Fact Sheet #1
STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE
U.S. Army War College

Applying the lessons of Gettysburg to meet the leadership challenges of tomorrow

Program Overview: The **Strategic Leadership Experience**, conducted by the United States Army War College, supports the Chief of Staff of the Army's Strategic Communication efforts to increase awareness and allow for exchange of insights on the most important strategic issues facing the Army, academia, government, and the business community. The experience establishes mutually beneficial, long term, professional relationships and exchanges.

The Strategic Leader Staff Ride (SLSR): The most popular of the events, this two day seminar includes a one-day "staff ride" of the Gettysburg battlefield followed by a half-day of discussion on strategy and related topics at the Army War College. The concept of a staff ride originated in the Army of the 1880's and was used to teach various aspects of tactics and leadership to aspiring staff officers. Visiting a Civil War battlefield (originally on horseback, thus the term "staff ride") brought to life importance of terrain, units on the battlefield, tactics, leadership techniques, the interaction of leaders at various levels of command, and command decisions. The staff ride that the War College conducts is much more intellectually rigorous than a simple, publicly available sightseeing tour of the Gettysburg battlefield. The first day is dedicated to the staff ride in Gettysburg and discussions concerning the strategic level of the war, leadership techniques, the interaction of leaders at various levels of command, and command decisions. The second day of the program is conducted at the Army War College, building upon the themes introduced during the staff ride, a series of facilitated or round table discussions (see attached discussion topics) provide insights on crafting strategy, strategic leadership, and how U.S. grand strategy is conducted in the current world situation. A sample itinerary is also attached.

Strategic Leader Seminars (SLS): The program consists of tailorable "packages" designed in concert with the hosted organization. The goal is to work closely with the hosted organization to design a unique program that achieves the objectives mentioned in the Program Overview above. One or two-day events can be tailored to focus on round table discussion of topics that allow the primary sponsor (corporate or educational) to recommend the agenda construct. The US Army War College provides the faculty to facilitate presentations/discussions. Another possibility provides the opportunity for participants to attend an unclassified senior level presentation to the US Army War College class then participate in a War College Seminar discussion that follows. This seminar program is entirely dependent on the College academic schedule.

Participation: Attendance is by invitation only. For additional questions on participation and additional details of the program, please contact ***Colonel Barry S. Di Ruzza*** at (717) 245-4774 – email at barry.s.diruzza.mil@mail.mil. Preferred participants of the **Strategic Leadership Experience** events are senior executives from a single organization.

Previous participants: Since 2003, the USAWC has conducted 103 events with over 1746 participants and is currently scheduling events for April through October 2012.