

CNE Fellows Visit Combat Training Centers in California

Capital and Northeast Region Senior Service College fellows Debbie Abbruzzese, Jim Hines, Pat Layden, Bob Lyons, Tom Mikolinos, Stan Niemiec, Undra Robinson, and Tom Stadterman, accompanied by CNE Senior Service College Fellowship (SSCF) Director **Jim Oman**, visited the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., and the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCACC) at Twentynine Palms, Calif., on Oct. 17 and Oct. 18 respectively.

The visit to the NTC, one of the Army's "dirt" combat training centers, enabled the fellows to observe the latest technological advances in testing, training, and end user application in a stressful environment that replicates the current operating environment (COE) and see 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 Col. Scott Brown, who provided an overview of the NTC and Fort Irwin. The fellows toured the Division Tactical Operations Center and received a rotational in-brief and overview of the ongoing mission rehearsal exercise. The fellows received highly informative briefings on improvised explosive devices, terrorist explosive networks, and the Leadership Training Program and Combat Trainers Academy that "set the stage" for their visit into the "maneuver box" where they saw the National Urban Warfare Complex and Provincial Governance Center located in the village of Shar-e Tiefert.



CNE SSCF fellows stand before the Painted Rocks area located at the entrance to the NTC and Fort Irwin, Calif., Oct. 17.

While there, the fellows gained a deeper appreciation for the complexity of the COE as they observed villagers and the national governmental forces, and learned about the local insurgency. At the MCAGCC, the fellows received an overview of the base and its capabilities, were exposed to the training facilities and devices, and obtained insights into how Marine Corps units conduct training preparatory to their overseas combat deployments.

The fellows visited Ranges 200 and 215, representative of generic villages found throughout the world. The ranges' complexes came complete with homes, government offices, and medical facilities, all intended to provide Marine units with challenging, realistic backdrops in which they could hone their tactical skills. The fellows also visited Camp Wilson and observed training on the Combat Convoy Simulator, the Operator Driving Simulator, and the Rollover Trainers.

At the end of the visit to the MCAGCC, the fellows had a deeper understanding of the similarities and the differences between the Army and the Marine Corps approaches to training and warfighting. The joint visit to the NTC and the MCAGCC provided an exceptional and unique opportunity for the fellows to view and consider the many leadership challenges faced by Army and Marine Corps leaders as they collectively train and prepare their respective units to defend our national interests.

CNE Fellows Visit OMB

On Dec 8, Capital and Northeast Region fellows Debbie Abbruzzese, Jim Hines, Pat Layden, Bob Lyons, Tom Mikolinos, Stan Niemiec, Undra Robinson, and Tom Stadterman, along with CNE Dean **Bob Daugherty**, Senior Service College Fellowship Director **Jim Oman**, and Dr. Jim Helis, chairman of the Department of National Security and Strategy at the U.S. Army War College, visited the Office of Management and Budget in the Executive Office of the President.

The fellows met with Daniel I. Gordon, administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) and Bill McQuaid, OFPP. Over the course of two hours, Mr. Gordon and Mr. McQuaid described the history, functions, and responsibilities associated with the OFPP and described OFPP efforts in the ongoing strategic initiative of strengthening the acquisition workforce.

Mr. Gordon shared his insights into the many roles and duties required of a strategic leader operating at the highest levels of the federal government in general and specifically addressed his position as the OFPP administrator. Mr. Gordon and Mr. McQuaid's unique perspectives were of tremendous value as the fellows gained a deeper understanding of the administration's acquisition priorities, the strategic considerations and perspectives associated with setting acquisition policy for the federal government, and how DoD's policies and procedures are aligned with the administration's acquisition and budget priorities.

