

MASTER'S DEGREE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RC ENGINEER OFFICERS

By Major Terry A. Saul

On 24 September 2009, Webster University and the United States Army Engineer School put the final signatures on an agreement to extend the current cooperative degree program between Webster University and the Engineer School to include Reserve Component (RC) officers who complete the Engineer Captains Career Course–Reserve Component (ECCC–RC) course. Since 2001, the Engineer School has partnered with Webster University to give officers the opportunity to earn a master of public administration (MPA) degree while attending the Engineer Captains Career Course (ECCC). Officers are granted 15 hours of graduate credit for satisfactorily completing ECCC, which is applied against the 36-hour requirement for the MPA. ECCC students have also attended classes at Webster and were allowed to remain at Fort Leonard Wood on permissive temporary duty for up to 10 weeks to complete the remaining 21 credits required to earn a master's degree.

Now, RC officers who complete ECCC–RC are granted 15 hours of graduate credit toward an MPA at Webster University. The MPA must be taken in residence at one of

Webster's 100 worldwide campuses. To find a campus near you, visit Webster online at www.webster.edu. In addition to the 15 hours toward the MPA, this addendum expanded the current agreement to include two online programs. Graduates of both ECCC and ECCC–RC can now receive 12 hours of graduate credit toward a master of arts in management and leadership (MML) or 9 hours of graduate credit toward a master of business administration (MBA).

- **Who is eligible to participate?** This program will apply to all students graduating from the ECCC–RC from Class 01-08 until the program is terminated.
- **How can you get started?** Prior to course enrollment, officers are required to make application and gain admittance to Webster according to its admissions policies. Admission criteria for ECCC–RC students will be the same as for traditional Webster graduate students. Next, officers need to request through the United States Army Maneuver Support Center registrar's office, 573-563-7965, that a final Department of the Army (DA) Form 1059 (Service School *Academic Evaluation Report*) for ECCC–RC be sent to rsouth@webster.edu, Webster University/ECCC–RC Coordinator, at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, to receive credit. For further information, call the ECCC–RC coordinator at 573-329-6777. **Note:** No credit will be granted for students who failed to meet academic course requirements or course standards or did not maintain an overall average of 80 percent. This will be annotated on their final DA Form 1059 issued on completion of ECCC–RC.

Officers will be afforded the opportunity to use tuition assistance and GI Bill payments for costs associated with Webster Admissions and Webster University Online Programs, according to applicable United States Army, United States Army Reserve, and Army National Guard policies for graduate education tuition and fees accrued by participating in this program. ECCC–RC officers interested in one of these master's programs may contact Major Saul at terry.saul@us.army.mil or (573) 563-7026.



Major Saul, an Army National Guard officer, is the Chief, Engineer Captains Career Course–Reserve Component, at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He holds a bachelor's in business management from the University of Southern Mississippi and is pursuing a master's in public administration from Webster University.



Colonel Patricia Ryan (left), Chief of Staff, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence–Army National Guard; Brigadier General Bryan G. Watson (center), Commandant, United States Army Engineer School; and Colonel Jennifer L. Curry (right), Chief of Staff, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence–United States Army Reserve, sign the agreement to extend the Cooperative Degree Program to Reserve Component Officers while Mr. Ralph Southard, Webster University/ECCC–RC coordinator, observes.