Students and cadre of the Command and General Staff Officer Course took time off on November 22, 2019 to learn about Thanksgiving traditions. They experienced the origins and the profound meaning it has for Americans, during a luncheon at the Fort Benning Conference Center.

Speaker for the event was WHINSEC’s Chaplain Ismael O. Serrano, hosted by the International Military Student Office (IMSO), under the auspices of the DoD Field Studies Program (FSP). He talked about the beginnings when the pilgrims of Plymouth and the Wampanoag Indians shared their fall crops; how during two centuries Thanksgiving was celebrated by the colonies and individual states and how President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed it as a National Holiday in 1863. He continued to explained to our Partner Nation students how this holiday has evolved from the original religious significance to focusing on cooking and sharing a hearty meal with family and friends. Additionally, Voluntary support to the community has also become a traditional Thanksgiving activity, where folks often organize free lunch and dinner campaigns for those less fortunate.

The Field Studies Program is designed to give the International students a balanced view of American life outside of a classroom setting to ensure that they return to their countries with a better understanding of the responsibilities of governments, militaries, and citizens to protect, preserve, and respect the rights of every individual. The Field Studies Program specifically targets an understanding of U.S. society, institutions, ideals, and the way in which these elements reflect the U.S. commitment to basic principles of internationally recognized human rights. FSP events are an extension of the classroom, mandated by regulation in the following categories: Diversity and American Life; U.S. Government Institutions or Political Processes or Judicial System; The Free Market System or Education; Health and Human Services or Media; International Peace and Security.
Events

WHINSEC Students Learn From The Tradition of the Staff Ride.
By Assistant Professor Ruben D. Colon, History and Leadership SPME

The military staff ride is a tradition that began in Germany during the late 19th century at specific Napoleonic battle sites to train German general staff officers in studying the failures and successes of combat that can be applied by future leaders. That tradition continues for students of The Command General and Staff Officers Course (CGSOC) at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC). Sixty two students and five faculty members conducted a staff ride to the Chickamauga National Battlefield Park. The Battle at Chickamauga was the second bloodiest battle of the American Civil War resulting in approximately thirty-four thousand casualties. The students used this historical battle to analyze, explain, and comprehend contemporary conflicts.

Prior to the visit students were tasked with research on the overall battle. It was conducted at the WHINSEC campus, and provided the preliminary study in preparation for the visit to the battlefield the following week. On the visit to Chickamauga there were group presentations at different sites on the battlefield.

These presentations challenged students to discussions on identifying critical issues and problems facing commanders during this battle. Their ideas directly tied into the learning objectives that assimilated themes of military leadership at the tactical, operational and strategic level.

At one battlefield location a reenactment team, dressed as civil war soldiers arranged students into rank and file formations and led the class in a simulated charge across a field in the manner civil war soldiers maneuvered. The students experienced some of the confusion and duress both Union and Confederate Soldiers felt during the battle. Students admired this exercise as it allowed for a greater appreciation of the similar difficulties leaders encountered then, and still face today.
Events

**HHC pioneer Elite Peacemakers**
Eight members of the Institute successfully completed the last of three requirements of the Elite Peacemaker competition in the early hours of this morning here at the Institute. The competition, an idea of the HHC Cdr, CPT Edward Colon Ramírez, consisted of three physical events; an APFT, a four mile run @ 8 minutes or less per mile, and a 12 mile roadmarch to be completed in 3 hours or less. Colón says he came up with the concept in order to bring up the spirit de corps in the unit and to recognize those who go farther than the day-to-day operations call of duty.

**Brazil Airborne Brigade lands on WHINSEC**
Oct 16, 2019—The Institute is honored with the visit of BG Pedro Celso Coelho Montenegro, Commander of the Brazilian army Airborne Brigade Exército Brasileiro, and representatives of the Brazilian Airborne School. The group stopped at WHINSEC to visit, and to learn more about our Institute and what we offer.

**Learning new techniques**
Institute's Combat Engineer Soldiers took advantage of a training opportunity on Oct 23, with the Georgia Search and Rescue Task Force(GSAR) TF-4A, as they conducted training in a collapsed structure here.

In addition to our instructors, the group consisted of members of FB Special Operations Team, Fire Station Six, Fire Department, the Columbus Fire Department and the Phoenix City Fire Department. This training exercised individual and collective tasks in Urban Search and Rescue techniques, which will further the development of the Plan of Instruction on Joint Disaster Response Team operations, to be incorporated to our Engineer and Crisis Response Course.
Students attending the Transnational Threat Network Intelligence Analysis Course (T2NIA) tackle the Team Development Course.

Representatives from Colombia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Honduras and Peru participated in the T2NIA 3-19 converged here at the Team Development Course as part of the Critical Thinking in Intelligence block of instruction which culminates with a hands on exercise. During the exercise, students receive a mission, assess their operating environment, quickly develop a plan and overcome obstacles using newly acquired critical thinking skills.

Fall Festival Celebration / End of Month Costume Contest

No rain stopped the WHINSEC family from coming to campus to enjoy the annual Trunk (well, hallway this year) or Treat event on Oct 29.

For the EoM Costume contest, the creativity was extremely diverse and abundant. Ms. Crumley, Mr. Escribano and the NCOs from the Roy P. Benavidez NCOA Academy outdid themselves.
Panamá Celebrates 116 of Sovereignty

On Nov 1 — Panamanian representatives at the Institute celebrate 116 years of sovereignty of the Republic of Panama, with a ceremony at the Institute.

¡PURA VIDA! Congratulations to the Costa Rica National Police on 70 years.

Congratulations to the Costa Rica National Police on their 70 years since their foundation at the service of the Nation. For the occasion, COL Suggs sent a congratulatory message on behalf of the WHINSEC family.

As part of the 70 years celebrations by the Costa Rican Public Force, the Costa Rica National Assembly bestowed the title of Benemérito de la Patria is a distinction assigned by the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica.

This honor has been granted to people, institutions or organizations that stand out in the home arts, education, culture and art, science and technology ... Not to mention that it can also be give freedom defenders, as would be the case with National Police.
Nov 5, 2019 — The Institute was honored on Thursday with the visit of the members of the Board of Visitors to our campus for their annual meeting. The WHINSEC Board of Visitors (BoV) is required to meet annually to “inquire into the curriculum, instruction, physical equipment, fiscal affairs, and academic methods of the Institute, other matters relating to the Institute that the Board decides to consider, and any other matter that the Secretary of Defense determines appropriate.” (Direct excerpt from the establishing law.)

Four Members of Congress; the Commanders of U.S. Northern Command, U.S. Southern Command, and U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command; an officer of the State Department; and six civilians appointed by the Secretary of Defense make up the board. Representatives of other interested government organizations such as the Department of the Army G-3/5/7 and the Department of Defense, Policy Division, participate, as does the Department of Homeland Security.
Combined Graduation

The Institute hosted on Nov 14 a Four-Course Combined Graduation Ceremony on Thursday for 278 students who completed their respective academic requirements at the Columbus Convention and Trade Center, 801 Front Ave, Columbus, Ga.

Students graduating represent the nations of Argentina, Belize, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Perú, and Uruguay. BG Mario E. Risco Carmen, Defense Attaché at the Peruvian Embassy in Washington was the Guest Speaker.

Educator and Instructors of the Year 2019

The Institute’s Faculty & Staff Development Division is proud to announce the selection of LTC Ulises Richard Castillo Izquierdo, of the Mexican Army, as the Educator of the Year; MAJ Adelton Ferriera Dias, as the Instructor of the Year (Officer), and MSG Eduardo Louro de Assis, Brasil, as the Instructor of the Year (NCO), both from the Brazilian Army. They now go to TRADOC for Educator / Instructor of the Year competition. LTC Castillo is the 2nd from the left in the photo.

Alpha Company Change of Command

Nov 22, 2019 — On a ceremony held at the Institute’s Auditorium, Captain Ashley I. Martinez relinquishes command of Alpha company to CPT Hiram A. Figueroa Cruz.

CPT Figueroa comes to command via having served as an instructor at the School of Leadership and Tactics upon completion of the Captain’s Career Course—WHINSEC. CPT Martinez now moves to be the assistant S3 with WHINSEC.
Events

Expanding Knowledge

Students of the Institute’s Transnational Threat Network Intelligence Analyst Course (T2NIA) conducted their Joint Inter-Agency Intergovernmental Multinational Brief series with lectures from SA Michael C. Harris, FBI-SOUTHCOM LNO, Mrs. Nonia Ganesh, Terrorist Explosive Device Analytical Center (TEDAC) (SOUTHCOM) and Mr. Ruben Fernandez, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) - Atlanta to the course students, in order for them to gain a better understanding of agencies operating in the SOUTHCOM's Area Of Operations and how to reach back to said agencies for support.

Bringing Reality to the Classroom

Members of the NCO Professional Development Course learn first hand the wide variety of applications the Military Decision Making Process (MDMP) can have, besides for military operations. An idea of SFC Arthur Moran, WHINSEC Instructor with the Roy P. Benavidez NCO Academy, the students are going through the MDMP in planning for the upcoming Columbus Day long weekend. This particular class has a lot of police officers attending, and at their level, they do not get to go through MDMP for a lot of the public security missions they conduct. They are more on a supervisory role, and get their orders from the higher-ups. Their military counterparts in the course do, so this process (MDMP) is familiar to them. I wanted for them to learn the process with a real mission, and see how they can apply the process on their day-to-day operations with ease, said Moran. Here I have given them the mission to plan for the long weekend, to do all the analysis and provide the assessments based on personnel, logistics, intelligence, and operations, added Moran. In the photo, Intendente Arizalas, Colombian Nacional Police, briefs his group's Personnel assessment to members of the class.
Congratulations to our WHINSEC team members, Maj. Benjamin Martinez, U.S. Army Command and General Staff Officer (CGSOC) instructor, Lt. Col. Kendell Murillo, Marina de Guerra del Perú guest CGSOC instructor, and Lt. Col. Carlos Zavala, Honduran Army Fuerzas Armadas de Honduras TV guest CGSOC instructor, for a job well done during their deployment to Fort Carson, Colorado to assist advisers from 4th Security Force Assistance Brigade, on a weeklong military decision-making process (MDMP) exercise held Dec. 2-6, 2019.

WHINSEC Instructors advise 4th Security Force Assistance Brigade

Students of the CGSOC completed the online portion of the X100 test, the comprehensive test of the course’s common core. As part of the Army University, WHINSEC, under the auspices of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC) is constantly learning and evolving. This evolution of change is vital to the mission of the college in educating, training and developing leaders in a learner-centric environment.
Members of the Institute’s Center for Human Rights and Democracy converged with 11 high-ranking legal advisors from the Honduran Armed Forces and Mr. Daniel Baldizon, Executive Director of the Human Right Training Center from Costa Rica at WHINSEC for a two-week Subject Matter Expert Exchange, from Dec. 2 – 13, 2019.

During the SMEE, participants exchanged experiences in the areas of International Human Rights Law (IHRL) and Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC).

"There has been a great exchange of experiences amongst the participants, and with the assistance of Dr. Raimondo, CHRD director, we have taken great strides forward on the formation of Operational Legal Advisors," said Heidi Portillo, Director of the Directorate of Human Rights of the Honduran Armed Forces.

"This has been a project we have been working for about two years, with the assistance of the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) Human Rights Office,

Mrs. Bresnahan. We believe that operational commanders need an advisor who has human rights experience and training," added Portillo.

Once finalized, the goal is to have a four-week basic course and a legal guide for the advisors.

Also in attendance at the SMEE was COL Benedicto A. Chicas, Director of the Office of Human Rights for the Honduran Forces Joint Staff, talked about the importance of the dialog that had occurred during the course of the exchange and how it will be a crucial part on the creation of formation and training of the Operational Legal advisor for the operational commanders.
Members of the Institute visited Dexter Elementary, to continue to enrich the educational experience of our partners, as part of the Partners in Education (PIE) program.

LTC Bradley Velotta, WHINSEC CoS. MAJ(Chap) Ismael Serrano, WHINSEC Chaplain and SSG Roberto Silva spent time with students from Kindergarten and second grade.

With 32 years since its original inception as Adopt-A-School Program, The Greater Columbus GA “Partners in Education” (PIE) Program was established as a joint venture of the Muscogee County School District and the Greater Columbus GA Chamber of Commerce.

**PIE is based on the concept that "Human Capital" is the most important resource a community can provide.**

Partnerships provide as enriching educational experience for students aimed at improving levels of academic achievement, self-esteem, and understanding of the expectations of the work world.
WHINSEC Christmas Celebration

The Christmas season at WHINSEC!!

And with it, Grinch!! But, not to worry, Grinch did not steal Christmas…

On behalf of COL John D. Suggs Jr., and all the personnel of the Institute, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!! ¡Feliz Navidad y Prospero Año Nuevo!!

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