

General History of the Department of Distance Education,
Command and General Staff College

The predecessor to the Department of Distance Education commenced operations in July of 1922 when the Command and General Staff Correspondence School was established to support the needs of Active and Reserve Component Officers. The course consisted of nine subcourses in which students had three years to complete. The course content was based on the curriculum of the resident Command and General Staff Course. Approximately 5000 officers enrolled during the first year.

Several highlights of the Command and General Staff Officers Course distance learning program over the years include:

1950–The United States Army Reserve Forces School System began teaching extension courses.

1983 – Combined Arms Services Staff School (CAS3) Phase 1 offered in a non-resident mode.

1987 – The organization was redesignated as the School of Corresponding Studies.

1990 – The United States Army Reserve Forces School System began offering CAS3 Phase 2.

1997 – Celebrated the organization’s 75th Anniversary – redesignated as the Directorate of Nonresident Studies (DNS) – acknowledged over 200,000 graduates since 1922.

September 2005 – The nonresident legacy course was terminated and the new Command and General Staff Officers Course (CGSOC) – Common Core (CC) and Advanced Operations Warfighting Course (AOWC) nonresident courses commenced enrollment. DNS was also redesignated as the School of Advanced distributed Learning (SAdL).

January 2007 – SAdL transitioned to the Department of Distance Education within the Command and General Staff School (CGSS) and DDE as it is known today evolved.

October 2010 – DDE moved into its current location at Fort Leavenworth - Truesdell Hall.

2011 – DDE participated in a Rand Study looking at CGSOC program effectiveness across venues. A key result of the study was the establishment of the DDE Common Core faculty team to support distance learning students’ efforts to complete the course.

October 2012 – DDE commenced enrollment of thousands of Optimized-Intermediate Level Education (O-ILE) active component students as part of the Army’s new ILE concept.

2013 – DDE participated in a Rand Study looking at the effectiveness of the Advanced Operations Course blended learning methods. The study identified best practices as well as options for program improvements.

DDE continues to provide intermediate level education to all US Army Components through several course options. One program, usually referred to as the TASS Common Core options involves a partnership with The Army School Systems (TASS) organizations in offering a resident like classroom experience to officers.