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Assessing the Strategic Environment: The Ethiopian Defense Command & Staff College
Professor Bernard F. Griffard
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As military officers progress in rank and responsibility, their perspectives must also evolve. It is critical that future leaders force themselves out of the comfort zone of the tactical level of war and strive to gain an understanding of the complexity of factors that influence national interaction within the strategic environment. A key tool in honing these skills is professional military education. In the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia this mission is met by the Ethiopian Defense Command and Staff College (EDCSC). This two-year program was initiated in 2006 with on-site assistance provided by qualified U.S. military instructors. With the completion of the assistance mission in mid-2010, instruction and curriculum development became the responsibility of the senior Ethiopian officers who now head the academic departments. Educated at the national military colleges of the United States, the United Kingdom, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of India, these groundbreaking leaders have created an educational atmosphere especially suited to their military audience.

Taking advantage of the relationships developed during the initial formation of the school, the EDCSC enhances its instruction with subject matter experts from the U.S. Army War College (USAWC). In support of this effort, the U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) invited Professor Bernard F. Griffard of the USAWC Center for Strategic Leadership to deliver two seminars to the EDCSC Batch #6 students. The seminar topic was “Assessing the Strategic Environment” and directly reinforced the EDCSC strategic planning curriculum.

In preparation for the seminars, Prof. Griffard monitored on-going strategic planning instruction and worked with the EDCSC faculty to refine his seminar material to ensure it built upon previous learning and reinforced the College’s learning objectives. These objectives were attained using the 2002 Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia’s Foreign Affairs and National Security Policy and Strategy as a touch point for discussions of the national security framework, a review of the strategic assessment process, and a definition of Ethiopia’s strategic environment.

Continued collaboration with the EDCSC both supports USAFRICOM Security Assistance initiatives and provides the USAWC faculty with opportunities to visit the Horn of Africa region and bring back updates that support regional studies for the War Colleges resident and non-resident populations.

JLASS-EX: 29 Years in the Evolution of a Unique, Adjudicated Wargame
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From 15-16 June 2011, the Joint Land, Air, and Sea Strategic Exercise (JLASS-EX) Steering Group (SG) met to kick-off the 29th consecutive year for this popular inter-Senior Level College (SLC) experiential learning elective. Based upon a plausible futuristic scenario set ten years into the future, JLASS-EX students fill roles on either a Geographic...
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The 2011 Strategic Leader Staff Ride Program

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2011 began a busy season for the U.S. Army War College’s (USAWC) Strategic Leader Staff Ride (SLSR) Program, coordinated and executed through the Center for Strategic Leadership (CSL). The staff ride program has hosted five corporations and one government agency thus far this year using the medium of the Civil War battlefield to exemplify the complex leadership challenges of the modern day. The program serves as a means to exchange ideas, and increase awareness of important strategic issues mutually shared by the armed forces, the business community, and the corporate world.

As the program continues to evolve, an area of expansion being explored for FY 12 is the inclusion of civilian students from some of the nation’s top-tier International Affairs programs.

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Cyberspace Education

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The Department of Defense has designated Cyberspace as the fifth warfighting domain and has presented military leaders and planners with new challenges. Existing national and international laws and charters do not fully address the actions of nations and citizens in Cyberspace. Thus, decision makers and planners are often left to speculate how such principles apply to the defense of our cyber infrastructure. Networks established for military, government and commerce are probed and bombarded hundreds of thousands of times every day. Clearly even as we have become more technologically capable and dependent, vulnerabilities of Cyberspace operations have continued to increase in scope across government, military and commercial venues. To prepare the next generation of military leadership for dealing with Cyberspace issues and decisions, the Center for Strategic Leadership (CSL) formed the Cyberspace Operations Group for the development of academics and exercise scenarios in the strategic issues related to military operations in a Cyber driven and enhanced environment. The charter of the group is to develop academic courseware and exercise scenario material for U.S. Army War College students, to research and publish on strategic issues and implications related to Cyberspace, and to organize and conduct symposia to further develop future concepts of Cyberspace operations.

Academic material focusing on Cyber Warfare was first used in the resident course in Academic Year (AY) 2010 as part of the resident core and elective courses, as well as the Distance Education electives. During AY 2011, the academic opportunities doubled with the addition of a second elective offering during both the resident and distance education courses that focused on Cyberspace theory and its strategic implications. There also was an increase in Cyber exercise play during the AY 2011 Strategic Decision Making Exercise (SDME) as well as 22 student Strategy Research Projects that explored Cyberspace-related topics. Additionally, on behalf of the U.S. Army War College, the Cyberspace Operations Group conducted two workshops during FY 2010; one on Cyberspace Operations requirements for senior leaders and one on the potentially catastrophic threat of Cyber and electromagnetic pulse attacks which would render portions of the U.S. critical infrastructure inoperative. Members of CSL also participated in external symposia, speaking at and attending numerous events concerning strategic issues in cyberspace. These included venues such as the Government Security Conference, Federal News Radio, U.S. Naval War College and the 2011 Air Force Association Space and Cyberspace Warfare Symposium. Members of CSL also supported Cyberspace scenario development for the Army’s Unified Quest and Air Force’s Schriever Wargames aimed at refining future force structure requirements. Members of CSL continue to develop professional rapport with experts and practitioners across academic, government and commercial organizations. Group members have published several works on cyberspace issues.

As AY 2012 approaches, the group plans to expand its academic and exercise support by adding several opportunities to discuss Cyberspace during the War College’s core curriculum, an increased emphasis on cyber events during SDME 2012, noon time lectures and the development of a workshop focused on the future of Cyberspace issues. Additionally, Cyberspace education continues to expand in other programs across the Army War College, including other warfighting electives, the Basic and Advanced Strategic Arts Programs and the Distance Education program. During some of these courses students will visit U.S. Cyber Command and the National Security Agency for real time presentations from practitioners. Members of CSL will continue to provide presentations to local and national audiences, participate in the development of scenarios for large scale exercises and simulations and, in general, advance the understanding of the role of Cyberspace as an evolving warfighting domain.