



April 23, 2018

**USMA Class of 1978
Center of The Study of Civil-Military Operations
Class Advisory Board (CAB)**

Center of the Study of Civil-Military Operations (CSCMO) annual conference, **Class of '78 Student Workshop For Civil-Military Operations**, was conducted on April 18, 2018 and focused on Operations in Dense Urban Environments:

Attendees:

- USMA '78
 - Craig Gilbert
 - Danny Hammond
 - José Morales
 - Bob Olds
 - Jim Steiner
 - Les Szabolcsi
 - PJ Zeller

- Center of the Study of Civil-Military Operations:
 - COL Andrew “Andy” Lohman, USMA '89 – Military Director & Program Director of Geography
 - Mr. John Melkon – Civilian Director & Assistant Professor of Geography

Status Update: This report marks the culmination of a two-year concerted effort to proactively shape one of three class gifts for our 40th Reunion. Over the past twenty-four months, numerous sessions were held with The Center of the Study of Civil-Military Operations and the Association of Graduates to ensure the transfer of funds went smoothly and to create a strong relationship with leadership beyond the financial support. Our actions were guided by the desire and commitment that our endowment was more than a “gift”. The effort focused on broadening United States Military Academy Class of 1978 “brand”. Our goal was to impact the leaders of today and create a “living link” to future classes. We are pleased to share that this objective has been achieved.

The Center of the Study of Civil-Military Operations received our \$1,000,000.00 grant in January 2018. Consequently, this year’s annual workshop was the first time celebrating our class brand with the formal renaming of the workshop: Class of '78 Student Workshop For Civil-Military Operations. We closed the first phase of this effort by prominently displaying our class crest throughout the event. In an effort to provide tangible evidence of our class’ commitment, seven classmates traveled to West Point to participate in the workshop. Further affirmation, was provided when Les Szabolcsi delivered the workshop’s opening remarks.

Collectively, seven classmates actively participated throughout the day as a means to raise our class’ profile and branding. To put this into perspective, here’s, “What’s in it for us.” Today’s “mission space” is significantly different than the Cold War environment we commissioned into.



Ours was a kinetic fight with defined boundaries and actors. The Class of 2018 faces “layers” and “nuances” that requires new thinking and skills sets. Their mission essential task list ranges from humanitarian assistance to full-scale combat. Noteworthy for mention, our class efforts not only influence the graduating cadets, but the staff and faculty returning to the field as well. Many of these young majors will be battalion operations or executive officers facing a similar dilemma of how to operate at a more senior level in this environment.

We cited the successful completion of our first phase. The second phase focuses on the identification of class “luminaries” to continue to elevate our class’ visibility and recognition. As highlighted in our April 2018 report, we propose three experience sets for consideration:

- Special Operations senior officers
- Joint, Interagency, Intergovernmental, and Multinational functional leaders
- Industry leaders

Each experience set addresses the complexities of the “layers” and “nuances” cited. As an example, General (Retired) Raymond T. Odierno, USMA '76, was the final featured speaker at this year’s workshop. Ray did not have scripted remarks. Instead, he casually sat in a chair in front of the cadets to answer questions from the audience. This was a very powerful; as the technique enabled him to make a personal connection with the cadets. Key point, any luminary from our class can do what the thirty-eighth Chief of Staff of the Army did!

Once again, we include the center’s mission statement. “To develop all West Point leaders so that they are prepared to employ an understanding of Civil-Military Operations within the framework of the broad spectrum of challenges they will face in military service; to support transformational changes to professional military education across the Department of Defense and partnering organizations; and to establish West Point as the wellspring of professional military education in this realm.” [<https://www.usma.edu/cscmo/SitePages/Mission.aspx>]

Each of the you that will be attending this year’s 40th reunion will have opportunities to interact with the center’s leadership. COL Lohman, John Melkon and cadets are scheduled to speak to the class on Friday afternoon about CSCMO. They and their significant others will also be joining us for our evening event, Class BBQ. We urge you to reach out, introduce yourselves and make them feel part of the family. This not only will help us heighten our class brand, but it also allows each of you to contribute to the next phase of our effort.

Proud and Great!

Respectfully Submitted,

José T. Morales
'78 – F1

Phillip J. (PJ) Zeller III
'78 - E4



Class of '78 Student Workshop For Civil-Military Operations

Workshop Schedule

April 18, 2018

Welcome and Introductory Remarks	COL Lohman
Class of 1978 Introductory Remarks	Les Szabolcsi
Why Focus on Dense Urban Environments?	Dr. Russell Green
Defining the Problem	COL Pat Mahaney & MAJ John Spencer
Operation Inherent Resolve Experience	CPT Brett Reichert & CPT Mark Zwirgzdas
Civilians in Urban Operating Environments	Ms. Nancy McDonald & CPT Mark Delaney
Fireside Chat	LTG (R) Odierno