

Historic Merger of Two Key USAWC Organizations

The merger of the Army War College Foundation and the Alumni Association is effective with this academic year (AY09). The merger had been under consideration for many years, but the proposal was pursued in earnest this past year and was approved as of August 1, 2008.

To briefly review the background, the Alumni Association was established in 1967 as a non-profit membership organization to foster, maintain, and strengthen a sense of fraternity among the alumni and to promote continued interest in and support of the War College. The Army War College Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit, publicly supported organization that raises funds and provides other assets to enrich the College's academic programs, research, and other activities. While there were many aspects of the two organizations that were different, the missions were complementary, and the intent of the merger was to eliminate the confusion that existed regarding multiple newsletters, programs, fundraising procedures, and other issues where similarities existed.

In July 2007, the two organizations selected three board members each and one disinterested member (who was on neither board), to come together to identify issues and roadmap the merger. That Special Committee reported to both organization Presidents that the benefits outweighed any disadvantages and that merger actions should continue. A Governance Committee was formed with equal representation from both organizations to revise by-laws, consider a new joint organizational structure, and resolve any issues of due diligence or matters needing resolution. The Special Committee and the Governance Committee were keenly intent on keeping the spotlight on alumni and member support, while integrating the Alumni Association into the Army War College Foundation so that a third organization did not require creation.

The Office of Alumni Affairs will continue to manage the alumni memberships and the Sutler Store, among other unique alumni services and programs. There will also be graduates adequately represented on the merged Board of Trustees and there will be an Alumni Affairs Committee to work and report on alumni support issues. Of course, not every detail of the merger is yet resolved, but measures are in place to result in a merger that meets the intent to provide alumni, students, and the Commandant the most effective and efficient support possible. The Foundation and Alumni Office addresses, phone numbers, websites, etc. all remain the same.



Management team for the combined Foundation and Alumni Association:
L-R: COLs (Ret) Bill Barko ('96), Ruth Collins ('98), and Steve Riley ('94) Photo by Tom Zimmerman, PAO