. He has led and commanded at every level in the Army from platoon leader through division and four-star major Army command.

Read the story online for more photos and video:
https://www.cgscfoundation.org/class-of-2027-powell-lecture



Retired Gen. David G. Perkins delivers remarks as the honored guest during the CGSC Foundation's Colin L. Powell Lecture Series Dinner in downtown Kansas City Aug. 26, 2026. Perkins delivered the annual Colin L. Powell Lecture Series presentation at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College earlier in the day.

PHOTOS BY MARK H. WIGGINS



Retired Gen. David G. Perkins gathers with a group of Command and General Staff College students at the conclusion of the CGSC Foundation's Colin L. Powell Lecture Series Dinner in downtown Kansas City Aug. 26, 2026.

He also held a number of key staff assignments, including deputy chief of staff for strategic effects for Multi-National Forces-Iraq, deputy chief of staff for Operations for U.S. Army Europe, and special assistant to the Speaker of the House, U.S. House of Representatives.

Perkins holds a bachelor of science from the U.S. Military Academy, a master's in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan, and a master's in national security and strategic studies from the U.S. Naval War College. He has received multiple awards and decorations to include the Silver Star and Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster.

Thank You to the Sponsors of the Colin L. Powell Lecture Series Dinner

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Foundation sponsors sixth annual International Family Fishing Derby



PHOTOS BY MARK H. WIGGINS

by Mark H. Wiggins
Managing Editor



Maj. Saleh Kamel, an international military student from Egypt in the CGSOC Class of 2027, helps his daughter Maram, 7, show off her fish during the sixth annual International Family Fishing Derby on Sept. 19, 2026, at Fort Leavenworth's Merritt Lake. Little brother had to get in on the action.



Dominik Janecek, 5, son of CGSOC international military student Maj. Jan Janecek, left, shows off his catch during the International Family Fishing Derby on Sept. 19, 2026, at Fort Leavenworth's Merritt Lake.



CGSOC international military student Maj. Igor Caruso from Italy, left, and his children celebrate the derby's largest fish caught by his father-in-law, Renato, center, with assistance from Tad Slatter, fishing coordinator for the Fort Leavenworth Rod and Gun Club during the sixth annual International Family Fishing Derby on Sept. 19, 2026.

The Fort Leavenworth Rod and Gun Club and the CGSC Foundation and Alumni Association hosted the sixth annual International Family Fishing Derby at Merritt Lake on Fort Leavenworth on Sept. 19, 2026. The Foundation sponsors this annual event for the international military students (IMS) and their families who are attending the Command and General Staff College.

Volunteers from Fishing's Future, a nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching the skills and benefits of recreational angling, and the Leavenworth Bass Club both assisted the Fort Leavenworth Rod and Gun club in running the derby. The CGSC Foundation sponsored the derby with the fishing bait, concessions and prizes.

"Introducing these international military students and their families to a great American pastime like fishing is a great way to help welcome them to our country," said Lora Morgan, president/CEO of the CGSC Foundation and Alumni Association. "It'll never get old seeing how the kids, and sometimes the parents, too, react when they catch their first fish. It's always a good day, and we thank the Rod and Gun Club for helping make it happen."

Sixty IMS and their family members from 20 countries participated in the derby. Throughout the morning volunteers from Fishing's Future taught classes on how to handle the rod and reel combos and how to cast, while volunteers from the Rod and Gun Club and the Leavenworth Bass Club moved around the shore, recording each catch, assisting with snags, helping bait hooks and releasing the fish back into the lake if the anglers were too uneasy about touching them.

At the end of the fishing period Morgan, along with Tad Slatter, the fishing coordinator from the Fort Leavenworth Rod and Gun Club, thanked all the participants and volunteers and then presented awards. The awards were for the most fish caught in four divisions: male youth, female youth and male and female adult. Winners received a new rod and reel combination.

International Family Fishing Derby Winners

Female Adult Division
Shafiga Kalbizada
wife of Command and General Staff Officer Course (CGSOC) international military student Capt. Eltaj Kalbizada from Azerbaijan

Male Adult Division
Maj. Anthares Salindeho
CGSOC international military student from Indonesia

Female Youth Division
Maram Kamel
age 7, daughter of CGSOC international military student Maj. Saleh Kamel from Egypt

Male Youth Division
Mohamed Kamel
age 13, son of CGSOC international military student Maj. Saleh Kamel from Egypt

Read the story online and see more photos:
https://www.cgscfoundation.org/foundation-sponsors-sixth-annual-international-family-fishing-derby

PHOTOFLASH

Retirements represent 97 years service

In June 2026, CGSC celebrated the dedicated careers of two College leaders. Jim Fain, served as the director of the International Military Student Division since 2003, and Marv Nickels served as the Command and General Staff School deputy director since 2006. Combined, the pair served the nation for 97 years, as active duty Army officers and as Army civilians.

Each served more than two decades in the halls of CGSC, impacting the careers of thousands of Command and General Staff Officer Course students and faculty.

During Nickels retirement ceremony (bottom right photo), Gregg Thompson, deputy to the commanding general of Combined Arms Command, presented Nickels with the Order of the Marechaussee – Gold for his devotion to the Military Police Corps during his active-duty service. Fain received the Superior Civilian Service Medal during his retirement ceremony which Nickels presided over (bottom left photo).



PHOTO BY MARK H. WIGGINS



PHOTO COURTESY CGSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PHOTOFLASH

CGSC Mentor and Leadership Program opens academic year with social

The CGSC Mentor Program kicked-off the new academic year with a networking event at the Frontier Army Museum on Fort Leavenworth, Sept. 3, 2026.

The event was supported by the CGSC Foundation and Alumni Association, with snacks and beverages graciously provided by Angela Remington from the Leavenworth First Command office. Approximately 25 students and mentors gathered to learn about the program.

This is the first of several CGSC Mentor Program networking events that the CGSC Foundation and Alumni Association will support this academic year.

The goal of the program is to provide students access to faculty and alumni that they might not meet otherwise. These events create a time and location for volunteer mentors and students to connect, fostering professional relationships that can continue beyond their time at the College.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH HILL/CGSC FOUNDATION

Anyone interested in finding a mentor, becoming a mentor, or attending one of the mentor program events, please contact the program coordinator Michelle Garcia at mgarcia@cgscf.org or the CGSC Foundation at office@cgscf.org.



Sustaining dialogue and advancing ethical leadership

THE SIMONS CENTER
FOR ETHICAL LEADERSHIP AND INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

by Col. (Ret.) Todd Schmidt, Director, and Lt. Col. (Ret.) John Nelson, Deputy Director

SINCE OUR LAST EDITION, THE SIMONS CENTER HAS CONTINUED TO FOSTER DIALOGUE ON ETHICAL LEADERSHIP, NATIONAL SECURITY, AND INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.

Through our speaker programs and scholarly publications, we bring military, government, civic, and academic leaders together to examine consequential issues and share perspectives informed by research and experience. Our commitment remains the development of courageous, ethical leaders of character who serve effectively in military organizations, public institutions, and their communities.

Our three signature programs—the Distinguished Speaker Series (DSS), Arter-Rowland National Security Forum (ARNSF), and Des Moines National Security Forum (DMNSF)—continued to explore the relationship between leadership, public service, and national security. Their complementary formats connect audiences in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas City, and Des Moines with experts who bring both historical perspective and practical understanding to contemporary challenges.

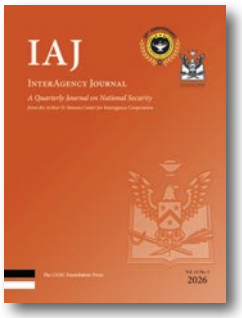
The DSS featured a presentation on civic responsibility that encouraged reflection on the duties of citizenship and the shared commitments that sustain our constitutional republic. The June presentation explored how American mobilization for World War I reshaped governance, and the October presentation focused on how readiness exercises and alerts in Europe during the Cold War hold valuable lessons for today's Army.

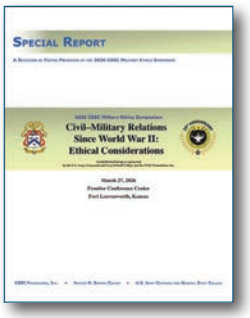
In Kansas City, the ARNSF considered presidential decision-making, the establishment of the U.S. Army Western Hemisphere Command, intelligence gathering, U.S. foreign policy in Africa, and took a look at the economic impact of the conflict in the Straits of Hormuz. These discussions connected leadership judgment and organizational change with the demands of strategic competition.

In Des Moines, the DMNSF welcomed a former senior CIA official for a discussion on intelligence gathering. In October, the DMNSF took a close look at foreign relations in the context of competition with Russia and China.

Across these programs, our purpose extends beyond individual presentations. We seek to create opportunities for informed exchange among professionals with different responsibilities and perspectives, strengthening understanding across institutional boundaries. See the related articles in this issue for details about the presentations.

Our publications continued to advance the body of knowledge supporting ethical leadership and interagency cooperation. The spring 2026 *InterAgency Journal* (*IAJ*, Vol. 16, No. 1), our peer-reviewed national security studies journal, examined ethics, global security, artificial intelligence and data bias, and lessons from the war in Ukraine. These contributions connect professional responsibility with the challenges of technological change, organizational adaptation, and collaborative operations.





IAJ 16-1 and the most recent Special Report are available online:
https://thesimonscenter.org/publications
or use the QR codes

We also released the *Special Report: Civil–Military Relations Since World War II: Ethical Considerations*, presenting papers from the 2026 CGSC Military Ethics Symposium. Contributions address the professional ethic, moral injury, just war theory, autonomous weapons, historical civil-military relationships, and the responsibilities of military chaplains. Publishing the proceedings extends the symposium's value beyond the event itself, preserving its scholarship for professional education, research, and continued discussion.

The Simons Center remains dedicated to fostering ethical leaders, strengthening interagency cooperation, and advancing policy-relevant scholarship. Together, our programs and publications support the Command and General Staff College, the CGSC Foundation and Alumni Association, and the broader national security community.

For information on events, publications, and opportunities for engagement, visit the Simons Center website or contact the CGSC Foundation.

Arter – Rowland National Security Forum

by Mark H. Wiggins
Managing Editor

SINCE THE SPRING EDITION OF THE *FOUNDATION NEWS*, THE ARTER-ROWLAND NATIONAL SECURITY (ARNSF) FORUM HAS GATHERED FOR FIVE PRESENTATIONS AT THE CARRIAGE CLUB IN DOWNTOWN KANSAS CITY.

On May 21, Jason J. Galui, director of the Endicott College Center for Civic Participation, delivered a presentation entitled "Presidential Decision Making." Galui discussed the various positions he held during his Army career in which he was involved in the national security policy process, including the National Security Council and the Council of Economic Advisors.

On June 18, Colonel Nathan K. Finney, an Army Strategist currently serving as the director of the Commander's Initiatives Group at U.S. Army Western Hemisphere Command, spoke to the forum about the history, strategy and process of establishing the new Western Hemisphere Command.

On July 16, Charlie Gilbert, director of global intelligence for Gavin de Becker & Associates and former deputy director of the National Clandestine Service for the CIA, spoke to the forum about intelligence gathering. He provided an overview of his own career, intermingling it with tales about national security issues around the world, including China, Afghanistan and others.

On Sept. 17, Tom Sheehy, principle of Quinella Global, discussed foreign policy with a focus on Africa. He addressed how U.S. policy in Africa has changed over the years, as well as the renewed importance of Africa to the U.S. and the world.

The Oct. 15 gathering featured a presentation entitled "It's All About the Strait," by Keith Prather, founder and managing director of Armada Corporate Intelligence. Prather spoke about the Strait of Hormuz and its strategic significance in the global supply chain, not only for oil, but other commodities.

ARNSF events are for members and their guests only. If you are interested in joining, contact Col. (Ret.) Todd Schmidt at tschmidt@cgscf.org or visit the Forum page on the Simons Center website (link/QR below).

Editor's Note: At press time, the next ARNSF was set for Nov. 19.

PHOTOS BY MARK H. WIGGINS

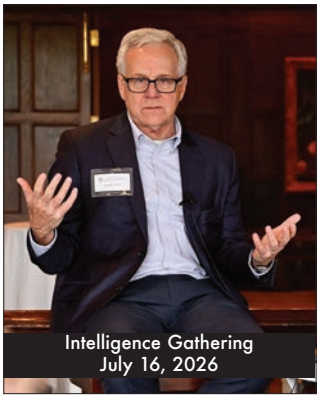


Presidential Decision Making • May 21, 2026



U.S. Army Western Hemisphere Command • June 18, 2026


Foreign Policy in Africa
Sept. 17, 2026


Intelligence Gathering
July 16, 2026



It's All About the Strait • Oct. 15, 2026

Thank you to the Sponsors of the Arter-Rowland National Security Forum

PRITZKER MILITARY FOUNDATION

The Tim and Karen Carlin Family Foundation

Learn more about the ARNSF, read the articles online and see more photos:
https://thesimonscenter.org/arter-rowland-national-security-forum

Des Moines National Security Forum

by Mark H. Wiggins
Managing Editor

THE DES MOINES NATIONAL SECURITY FORUM (DMNSF), A PROGRAM FACILITATED BY THE COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE FOUNDATION'S SIMONS CENTER HAS CONDUCTED TWO MEETINGS SINCE THE SPRING EDITION OF THE *FOUNDATION NEWS*. The fourth and final meeting of the DMNSF is scheduled for Nov. 4

On July 15, 2026, Charlie Gilbert, director of global intelligence for Gavin de Becker & Associates and former deputy director of the National Clandestine Service for the CIA, spoke to the forum about intelligence gathering during a fireside-style chat with Simons Center Director Todd Schmidt. Gilbert provided an overview of his own career, while also providing his thoughts on the global intelligence gathering environment and the challenges and opportunities faced by the U.S. intelligence community in a world rapidly evolving and impacted by technological advancements and artificial intelligence. He and Schmidt conducted a similar presentation the next day at the Arter-Rowland National Security Forum in Kansas City.

On Oct. 7, 2026, Schmidt conducted another fireside-style chat about U.S. foreign relations with David Oakley, Ph.D., the academic director at the University of South Florida's Global and National Security Institute (GNSI).

Oakley spoke about his background with particular emphasis on his time in the Central Intelligence Agency's National Clandestine Service/Directorate of Operations as a staff operations officer, and as a contractor at the U.S. National Counterterrorism Center.

He and Schmidt then shifted focus to the current administration's National Defense Strategy and their priority on homeland defense as well as maintaining deterring China through strength in the Indo-Pacific region. Finally they discussed the implications of the Trump administration's increased emphasis on allies being expected to shoulder more responsibility for their expense as opposed to their historical reliance on the security provided by the U.S. defense umbrella.



PHOTOS BY JOHN NELSON/SIMONS CENTER

Charlie Gilbert, left, director of global intelligence for Gavin de Becker & Associates and former deputy director of the National Clandestine Service for the CIA, and Simons Center Director Todd Schmidt discuss intelligence activities during the Des Moines National Security Forum at the Des Moines Embassy Club West in West Des Moines, Iowa on July 15, 2026



David Oakley, Ph.D., left, academic director at the University of South Florida's Global and National Security Institute, and Simons Center Director Todd Schmidt discuss U.S. foreign relations during the Des Moines National Security Forum at the Des Moines Embassy Club West in West Des Moines, Iowa on Oct. 7, 2026.

The CGSC Foundation's Simons Center designed the Des Moines National Security Forum in the mold of its Arter-Rowland National Security Forum in Kansas City. To help facilitate the program, Brownells in Grinnell, Iowa, is the Simons Center's local partner. The DMNSF conducts four programs each year.

Editor's Note: At press time, the next DMNSF was set for Nov. 4.

Thank you to the Sponsors of the Des Moines National Security Forum

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Distinguished Speaker Series

by Mark H. Wiggins, Managing Editor

THE CGSC FOUNDATION AND ITS SIMONS CENTER HAVE HOSTED THREE LECTURES IN THE DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES (DSS) SINCE THE SPRING EDITION OF THE *FOUNDATION NEWS*.

On May 20, the CGSC Foundation and Alumni Association and its Simons center presented "Marching Towards a More Perfect Union," by Jason J. Galui, director of the Endicott Center for Civic Participation. In recognition of the 250th anniversary of our United States, Galui said he seeks to inspire a new commitment to patriotism. If "We the People" are committed to securing the "blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity," he said, then each of us has essential duties and obligations to perform – as individuals and as a collective – in order to form a more perfect union. Galui concluded his formal remarks talking about the writing of the Declaration of Independence and the framework for our system of self governance in the Constitution.

On June 17, Col. Nathan K. Finney, director of the Commander's Initiative Group for the U.S. Army Western Hemisphere Command, discussed his recently published book, *Orchestrating Power*, which explores how the expansion of the American state for World War I reshaped the nature of governance.

Finally, on Oct. 14, retired Col. Gregory Fontenot, an author and former director of the School of Advanced Military Studies at Fort Leavenworth, discussed *Lariat Advance*, a recently published anthology he co-edited that examines the U.S. Army's approach to war readiness during the Cold War and offers insights relevant to readiness today. Written by fifteen distinguished contributors who lived this era, Fontenot said *Lariat Advance* offers lessons on readiness and institutional reform that remain relevant as today's Army reshapes for future strategic competition.

The CGSC Foundation through its Simons Center conducts the Distinguished Speaker Series program to offer extracurricular, educational lectures intended to help enrich the Command and General Staff School curriculum and provide opportunities for outreach to the public. Programs are made possible in part by sponsors.

Editor's Note: At press time, the next DSS program was set for Nov. 18.



PHOTOS BY MARK H. WIGGINS

Jason J. Galui, director of the Endicott Center for Civic Participation, delivers his presentation entitled "Marching Towards a More Perfect Union" during the Distinguished Speaker Series event at the Lewis and Clark Center on Fort Leavenworth, Kansas on May 20, 2026.

Read the full story and see more photos online:
https://www.cgscfoundation.org/dss-260520



Col. Nathan K. Finney, director of the Commander's Initiative Group for the U.S. Army Western Hemisphere Command, delivers a presentation on his recently published book, *Orchestrating Power*, during the Distinguished Speaker Series event at the Lewis and Clark Center on Fort Leavenworth, Kansas on June 17, 2026.

Read the full story and see more photos online:
https://www.cgscfoundation.org/dss-260617



Retired Col. Gregory Fontenot delivers a presentation on *Lariat Advance*, a book he co-edited, during the Distinguished Speaker Series event at JW Crancer's in Leavenworth, Kansas on Oct. 14, 2026.

Read the full story and see more photos online:
https://www.cgscfoundation.org/dss-261014

Thank you to the Sponsors of the Distinguished Speaker Series

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Lt. Col. (Ret.) William and Kathleen Connor, Sr.
Col. (Ret.) Tom and Candy Dials
Geiger Ready Mix
Col. (Ret.) Todd and Leslie Schmidt

PHOTOFLASH

Foundation trustee emeritus and spouse earn community award

Congratulations go to CGSC Foundation Trustee Emeritus Benny Lee and his wife Edith who were named Kansas City World Citizens of the Year 2026 by the Greater Kansas City Chapter of the United Nations Association at the 55th Annual Mayor's United Nations Day Dinner Oct. 26 in downtown Kansas City.

Benny and Edith were recognized for their extraordinary contributions both personally and financially to causes they value, especially to international awareness and cultural appreciation causes. The Lees regularly open their home to Kansas Citians and many international visitors who share this vision. Over the years they have supported the Asian American Chamber of Commerce in Kansas City, the International Relations Council, the Kansas City Honorary Consular Corps, helped create Park University's International Center for Music, supported the International Sculpture Garden at the Overland Park Arboretum, and of course, supported the CGSC Foundation and Alumni Association as a multi-term trustee.



PHOTO COURTESY GREATER KANSAS CITY CHAPTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION

PHOTOFLASH

Autographed copies of 'The Impossible Mission' available

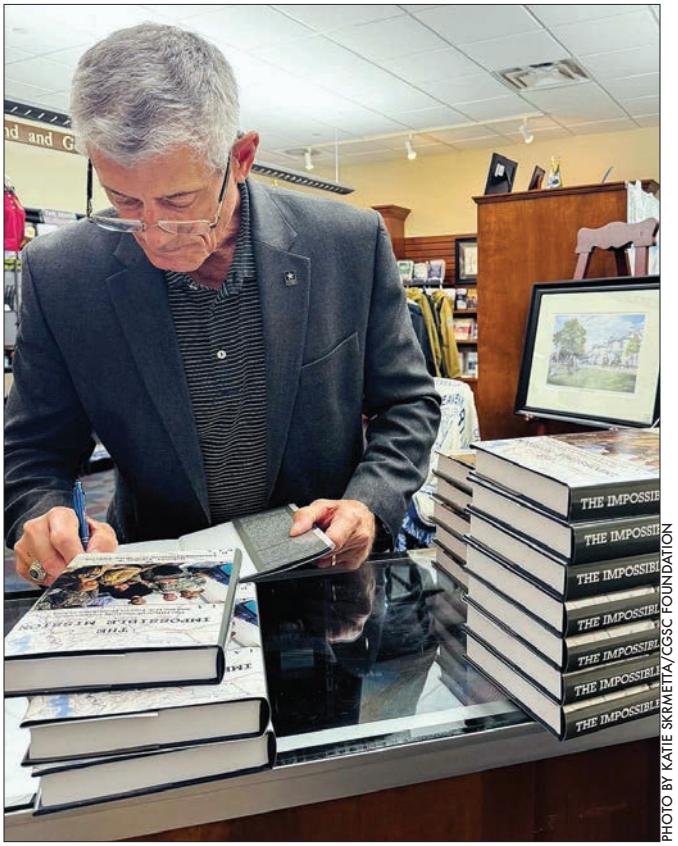


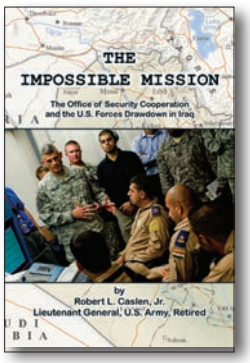
PHOTO BY KATIE SKRMETTA/CGSC FOUNDATION

While at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College for the CGSC Foundation's Board of Trustees meeting, Gen. (Ret.) Robert L. Caslen signed copies of his book *The Impossible Mission* in the gift shop Sept. 28.

Caslen was voted chairman of the Foundation's board of trustees at the Sept. 29 meeting, welcomed new trustees to the board, and toured the Foundation's new office and gift shop space during the visit.

The signed copies of *The Impossible Mission* are available at the CGSC Foundation's gift shop in-store and online.

Get your copy of *The Impossible Mission* in the online gift shop:
https://giftshop.cgscfoundation.org/products/the-impossible-mission
or use the QR code below



2027 Scholarship Program opens Jan. 6

by Elizabeth Hill
Assistant Operations Officer

2027 Scholarship Competition

Window for applications
Jan. 6 - March 15

Judging Period
March 16 – 31

Winners announced
April 2027

www.cgscfoundation.org/scholarships

THE CGSC FOUNDATION'S COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION WINDOW WILL OPEN JANUARY 6, 2027. The deadline for applications is March 15, 2027. Immediate family and grandchildren of Life Members of the Foundation's Alumni Association are eligible to apply.

Judging for the competition will occur in March and winners will be announced in mid to late April 2027. The Foundation will award eight cash scholarships: one $5000 (the Colonel Stephen E. "Brownie" Brown Scholarship), one $1000, one $750 and one $500 to high school students who will begin their college education in 2027; and one $1000, one $750, and one $500 scholarship to students who are continuing their college education.

"This is the seventh year of this program," said Foundation President/CEO Lora Morgan, "and 2027 will be the fifth year of the Brown Scholarship. We couldn't be more proud to make these opportunities available to military families."

The scholarship program helps the Foundation fulfill two parts of its mission: maintaining connections with alumni and supporting military families. The Foundation also welcomes donors who may not have eligible relatives but wish to support the scholarship program.

Information about the program and articles about previous winners are available on the Foundation website. A link to join the Alumni Association as a Life Member is on the scholarship page for those that need to join before their relatives apply.

PHOTOFLASH

'Know Your World' features Ivory Coast

On Sept. 23, 2026, Ivory Coast was the focus of CGSC's "Know Your World" presentation in Eisenhower Hall of the Lewis and Clark Center on Fort Leavenworth.

The featured speaker was Capt. Kouame Pepin, an international military student from Ivory Coast in the CGSOC Class of 2027.

CGSC's International Military Student Division hosts periodic "Know Your World" lectures in which an international military student presents a 45-minute lecture on the geography, history, current culture, economy, and security of their country.

The presentations are open to the public but attendees must comply with post entry requirements.

The August "Know Your World" presentation was focused on France. The next presentations are scheduled for Jan. 20, 2027 (Lithuania); Feb. 24 (Qatar); and March 10 (Papua New Guinea). Dates are subject to change.







PHOTOS BY JIM SHEA/CGSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Wreaths Across America Day 2026

Come help remember them Dec. 19

by Katie Skrmetta
CGSC Foundation Administrative Assistant

THE CGSC FOUNDATION, ALONG WITH MANY OTHER VOLUNTEER GROUPS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS, INVITE THE PUBLIC TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY ON DEC. 19, 2026, AT THE FORT LEAVENWORTH NATIONAL CEMETERY. The ceremony begins at 10 a.m. with wreath placements immediately following.

The CGSC Foundation is one of many sponsor organizations for the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery that works to support the mission of Wreaths Across America. This year's goal is to place 20,000 remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes.

When sponsoring wreaths through the CGSC Foundation's Wreaths Across America page, you also have an opportunity to be entered into a drawing for a gift basket sponsored by Wreaths Across America Fort Leavenworth and the CGSC Foundation. The basket, valued at more than $200, includes a Fort Leavenworth throw blanket, a bottle of Eagle Rare bourbon, FMWR Fort Leavenworth gift certificates, a Buffalo Soldier monument ornament, and more.



PHOTO BY KATIE SKRMETTA

Photo of the gift basket for the drawing. Please note that wreath sponsors must be 21 years of age or older to qualify for the gift basket opportunity. The gift basket must be picked up from the CGSC Foundation gift shop prior to Dec. 15, 2026. Shipping is not available. Not redeemable for cash.

The last day to sponsor wreaths through any Wreaths Across America group for placement during the 2026 holiday season is Nov. 29. Any wreath sponsorships received after that date will roll over to 2027.

The Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery, among the first 12 national cemeteries established by Abraham Lincoln in 1862, is located near the center of historic Fort Leavenworth at 395 Biddle Blvd., across from the Frontier Conference Center.

The mission of Wreaths Across America is to remember the fallen, honor those who serve and teach the next generation the value of freedom. The theme for 2026 - "Remember Me" – comes as the nation celebrates its 250th anniversary, a milestone Wreaths Across America says calls for renewed focus on the individual lives behind America's military service.

"While we often honor service members collectively, each one has a name, a family and a story," says Karen Worcester, executive director, Wreaths Across America. "Their sacrifices are deeply personal, and their stories shape the freedoms we enjoy today."

Thank you for your support of Wreaths Across America.

Visit the CGSC Foundation Wreaths Across America website and sponsor a wreath today!

https://wreathsacrossamerica.org/KS0101P

PHOTOFLASH

Fort Leavenworth Spouses' Club presents grant to the Foundation

Members of the Fort Leavenworth Spouses' Club (FLSC) visited the CGSC Foundation May 28, 2026, to deliver a $1,000 grant certificate to support the CGSC Foundation's family programs.

From left, FLSC members Esther Sprengeler (recently voted FLSC president) and Elizabeth Sunday; Lora Morgan, CGSC Foundation and Alumni Association President/CEO; Sabrina Darley, FLSC Community Grants Coordinator; and Heather Anne Ward.



PHOTO BY MARK H. WIGGINS



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Alumni Updates

News from CGSC alumni around the globe



Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Stanley Cherrie – CGSOC 1976

I was recently hired as a warfighting analyst by Core Government Services as part of the MCTP Warfighter Exercise Support. Also, garnered Leavenworth County's top donation solicitor [19 consecutive win], for the American Cancer Society's Annual cancer research and patient support campaign, Relay for Life. Led Leavenworth Rotary Club solicitors to their first-place team for the last 19 years also.



Lt. Col. (Ret.) Jim Willbanks – CGSOC 1983, SAMS 1984

From an article in the *Williamson County Sun* (Georgetown, Texas): James H. Willbanks of Georgetown was inducted into the Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets Hall of Honor during the 11th annual Hall of Honor Gala and Induction Ceremony on August 29, 2026 at the Ford Hall of Champions at Kyle Field in College Station, Texas.

Watch the tribute video: https://www.corpsofcadets.org/hoh-willbanks.aspx



Lt. Col. (Ret.) Ronald Dyches – CGSOC 1986

After retiring from Active Duty in 1995, I taught high school until 2016. In 2024, I was contacted by Chris Mooney to be part of James Patterson's book, *Thank You, Teachers*. My teacher story is the last chapter in the book which was released in May 2026. If you are retiring, I highly recommend you consider teaching as a second career. You can make a difference in America's classrooms.

Col. (Ret.) George Pogge – CGSOC 1987



I have retired from working except for managing the family farm in Iowa. I'm still very active in a number of veteran service organizations. – I am currently the department commander for the American Legion Department of Kansas. I am on the Council of Chapters as secretary for the Kansas Military Officers Association of America. I try to remain active in the Reserve Officers Association of America as well as the Civil Affairs Association, the Association of the U.S. Army, the Special Forces Association and others. I am also still serving as a member of the board of directors of my local rural water district. My real passion is advocating for veterans' issues in both the state legislature and the national legislature. I also firmly believe every retired officer has an obligation to continue to serve, both as a civic participant and a veterans advocate.







Lt. Gen. Cristian-Daniel Dan, Romania – CGSOC 2007

Best regards from Multinational Corps South East (NATO) which I am leading today. CGSC was for me an unforgettable experience. (The sketch was made by a very talented friend, retired lieutenant colonel. It is graphite pencil sketch. It was his present after I was promoted to 1-star general.)



Maj. (Ret.) Nate Swann – CGSOC 2015

Began new role as the Senior Director of Business Development with A2G International; bringing the lowest cost COCO ISR to the defense market. If anyone needs/wants ISR to support your current or future operations, please email me! nate.swann@a2gintl.com.



Lt. Col. Joffrey Tacusalme, Philippines – CGSOC 2021

I recently joined the City Manager's Office in Fayetteville, North Carolina as an Intergovernmental Military Manager, responsible for the city's relationship, partnership, and agreements with the Fort Bragg military installation.



Lt. Col. Kay Nissen – CGSOC 2024

I have just completed my time as a squadron commander and am currently joining U.S. Pacific Command in Hawaii. I've been in touch with many former CGSC classmates around the island and in the region.

(Editor's Note: The photo was taken June 18, 2024, when Nissen assumed command of 2nd Audiovisual Squadron at Hill Air Force Base, Utah.)

Col. (Ret.) André Zumstein, Switzerland – CGSOC 1996

From June 3-7, 2026, some participants of the CGSC-International Officer class of 1996 gathered in Istanbul to celebrate 30 years since graduation. Attending were officers with partners from Australia, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey (host), and United Kingdom. The host offered some sightseeing, starting in Istanbul, then a "Eurasia" trip to Çanakkale to see the Acropolis of Assos, the site of Troy and the Gallipoli peninsula (ANZAC beach). The "best year of our life" remains in good memories and no one regrets this experience in Leavenworth.

PHOTOS COURTESY SUBMITTING PERSONS

Visit the CGSC Foundation website at www.cgscfoundation.org/alumni-update or use the QR code at right to learn how to submit your Alumni Update.



New Life Members of the Alumni Association

May 31 – Oct. 21, 2026

Col. (Ret.) Beverly Beavers	Maj. Brendan Johnson	Maj. Aaron Sanders
Prof. Albion A. Bergstrom	Maj. David Kubik	Capt. Joseph Sierra
Lt. Col. Andrew P. Betson	Maj. Daniel Lafranchi	Lt. Col. Roger Snead
Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Gwendolyn Bingham	Maj. Victor Lim	Lt. Col. (Ret.) Helen Snyder
Maj. Alex Cherpak	Capt. Nerissa Lin	Col. (Ret.) James Tenpenny
Maj. Daniel Dang	Lt. Col. (Ret.) DeEtte A. Lombard	Maj. Zachariah Vanlandingham
Col. (Ret.) Christopher Fahrenbach	Lt. Col. (Ret.) Richard Mendenhall	Maj. Matthew Walkingstick
Lt. Col. Tyler B. Folan	Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Jerry L. Neff	Lt. Gen. Jan-Willem Maas
Maj. Aleksander Granberg	Mr. Daniel Nibarger	Maj. Michael Winters
Col. (Ret.) John Hixson	Lt. Cmdr. David Parker	Maj. (Ret.) Roger Wortman, Sr.
Col. Micah R. Hutchins	Maj. Ben Pereski	
Lt. Col. (Ret.) Megan Jantos	Dr. John P. Ringquist	



Honoring a friend or family member with a contribution to the CGSC Foundation is a profound way of demonstrating your respect. The CGSC Foundation has recently received these donations in honor of (IHO) the persons named:

- **Ms. Archietta Burch James IHO In honor of Francis Clinton (Company E, 10th Cavalry, Buffalo Soldiers)**
- **Dr. Jeffrey B. Kramer, M.D. (NSRT '23, ARNSF Member) IHO Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Robert Arter (Founding Chairman of the CGSC Foundation)**



Remembering a deceased friend or family member with a contribution to the CGSC Foundation is a gesture of respect and admiration. These contributions help the Foundation further its work in supporting the College and its initiatives. With thanks and sincere condolences, we acknowledge these donations made in memory of (IMO) the persons named:

- **Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Kevin Byrnes (CGSC '85) IMO Lt. Gen. (Ret.) James C. Riley (CGSC '80, CGSC Commandant & CAC/Fort Leavenworth Commander '01-'03)**
- **Prof. William Jannace IMO Sgt. 1st Class Anthony E. Jannace, 2ID**
- **Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Dennis L. Benchoff (CGSC '73) IMO Brig. Gen. Eugene Lanzillo (CGSC '68)**
- **Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Daniel V. Wright IMO COL (Ret.) Edith M. "Edyie" Rob (CGSC '97)**
- **Col. (Ret.) Douglas Arthur Braendel (CGSC '80) IMO Col. (Ret.) Bruce Brandes (CGSC '80)**

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Founding trustee emeritus and renowned Army lawyer dies at 85

COL. WILLIAM G. ECKHARDT, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED, PASSED AWAY TUESDAY, OCT. 13, 2026, AT THE AGE OF 85. He was a founding trustee of the CGSC Foundation and served multiple terms on the board of trustees from 2009-2015, and again from 2018-2024. He was elected trustee emeritus Sept. 17, 2024, at the end of his fourth term as trustee.

"Bill's leadership and dedication to the Foundation's mission and the Army profession is commendable, as is his teaching career," said Lora Morgan, president/CEO of the CGSC Foundation and Alumni Association. "He made a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to work with him, and he will be sorely missed."

During his time with the Foundation as a trustee and trustee emeritus, Eckhardt personally sponsored and participated in several Foundation programs. He served as a keynote speaker in the Foundation's ethics symposia, a speaker in the Foundation's Vietnam lecture series, participated in "Plato's Cave" events with CGSC students and faculty, and served on the Foundation's programs committee. He was an active sponsor of the Distinguished Speaker Series, as well as an active member of the Arter-Rowland National Security Forum and the National Security Roundtable program. He also presented during the Foundation's Cold War Symposium, and wrote one of the chapters in the subsequent book published by the Foundation, *The End of the Cold War and Its Aftermath*.

Eckhardt is likely most well-known in legal circles for his role as the chief prosecutor in the court-martial of Army Captain Ernest Medina as part of the My Lai massacre trials in 1970-1971. Eckhardt was a captain at the time. For his service during that trial he received the Federal Bar Association's Federal Young Lawyer Award which was presented by Supreme Court Justice William Rehnquist.

Ultimately, Eckhardt served 30 years in the Army, retiring as a colonel, with the Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps where he provided legal services, litigated in federal and military courts and taught at the University of California at Berkeley, taught at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and taught and held the Dwight David Eisenhower Chair of National Security at the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

Upon his Army retirement Eckhardt began teaching law at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law in 1993. He taught 252 classes and clinics touching more than 4,800 students in a multitude of subjects such as administrative law, criminal law and evidence, among others.


COURTESY PHOTO

Born in Ames, Iowa on January 7, 1941, to Dr. Robert C. Eckhardt and Ruth F. Eckhardt, Eckhardt moved to Tennessee and ultimately Starkville, Mississippi when his parents finished their graduate studies. He grew up in Starkville.

Eckhardt received his B.A. (Honors) in 1963 from the University of Mississippi. At Ole Miss, Bill was the band's drum major for three years and also served in the Army ROTC program where he became the cadet colonel. He then attended the University of Virginia, School of Law where he earned his LLB (Honors). He entered the Army as a second lieutenant in the Judge Advocate General's Corps and earned his LLM Equivalent (Honors) in 1970 from The Judge Advocate General's School, beginning his 30-years of service in uniform.

During his service Eckhardt graduated from the Army's Command and General Staff College in 1978 and the Army War College in 1982. He was also an author and editor of several significant publications including editing "Law for the Joint Warfighter."

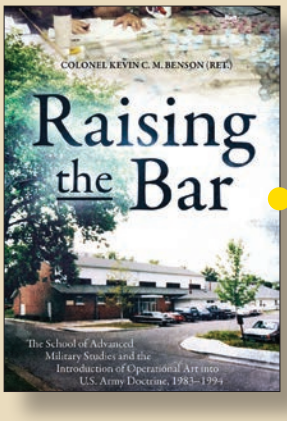
Eckhardt was accompanied on many of these journeys and adventures by his wife, Marge, to whom he was married for 57 years. They raised two sons, Will (deceased) and Rob. Additional family includes daughters-in-law Brenda Eckhardt and Carole Eckhardt and grandchildren, Forest Eckhardt, Adrienne Eckhardt, Anita Eckhardt, Alan Eckhardt and Kaili Kreiner. Bill's siblings are Dr. Karl R. Eckhardt (Pamela), Elizabeth Palmieri (Frank), and Myrna Lott (Bryan).

Funeral services were conducted at Second Presbyterian Church, 318 East 55th Street, Kansas City, Missouri on Oct. 24, 2026, and inurnment was conducted Oct. 26 at Leavenworth National Cemetery.

Read the full obituary and see more photos online:
https://www.cgscfoundation.org/founding-trustee-emeritus-dies-at-85/

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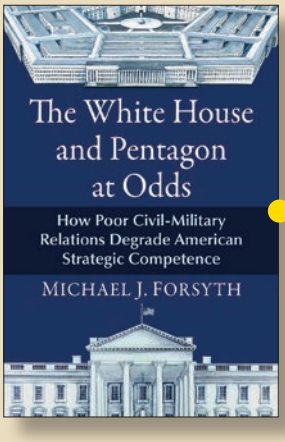


Raising the Bar: The School of Advanced Military Studies and the Introduction of Operational Art into U.S. Army Doctrine, 1983–1994

by Kevin C.M. Benson; 228 pages; Casemate, 2026. Available on giftshop.cgscfoundation.org (hardcover - $30); amazon.com (hardcover - $17; Kindle - $21) and barnesandnoble.com (hardcover - $35).

This is the story of the first ten years of the U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies and the remarkable reputation quickly acquired by its graduates, educated in a pre-World War II horse cavalry stable at Fort Leavenworth. It is also the story of the doctrinal revolution in which SAMS played an important role—a doctrinal shift that energized how the U.S. Army thought about and fought its wars. The book explores the interrelationship between the School of Advanced Military Studies, the introduction of operational art into U.S. Army doctrine, and how graduates of the school sought to translate education and doctrine into action.

Col. (Ret.) Kevin Benson served in the U.S. Army as a commander and general staff officer for 30 years. He was the director of plans for the Third U.S. Army and the Combined Forces Land Component Command at the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, from July 2002 to July 2003. His final assignment in the U.S. Army was director, School of Advanced Military Studies, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He writes for professional journals and websites ranging from Parameters, Military Review, and Army magazine to Strategy Bridge and the Modern War Institute. He also reviews books for Army magazine.

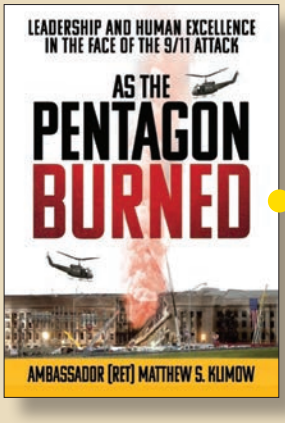


The White House and Pentagon at Odds: How Poor Civil-Military Relations Degrade American Strategic Competence

by Michael J. Forsyth; 243 pages; McFarland, 2025. Available on giftshop.cgscfoundation.org (paperback - $30); amazon.com (paperback - $45; Kindle - $30) and barnesandnoble.com (paperback - $58; eBook - $30).

The ability of leaders to develop sound national security policy and strategy has suffered immensely since the Vietnam War – in large part, this book proposes, because of generally poor civil-military relations since that time. This theory, called the civil-military relations strategy corollary, asserts that when relations between the main actors are poor, the expected strategic outcomes are correspondingly of low quality. Conversely, when relations are characterized by close cooperation, broad dialogue, and mutual respect – even during disagreements – the probability of positive strategic outcomes is greatly improved. Thus, civilian and military senior leaders should work toward maintaining sound relations in order to achieve the best national outcomes.

Col. (Ret.) Michael J. Forsyth holds a Ph.D. in war studies from the Royal Military College of Canada and is an associate professor and director of the Department of Command and Leadership at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. He is the author of several books and has published many articles on history and military affairs in several publications.

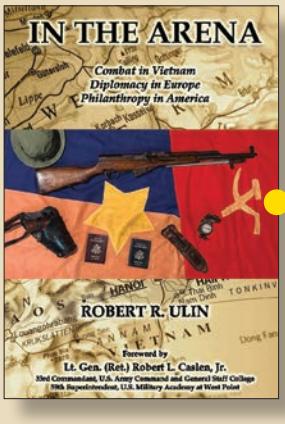


As the Pentagon Burned: Leadership and Human Excellence in the Face of the 9/11 Attack

by Matthew S. Klimow; 188 pages; Palmetto Publishing, 2026. Available on amazon.com (paperback - $22; Kindle - $3) and barnesandnoble.com (paperback - $22; eBook - $3).

As the Pentagon Burned immerses readers in the harrowing events of September 11, 2001, from the vantage point of the National Military Command Center. Written by a retired Army colonel who served as executive assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the book offers a gripping firsthand account of the chaos that ensued after Flight 77 struck the Pentagon. It blends personal narrative with historical context, exploring the immediate reactions of America's senior military leaders as they grappled with unprecedented challenges. The author reflects on the tension between established protocols and the need for swift improvisation in crisis situations, emphasizing that true leadership emerges when routine structures collapse. The narrative not only recounts the events of that fateful day but also delves into the broader implications for military decision-making and organizational resilience.

Ambassador (Ret.) Matthew S. Klimow, a native of Johnson City, New York, graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1970. He dedicated over 50 years to military and diplomatic service, commanding infantry units and earning the Silver Star for combat valor. Klimow held key positions, including executive assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and U.S. Ambassador to Turkmenistan. He authored "Moral vs. Practical; the Future of Armed Humanitarian Interventions."



In the Arena: Combat in Vietnam, Diplomacy in Europe, Philanthropy in America

by Robert R. Ulin; 302 pages; Outskirts Press, 2026. Available on giftshop.cgscfoundation.org (hardcover - $42; paperback - $25); amazon.com (hardcover - $42; paperback - $25; Kindle - $10) and barnesandnoble.com (hardcover - $42; paperback - $25; eBook - $10).

In the Arena is about the author's 33-year military career from private to colonel during a particularly difficult time for the U.S. Army. He served in Germany, Vietnam, Belgium, and Luxembourg and conducted missions in the former Eastern Europe and Africa. While in Belgium he served at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), the American Embassy as a member of the diplomatic corps, and finally NATO headquarters. *In the Arena* concludes with chapters focused on the author's transition into the private sector and ultimately founding the CGSC Foundation.

Bob Ulin is a retired U.S. Army artillery colonel with extensive foreign assignments and engagements in Europe, Southeast Asia, and Africa. He served two combat tours in Vietnam and he lived and worked Europe for 17 years. He spent 12 years in the for-profit sector working for private sector companies and was the director of business development for an organizational development firm that included several Fortune 500 clients. Ulin has two master's degrees and is a graduate of an executive management program of Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. He is the Founding CEO Emeritus of the CGSC Foundation, Inc. (This book was published through the CGSC Foundation's Simons Center book program.)



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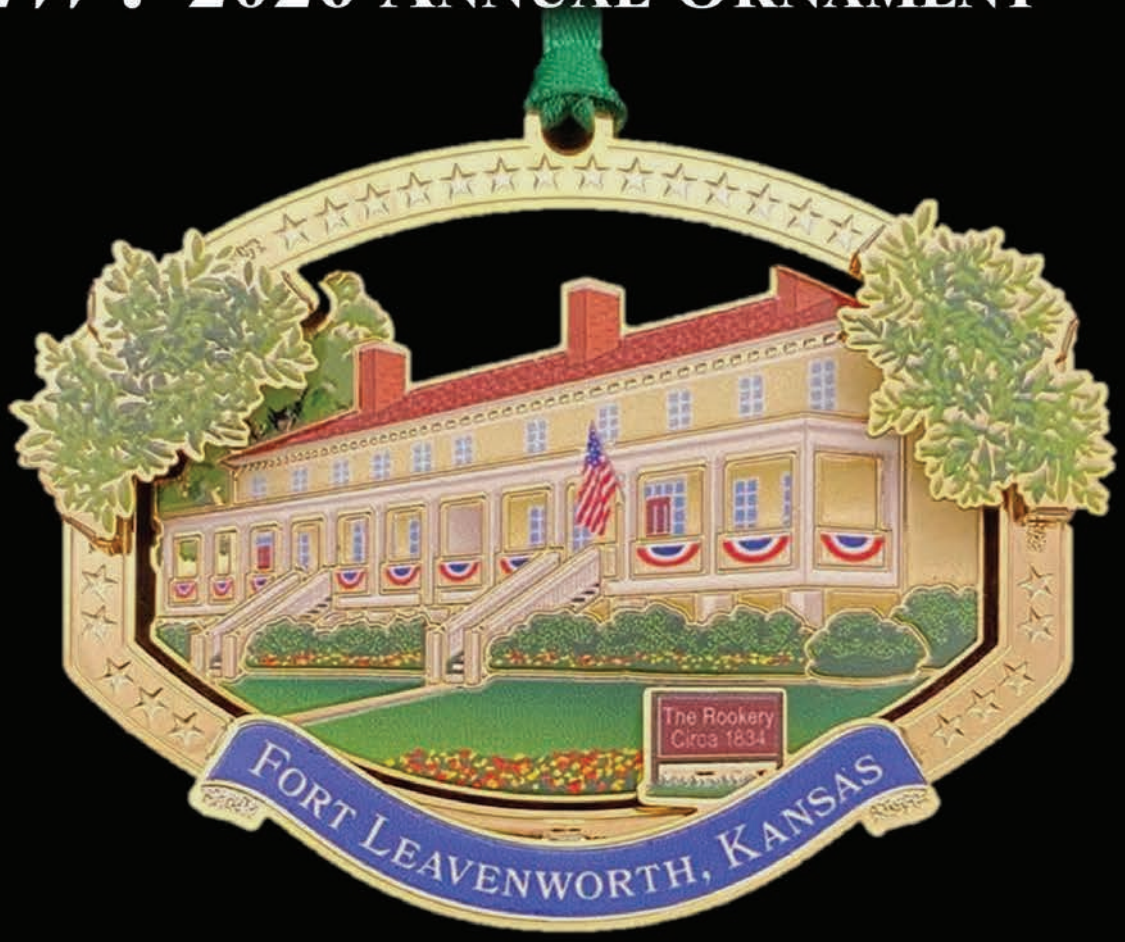
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