



ARMY UNIVERSITY

Education Matters

Special Edition Volume 1, Issue 1

Army University on Social Media

 <https://www.facebook.com/ArmyUniversity>

 <https://www.linkedin.com/company/army-university>

 <https://instagram.com/goarmyuniversity>

Resources:

Fort Leavenworth Garrison Commander Facebook Town Halls <https://www.facebook.com/ftlvn/>

ArmyU Employee Resource Center site on SharePoint (requires CAC): <https://cacmdc.army.mil/armyu/HQ/Employee/SitePages/Home.aspx>

Directorate of Academic Affairs QTRLY published newsletter: <https://armyu.army.mil/fsdd/chalkboard>

Directorate of Distributed Learning newsletter: <https://tadlp.tradoc.army.mil/>

Farewell MG Maranian, welcome BG Hill

Army University says goodbye to Major General Stephen J. Maranian and welcomes Brigadier General Donn H. Hill in a ceremony held at Fort Leavenworth’s Lewis and Clark Center on July 2. Maranian has served as the Combined Arms Center’s Deputy Commanding General for Education, as Provost of the Army University, as well as Deputy Commandant of CGSC since June 2019 of last year. He moves on to become the Commandant of the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, PA.

Hill comes to Army University following command of the 2nd Security Force Assistance Brigade in Afghanistan and Fort Bragg, NC.

CSM Teresa M. Duncan, the current senior enlisted advisor for ArmyU, will retire on 2 July 2020, marking the end of her stellar career as a Military Police Non-Commissioned Officer.

CGSOC Class 2020 graduates honored virtually

Army University celebrated the Command and General Staff Officer Course Class of 2020 with two virtual ceremonies held June 11 and 12th.

During the June 11 ceremony, 113 international military students representing 89 countries were honored during the International Graduate Badge Ceremony.

The General Dwight D. Eisenhower Award recognizes the most distinguished international graduate. The 2020 class recipient is Italian Maj. Alesio Battisti “I feel really honored to have been deemed worthy of such a prestigious award,” Battisti said. “I am proud of having well-represented my country and my military institution here at CGSC.

The Maj. Gen. Hans Schlup Award, named in honor of the late Swiss MG Schlup, recognizes excellence in international relations. His or her peers select the winner. The 2020 recipient is Capt. Abdele-Aziz Ali Orou of Benin.

View the CGSOC International Graduate Badge Ceremony at <https://www.facebook.com/ArmyUniversity/videos/1428733793984388/>.

On 12 June, a second ceremony recognized all 1200 CGSOC graduates, bestowing Master of military art and science degrees on 135 members of the class. Gen. James McConville, 40th Chief of Staff of the Army, served as the guest speaker. He asked graduates to remember two things — people first and winning matters. Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy served as keynote speaker and focused on three topics — power, influence, and relationships.

The General George C. Marshall Award recognizing the distinguished U.S. graduate in each CGSOC class was presented to Maj. Sarah Gerstein. “I feel extremely lucky to have been in two staff groups ... where my peers supported me and challenged me to excel. I am convinced they were instrumental in my success this year,” Gerstein said.

View the CGSOC Graduation Ceremony at <https://www.facebook.com/ArmyUniversity/videos/2300832520212943/>.



WHINSEC supports adapted graduation ceremonies

Adela Duncan, WHINSEC PAO

Graduation Day is important for any school, and it is no different at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC), which educates and trains military, law enforcement and civilian students from 17 countries throughout the Western Hemisphere. Students endure rigorous hours of studying and training to graduate from courses that range from three months to an entire year in length. Immediate family members may attend their graduation ceremonies while extended family, friends, and leadership across the hemisphere are encouraged to participate by viewing the graduation on Facebook Live. Since physical interaction in large groups is not possible, leaders had to be creative and adaptive in finding new ways to recognize academic excellence within the current public health guidelines. At WHINSEC, the command group has recognized that cancelling graduation ceremonies adversely affects student morale. The command understands the importance of acknowledging students' hard work, especially during these unprecedented times. The Commandant directed course directors to plan ceremonies that have two specific outcomes. First, they recognize the students' accomplishments "in-

person", while still adhering to

all Army COVID-19 social distancing directives. Second, they model social distancing best practices for our partners in the hemisphere, underscoring WHINSEC's role as a regional educator.

Past vs. Present

The synchronization of WHINSEC course schedules facilitates combined, large-group graduations. However, with the current requirement to reduce the number of students gathered in one space, each course is now conducting its own ceremony to create a much smaller footprint. The pre-pandemic combined graduations were a "whole of staff" production. Current "small group" ceremonies require much less staff participation.

Additionally, WHINSEC graduations have always been open to the public. Now they are a closed forum and only essential personnel, in addition to the students, physically attend the ceremonies to ensure meeting social distancing requirements. Finally, the event changed from a publicly attended "Graduation Ceremony" to a virtually attended



Virtual ceremony for Sergeants Major Course

Danielle O'Donnell, NCOLCOE Public Affairs

The NCO Leadership Center of Excellence conducted a virtual graduation ceremony for the Sergeants Major Course, Class 70, June 19. Out of the 693 graduates, 233

received the Bachelor of Arts in Leadership and Workforce Development provided through the Sergeants Major Academy under the academic governance of the Command and General Staff College.

Maj. Gen. Stephen J. Maranian, Army University provost and Command and General Staff College deputy commandant addressed the graduates, "You have persevered, overcome, and are graduating from the premier Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Military Education course in the world," Maranian said. "Well done."

The Class 70 students adopted the motto "Lead the Change" at the beginning of the course. To the students, "Lead the Change" is a call to action that ignites, reminds, and empowers leaders at all levels to take charge and exercise resilience despite an ever-changing military and world.

"This motto has inspired you to do exceedingly well in an already challenging academic environment," Maranian said. "It is a time of change. During this unprecedented time, I hope 'Lead the Change' will serve as inspiration for how you will lead your

organizations at your next unit of assignment. You've certainly proven yourselves here."

Maranian also spoke to the unforeseen effects of the COVID-19 pandemic during the students' last semester. "Thanks to your effort and the efforts of the staff and faculty of the Sergeants Major Academy and the Non-Commissioned Officer Leadership Center of Excellence, you were able to graduate on-time despite the effects of social distancing and working from home," he said.

"Your international student partners have been integral to the fabric of Class-70," Maranian said. "This class hosted 57 international students from 49 countries. I'm proud to say that nine of our international graduates are among those who earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Leadership and Workforce Development."

"You've given your heart and soul to this class, but remember that the Army gave you this time to grow and better yourselves," Maranian said. "I like to say that to those who much is given, much is expected. And you will certainly give back to our Army, our Soldiers, and our military communities."

See the full story at <https://www.army.mil/article/236929>.

SAMS graduates 148 from year-long courses

The School of Advanced Military Studies graduated students from its year-long programs May 21. Lieutenant General James Rainey, Commander of the Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth and Commandant of the Command and General Staff College gave the graduation address.

SAMS Director, Col. Thomas Payne, told students, "Lt. Gen. Rainey has been planning, learning, or commanding since his graduation from SAMS. Our expectation is that you will follow his example."

Major David M. Pevoto, U.S. Army, received the Col. Thomas Felts Leadership Award considered the top award for SAM's graduates. Sponsored by the Command and General Staff College Foundation, the presented award goes to the student who best exemplifies all the desired attributes of an Advanced Military Studies Program graduate. Lt. Col. Angela Polsinelli, U.S. Air Force, wrote the best monograph for the Advanced Strategic Leader Studies Program titled "Organizing for Innovation." Maj. Sam Kriegler, U.S. Army, contributed the best monograph for the

Advanced Military Studies Program titled "Artificial Intelligence Guided Battle Management." In addition, Chuck Vetter of the State Department received the Simons Center Interagency Writing Award.

View SAMS Graduation Ceremony at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZFY8_IWWPI



Virtual and modified ceremonies honor graduates

Restrictions caused by the COVID-19 forces schools throughout Army University to find creative ways to honor graduates from some of the Army's most prestigious programs. Schools turned to internal sources to plan, shoot, and produce final virtual ceremonial videos.

Producers of videos and ceremonies from four ArmyU schools commented on the process of creating graduations in unusual times. "The intent was to provide some sort of a graduation for the students and their families," said Dave Crozier from the Non-Commissioned Officer Leadership Center of Excellence and producer of the virtual graduation for the Sergeants Major Course Class 70. "We wanted to create a memorable video that CGSOC graduates would be proud to show to their families, friends, and colleagues," added Michael Serravo of Army University Press who produced the graduation ceremony for the Command and General Staff Officers Course Class 2020.

Each of the video and graduation producers have full time jobs. Adding the graduation requirement and executing it in a short time took a toll. "Virtual graduations are something that require more planning and coordination than a regular graduation," said Crozier. He said getting content from many different sources was one issue. Content was also the biggest issue for Dan Neal, contractor for Army University who pro-

duced the Virtual Graduation for the School of Advanced Military Studies and the CGSOC International Graduate Badge Ceremony in addition to contributing original video for the CGSOC and SMC events. "Be prepared," he said. "Try to get as much B-Roll and other images for filler in advance."



Even though the virtual graduations were a last minute add to an already busy work schedule, students around ArmyU appreciated the recognition. "The feedback has been outstanding!" said Adela Duncan, communications director for the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. "Our Senior Enlisted Advisor (SEA) ceremony reached 150k people and had 17k views." Duncan's staff prepared several virtual, in-person with social distancing, and combined graduations for the institute.

"All of the feedback I have received has been positive and well received by internal and external audiences," said Serravo. "The CGSOC Graduation video reached about 17K users on Facebook and almost 1K on YouTube. There were 355 comments and 81 shares."