

# Fellowship program members visit Antietam National Battlefield

By Jim Oman

On Oct. 20, the Class of 2017 APG fellows from the Defense Acquisition University - Senior Service College Fellowship Program, accompanied by Jim Oman, program director, participated in their first staff ride of the academic year, with a visit to the Antietam National Battlefield in western Maryland. Keith Snyder, National Park Service ranger, served as the guide and shared his perspectives and insights throughout the ride.

The excursion provided a study on leadership and decision-making, and gave the fellows a chance to

“walk the ground,” where more than 23,000 casualties occurred, earning the distinction of the “bloodiest single day in American history.”

Snyder explained the tactical, operational and strategic decisions made by key Union and Confederate Army leaders and described how those decisions determined the war’s immediate and long-lasting outcomes. Through experiences like staff rides, the fellows get a deeper appreciation for thinking critically, leadership choices, and the need to consider second- and third-order effects.

In the spring, the SSCFP expects to travel to Europe, where the fellows will visit several significant

World War I and World War II battlefields. They will also visit NATO; 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 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 Defense Department’s Acquisition community. A call for applications for selection/attendance to attend the class of 2017-18, runs from Jan. 23 to March 23, with the class starting July 24.

Program announcement information will be posted on U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center’s website, <http://asc.army.mil/web/>. For information, visit the DAU website, [www.dau.mil/sscf/Pages/apg.aspx](http://www.dau.mil/sscf/Pages/apg.aspx); or contact James Oman, [james.oman@dau.mil](mailto:james.oman@dau.mil), 410-272-9470.



Photo by Scott Kelley

Keith Snyder, National Park Service ranger, in the “Bloody Lane” at Antietam National Battlefield describes the action; leaders’ many tough choices; 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; Jim Oman, APG SSCFP director; Phil Minor; Brian DeBiase; Stephen Conley; Lareina Adams; and Ranger Keith Snyder.

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