

= School of Advanced Military Studies =

The School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS) is one of four United States Army schools that make up the United States Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC) at Fort Leavenworth , Kansas . This " enormously rigorous " graduate school comprises two programs : the larger Advanced Military Studies Program (AMSP) , and the Advanced Operational Art Studies Fellowship (AOASF) , which more senior officers attend . The student body is small but diverse and comprises members of each of the U.S. armed forces , various U.S. Government agencies , and allied military forces . Graduates are colloquially known as " Jedi Knights " .

The school educates the future leaders of the U.S. Armed Forces , its Allies , and the Interagency at the graduate level to be agile and adaptive leaders who think critically at the strategic and operational levels to solve complex ambiguous problems .

SAMS graduates are innovative leaders , willing to accept risk and to experiment . They are adaptive leaders who excel at the art of command and anticipate the future operational environment by applying critical & creative thinking skills in order to solve complex problems . All graduates demonstrate mastery of Operational Art and Doctrine and are able to synthesize the elements of US national power in Joint , Interagency , Intergovernmental and Multinational (JIIM) operations .

The school issues a masters degree in Military Art and Science , and provides its graduates with the skills to deal with the disparate challenges encountered in contemporary military and government operations . The modern course produces " leaders with the flexibility of mind to solve complex operational and strategic problems in peace , conflict , and war " . Various senior military leaders have recognized the contributions of SAMS graduates in supporting global contingency operations .

The first class began at the school in mid @-@ 1983 and 13 students graduated the following year . Due to increasing requirements for SAMS graduates in the U.S. military , the army expanded the school in the 1990s , and in 2010 over 120 students graduated . Since the school 's inception , SAMS planners have supported every major U.S. military campaign , providing the army " with many of its top campaign planners for the late twentieth and early twenty @-@ first centuries " .

= = History = =

The SAMS course was designed to fill a gap in U.S. military education between the CGSC 's focus on tactics and the War College 's focus on grand strategy and national security policy . In 1981 , Colonel Huba Wass de Czege convinced Fort Leavenworth 's Lieutenant General William R. Richardson , who served as Commander of the Combined Arms Center and Commandant of the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth from 1979 to 1981 , that a second year of military education was needed for select officers . After receiving final approval , Wass de Czege helped plan and develop the school , which would open in mid @-@ 1983 . Although there was some disagreement about the purpose of the course , army leaders and the course designers settled on a plan to provide officers with a " broad , deep military education in the science and art of war . "

In June 1983 , the first class of 13 U.S. Army students began in the basement of Bell Hall at Fort Leavenworth . Initially , there were some internal problems with facilities and scheduling , and in the school 's early years there was uncertainty whether its graduates would be accepted and how they would perform in the force . When the first class graduated in 1984 , SAMS had already become " the symbol for intellectual renaissance in the officer corps " . When the first director , Wass de Czege , was succeeded by Colonel Richard Sennreich in 1985 , the school was already beginning to produce results and the U.S. Army and the College regarded SAMS as a " useful experiment " . By 1987 , enrollment of high @-@ quality officers had risen and sister services were becoming interested in sending students to SAMS . The program 's growing popularity and reputation also began attracting students from allied countries .

SAMS graduates first saw active service in December 1989 during Operation Just Cause in Panama . A core planning cell of seven SAMS graduates " crafted a well rehearsed and well

executed plan that simultaneously struck some roughly 50 objectives in a single coordinated blow ". According to Colonel Kevin Benson , the tenth director of the school , " The Army and SAMS faced a test of battle and the new group of highly @-@ educated planners appeared to have passed the test with flying colors . " After its mission in Panama , the army 's leaders began to draw on SAMS to assist in additional ways . In the early 1990s , U.S. Army leaders called upon the school to help develop army doctrine . Lieutenant Colonel Thomas E. Mitchell , Colonel James McDonough (the fifth SAMS director) , and other members of the SAMS team helped revise the U.S. Army Doctrinal Manual 100 @-@ 5 Operations in 1990 ? 1993 .

Lieutenant General Guy C. Swan noted that SAMS graduates were indispensable in Europe after the fall of the Berlin wall and the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact . They were expected to " re @-@ engineer the decades of planning that had gone into the GDP [General Defense Plan] almost overnight " . Swan stated that this was " the first true test of SAMS on a large scale " . SAMS graduates served in Operation Desert Shield / Desert Storm , and were " remembered most famously in the early days for producing the ' Jedi Knights ' employed by Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf in developing the famous ' left hook ' " . SAMS graduates also served in roles beyond the initial planning , with 82 graduates participating in diverse theater tasks by February 1991 . As a result , U.S. Army leadership regarded SAMS as a source of " superb planners " .

After Desert Storm , the army struggled with military operations other than war , such as peacekeeping and peace enforcement operations . The school and its graduates examined the situations in Bosnia , Haiti , and Somalia . Graduates also participated in Defense Support of Civil authorities missions . The course continued to change in the 1990s . Under Colonel Gregory Fontenot , the school moved from Fort Leavenworth 's Flint Hall to Eisenhower Hall in October 1994 . In later years , the school 's leadership expanded the number of seminars and the civilian faculty . The military continues to draw heavily on SAMS in the twenty @-@ first century . SAMS planners have played a significant role in the Global War on Terror . Beginning in 2002 , the United States Central Command requested planners from SAMS and its sister schools , the United States Air Force 's School of Advanced Air and Space Studies (SAASS) , which was designed to be similar to SAMS , and the United States Marine Corps 's School of Advanced Warfighting (SAW) . SAMS students from the 2002 and 2003 classes participated as planners in the preparations for the invasion of Iraq and the plan for the post @-@ combat occupation .

The school continued to change and develop , and an additional faculty expansion occurred in 2005 ? 2006 . Also , the Fellows ' curriculum shifted further away from that of the AMSP program . To keep pace with increasing demand for SAMS planners , the commander of the army 's Training and Doctrine Command directed an expansion that was approved by the Chief of Staff of the Army , and the school 's 11th director , Colonel Steve Banach , began a winter @-@ start course in 2007 . During this period , SAMS provided planners to help forward @-@ deployed headquarters plan operations and contingencies . The school moved to new premises in the newly renovated Muir Hall at Fort Leavenworth on 30 August 2011 .

= = Contributions = =

SAMS graduates have supported every major U.S. military campaign between 1984 and 2009 . SAMS graduates are known for their " critical thinking skill sets " , and are consistently called for by combatant commanders around the world . In 2010 , Brigadier General Sean MacFarland said , " In a crisis , the president always asks , ' where are the aircraft carriers ? ' In the Army , leaders ask , ' Where are the SAMS graduates ? ' Just as the aircraft carrier was a game changer in naval warfare , SAMS graduates and practitioners of operational art have been game changers in land warfare . "

The school has been praised by senior U.S. military leaders . According to Major General David Hogg , " SAMS has a reputation for producing skilled planners that can take complex ideas and develop cohesive plans . " In 2010 , army Vice Chief of Staff Peter W. Chiarelli said that SAMS was " at the forefront of the effort to remake strategic military planning for the 21st century " .

= = Facilities and Student Body = =

As of 2014 , the SAMS teaching facilities are mainly housed in Muir Hall (image right) , which was once a stable , and Flint Hall . The AMSP courses are taught mostly in Muir Hall ? the current SAMS headquarters ? while Flint Hall houses additional AMSP seminars and the AOASF seminars . Both buildings were renovated in 2011 and their classrooms accommodate seminars of about 16 ? 18 students and an instructor . The renovations for Muir Hall cost \$ 12 @. @ 2 million , including \$ 3 million in information systems that allow students to collaborate digitally , replicating a common practice seen in militaries today .

The application process includes an examination , an interview , and a supervisor assessment . Applicants must also complete the U.S. Army 's Command and General Staff School or an equivalent intermediate @-@ level education course offered by another uniformed service . The student body of SAMS comprises mostly U.S. Army field grade officers from combat , combat support , and combat service support branches . However , in 1987 the U.S. Air Force graduated three officers and officers from the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps graduated the following years . U.S. government agencies began sending students to SAMS in 2007 . The Department of State , Federal Bureau of Investigation and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have provided students to the school . Also , Warrant officers first attended SAMS in 2010 .

Allied foreign militaries also provide students . In 1999 , the school graduated its first international officers ? Norwegian and Canadian . Argentina , Australia , Colombia , France , Germany , Hungary , India , Jordan , Republic of Macedonia , the Netherlands , Pakistan , Romania , South Korea , Brazil , Spain , and the United Kingdom have also sent students through the course .

= = Curricula = =

= = = Advanced Military Studies Program = = =

Most students participate in the Advanced Military Studies Program (AMSP) . In 2009 , the school held eight AMSP seminars . AMSP is intended to educate students in " military arts and science " , and focuses on operational art and covers a variety of subjects , including military problem solving ; military theory and history , military doctrine , operational planning ; battle dynamics , operational theory and practice , contemporary military operations , and the application of national elements of power . Besides classroom studies and operational exercises , students must complete a research monograph and an oral examination . After graduating , officers serve on a division , corps , or Army Service Component Command staff , or in a functional area assignment .

= = = Advanced Operational Art Studies Fellowship = = =

The AOASF is the school 's senior program , and focuses on planning and executing full @-@ spectrum operations with government and nongovernmental agencies . Its students comprise senior lieutenant colonels , colonels , and their civilian equivalents . Military AOASF fellows have typically commanded a battalion @-@ sized unit in the armed services . The course is equivalent to the U.S. Army War College , and instructs 16 students annually .

The program began in 1984 as the Advanced Operational Studies Fellowship (AOSF) by diverting lieutenant colonel War College selectees to Fort Leavenworth for an equivalent education program ; these officers remained for a second year to help instruct AMSP students . Because highly qualified officers could not remain at the faculty permanently , this program was designed to mitigate the effects of periodic faculty reassignments due to operational requirements . The AOSF program allowed students to complete the AMSP and then serve as the principal instructor of the AMSP during their second year . In 1995 , the name of the program was changed to its current version , and in the early 21st century its curriculum was closer aligned with the strategic level of war .

During the first year , the AOASF curriculum includes classroom investigation of the multinational , joint and interagency environment , and extensive travel to the U.S. Defense Department 's regional

commands and headquarters . In the second year , students become instructors of an AMSP seminar or take up other positions in the school . This course focuses on the operational and strategic realms of war and prepares students for assignments as leaders and to serve in critical staff positions within combatant and service component commands . The course involves extensive travel , and the study of applied strategy , military theory , military history , strategic studies , campaign planning , regional studies , and practical work in joint planning . Fellows completing AOASF receive credit as a United States Army War College graduate , and typically serve in a follow @-@ on command assignment or work for a three- or four @-@ star general officer as a member of his or her staff .

= = Notable graduates = =

General Charles C. Campbell (Class of 1986)

General David M. Rodriguez (Class of 1989)

General Charles H. Jacoby , Jr . (Class of 1991)

Lieutenant General William G. Webster (Class of 1984)

Lieutenant General William B. Caldwell , IV (Class of 1988)

Lieutenant General Mark P. Hertling (Class of 1988)

Lieutenant General David H. Huntoon (Class of 1988)

General Vincent K. Brooks (Class of 1992)

Lieutenant General John E. Sterling , Jr . (Class of 1992)