

Major General Lewis G. Irwin
Commandant, Joint Forces Staff College



Major General Lew Irwin began serving as the 34th Commandant of the Joint Forces Staff College (JFSC) in Norfolk, Virginia on July 3, 2018. In this role, he commands the Joint Advanced Warfighting School (JAWS); the Joint and Combined Warfighting School (JCWS); and the Joint Command, Control & Information Operations School (JC2IOS). These schools develop joint warfighters and other national security leaders to plan and execute operational-level military operations in a joint, multinational, and interagency environment, while instilling in the students a primary commitment to joint, multinational, and interagency teamwork, attitudes, and perspectives.

A native of Claysville, Pennsylvania, Major General Irwin is a 1986 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Prior to this assignment, he served as Deputy Chief of Army Reserve (DCAR) and Chief of Staff, Office of the Chief Army Reserve (OCAR), assisting the Chief of the Army Reserve in the areas of strategy, planning, programming, policy, and resourcing at the OSD, Joint Staff, HQDA, and Army Secretariat levels. In his civilian career, he is a professor of public policy and government at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. He holds master's degrees and a doctorate in political science from Yale University, as well as a master's in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College. Major General Irwin is the author of three books on American politics and public policy, as well as various other journal articles on national security and American government. His most recent book analyzes the NATO mission in Afghanistan and the U.S. government's strategic and interagency challenges there.

During more than 32 years of service in the Army, he has served overseas in Germany, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, and Afghanistan, in addition to a variety of stateside locations. His active duty service has included tours in the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault); service with the 3rd Armored Division during Operation "Desert Storm"; Sapper company command in the 1st Armored Division in Germany; faculty service in West Point's Department of Social Sciences; and joint duty with the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, while working with the Afghan National Police. Other brief overseas missions have included conducting research for the Center for Army Lessons Learned in Bosnia and gathering "lessons learned" in Security Force and detainee operations in Iraq for 1st Army. He has also served as an Army Reserve Adjunct Professor for Research at the Army War College's Strategic Studies Institute, and represented the Army Reserve on OSD's Reserve Forces Policy Board.

Major General Irwin's other Army Reserve command assignments have included the 2nd Battalion, 312th Regiment; the 301st Regional Support Group; the 926th Engineer Brigade; and the 416th Theater Engineer Command. He also served as the officer-in-charge of a Joint Deployable Team in the Joint Enabling Capabilities Command (JECC), in the U.S. Joint Forces Command.

Major General Irwin's military awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (w/OLC), the Bronze Star Medal (w/OLC), and various other awards. He is Airborne, Air Assault, Sapper, and Jungle Warfare qualified, and holds the Army's "3H" Joint Planner additional skill identifier, among others.

Lew and his wife Marcia have been married for over 29 years and have three adult children. Two of their children currently serve in the U.S. Army.