





2016 11/9 **APG Senior Service College Fellowship Program Visits Antietam National Battlefield by Jim Oman**

by Trevino, Abel - CTR at 4:10 PM in [Around the Regions](#)

The Senior Service College Fellowship Program (SSCFP) Class of 2017 fellows from Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Maryland, accompanied by Director Jim Oman, participated in their first staff ride of the academic year, Oct. 20, a visit to the Antietam National Battlefield in western Maryland. The fellows are Lareina Adams, Stephen Conley, Mike Danhires, Brian DeBiase, Jerry Harper, Scott Kelley, Phil Minor, Graciano Nikolich, Jonathan Reiner and Jim Shillingford. National Park Service Ranger Keith Snyder served as the fellows' guide and deftly shared his perspectives and insights throughout the staff ride.

The excursion provided a superb study on leadership and decision making, as well as afforded the fellows the opportunity to "walk the ground" where more than 23,000 casualties occurred, earning the distinction of the "bloodiest single day in American history." Snyder skillfully explained the tactical, operational and strategic decisions made by key Union and Confederate Army leaders and described how those decisions determined the immediate and long-lasting outcomes of the war. Through experiences such as this, the fellows gain a deeper appreciation for thinking critically, leadership choices, and the necessity to consider second- and third-order effects.

In the spring of 2017, the SSCFP fellows will travel to Europe. The fellows will visit several significant World War I and World War II battlefields. They will also visit the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, U.S. European Command, U.S. Africa Command the U.S. Army in Europe, and the Joint Multinational Readiness Center. At each command the fellows will meet with multiple senior leaders and learn about the roles and missions associated with each organization.

The SSCFP is a nationally recognized, Army-sponsored program designed to develop strong, effective senior leaders for the Department of Defense acquisition community. The 10-month senior service college experience will conclude in May 2017 with a final capstone leadership experience built around a staff ride conducted at the Gettysburg National Military Park.



National Park Service Ranger Keith Snyder in the "Bloody Lane" at the Antietam National Battlefield explains the action, the many tough choices made by leaders, the outcomes, and their significance on the Battle of Antietam to the APG Senior Service College fellows from the Class of 2017. From left), Jerry Harper, Graciano Nikolich, Jim Shillingford, Director Jim Oman, Phil Minor, Brian DeBiase, Stephen Conley, Lareina Adams and Ranger Snyder. *Photo by Scott Kelley*

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