



IMS Centennial Fact Sheet

Celebrating a Century of Worldwide Leaders and Learning

In 2008, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College celebrates the 100th anniversary of the first international officer graduates of this institution. This year we not only honor the first international graduates but acknowledge and proclaim a Century of Worldwide Leaders and Learning. While we trace international participation in the College to Lieutenant Henri LeComte of the Swiss Army, who attended courses at Fort Leavenworth in 1894, 1908 stands out as exceptional as it marks the first record of international graduation. Those first international graduates, from Mexico, were J. Landa and Hazael Monter Ledezma. While very little is known about them, we do know that more than 7,000 international students from over 154 countries have followed in their boot steps, graduated from this college, and returned to their homelands around the world to share their experiences and establish and extend a network of military professionals. In addition to the hundreds of international graduates who rose to uniformed leadership of their nation's militaries, many rendered remarkable service once out of uniform – serving as heads of state, ministers, ambassadors and representatives of their governments abroad. Celebrating this Century of Worldwide Leaders and Learning marks a proud milestone on a path that CGSC continues to forge.

During their stay, in addition to their course studies, the international military students experience many facets of life and culture in the U.S. Through a formal Field Studies Program, they visit and view examples of U.S. economic or business interests, judicial systems, local, state and federal governmental systems, and educational systems. Their experience will have a lasting impact upon how they view and ultimately support U.S. foreign policy objectives. Historically, the international graduates of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College go on to become senior military or civilian leaders in their own nations. By giving them a first hand look at America, they return home with a greater appreciation of our nation.