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First knowledge management course graduates

By Tisha Johnson | Staff Writer

The 12 graduates from the first class of the Army's only Knowledge Management Qualification Course received their certificates Aug. 14 at Grant Auditorium.



Battle Command Knowledge System Director Col. Charles Burnett said the class was the first of three pilot courses. The Training and Doctrine Command course development model calls for three pilot courses, Burnett said. The second pilot is scheduled for January and the third in June.

"We get the student input and we also had SMEs (subject matter experts) who sat through certain portions of the course and they put their comments together ... and we analyze that ... so by the third pilot we should have a pretty good course," Burnett said. "That's the whole idea by having three pilots."

The course was designed to train people that will go into knowledge management sections, recently approved by the Chief of Staff of the Army, Burnett said.

"The Army has recognized ... that knowledge management is important and just like businesses have chief knowledge officers with their CEOs, now the Army is saying this knowledge management stuff is important," Burnett said.

Knowledge management is the creation, organization, application and transfer of knowledge.

"The knowledge manager helps take all that information and all that data that's available out there today in the information world - there's like gazillions of pieces of information - culls that and provides the right information to the right person so they can make the right decision," Burnett said.

The BCKS course is the only one of its kind in the Army.

"This is a transformational event right here," Burnett said.

Classes during the five-week course included building knowledge portals and content management.

Sgt. 1st Class Donnie Raney, from the Future Force Integration Directorate, Army Capabilities Integration Center at Fort Bliss, Texas, said he would recommend the class to anyone working in the field.

Army Operational Knowledge Management Proponent Chief Carol Parks and Battle Command Knowledge System Director Col. Charles Burnett applauded the first graduates of the Army Knowledge Management Qualification Course Aug. 14 in Grant Auditorium. The 12 graduates were in the first five-week pilot course of the Army's only knowledge management course. Lamp photo by Tisha Johnson.

Raney is a one-man team, the only person working knowledge management in his unit. He previously received knowledge management training through a civilian program. The course was actually better than he anticipated, Raney said.

"Being the first pilot course I expected there to be more bumps than what there were; it was actually pretty well thought out," Raney said. "I've got to give some credit to the instructors - they did a great job."

Some subjects could have been explored more, Raney said, and some of the instruction was a little too in-depth, but he knows that's what the first course was for - feedback.

"As the first class to go through this course, you have been in a unique position to shape the future direction of this course," Burnett told the students, "helping make it even better for all those students who follow you."

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