

AROUND THE REGIONS

Senior Service College Fellowship from APG Visits Logistics and Training Sites

The Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) fellows visited the U.S. Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, in Barstow, California, and the National Training Center (NTC) and Fort Irwin, California, respectively, Oct. 20–22.

The fellows began their first day at Logistics Base Barstow with a command overview that told the “command’s story” and provided numerous insights. Afterwards, the fellows visited the railhead, where they were briefed by the railhead supervisor. They learned about the function of the Movement Control Center and the criticality of the railhead operations, and they saw the vital role the railhead plays in supporting the vehicular movement of the units participating in rotations at the NTC.

The fellows also visited the Fleet Support Division, where they learned about vehicular fleet preservation efforts and the management and disposition of entire families of vehicles across all services. The day concluded with a visit and tour of the Production Plant Barstow–Marine Depot Maintenance Command. There they were briefed by the plant manager, who provided his perspectives throughout the walking and windshield tour of the plant. The fellows gained an appreciation of how the depot supports the warfighters and observed the work under construction at the plant production line.

On the second day, the fellows visited the NTC, one of the Army’s “dirt” combat training centers. The NTC visit provided first-hand exposure to the latest technological advances in training and enabled the fellows to observe the vital role the NTC plays in preparing individuals, leaders and units for combat deployments.

The fellows were welcomed by the NTC chief of staff. They later received the NTC and Fort Irwin command overview briefing and visited the Leader’s Training Program. The fellows visited the 916 Sustainment

Brigade, where they were briefed by the commander on the brigade’s missions, roles and responsibilities. Afterward, the fellows visited the Logistics Support Operations Center and received an update on the logistical actions being performed in support of the rotational player unit. The day concluded with a visit to the National Urban Warfare Center, where the fellows experienced a “sights and smells” demonstration, learned about the instrumentation found within the village and maneuvered from one building to another through the tunnels routinely used by the opposing forces.

On the last day, the fellows toured the Division Tactical Operations Center. There they observed the key roles accomplished by each staff section and received a rotational in-brief that provided them with numerous details about the ongoing rotational exercise. Afterward, the fellows donned their helmets and body armor and loaded up into four High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs) for an hour plus drive through the “maneuver box” in order to reach the

Tactical Operation Center (TOC) of the 1st Cavalry Division’s 1st Brigade (known as “Iron Horse”). At the Iron Horse TOC, the fellows met with numerous observer controller trainers and learned about their many faceted roles and responsibilities, as well as met with the Iron Horse executive officer, who provided a synopsis of ongoing actions occurring within the brigade.

After a brigade TOC tour, the fellows loaded back into the HMMWVs for the return trip to the cantonment area, which wrapped up their second day at the NTC. The joint visit to the Logistics Base Barstow and the NTC provided a unique opportunity for the fellows to view and consider the many leadership challenges faced by Army and Marine Corps leaders as they collectively prepare and support their respective services to defend our national interests.



Fellows from the Class of 2016, APG SSCF Program. First row (from left): Patrick Morse, Wing Young, Melanie Loncarich and Willie Jackson. Back row (from left): Nick Saacks, Shauna Dover, Ben Pryor, Dan Schwartz and Director Jim Oman. They stand before the Painted Rocks, near the entrance to the National Training Center and Fort Irwin, California, on Oct. 22, at the end of their visit.