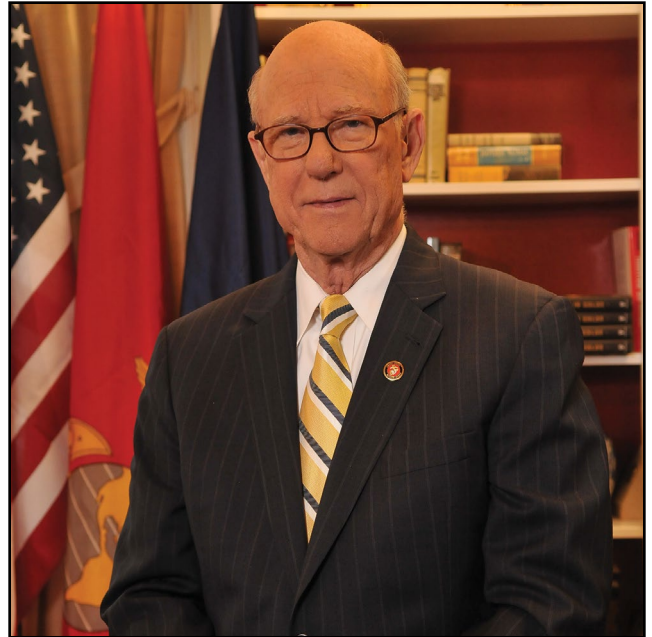


The Coming Educational Revolution in the Army

Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS)



Fort Leavenworth has long been touted as the intellectual center of the Army. It is indeed a reputation I have shared proudly with all my colleagues—and with anyone who would listen over the years. Since my days on the Senate Intelligence Committee and the Senate Armed Services Committee, I have been working hard to ensure Fort Leavenworth not only remained the Army’s crown jewel but also was able to increase its importance within the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). That is why when I first learned of the installation’s pitch to the Army’s top leadership to establish Fort Leavenworth as a key component of The Army University, I knew the answer would be a resounding yes. Who in the Army could build better leaders for the force of 2025 than the intellectual center of the Army?

And as the Army begins conducting listening sessions at installations across the United States to obtain community feedback on force reduction and restructuring plans, there is no better time for Fort Leavenworth to roll out The Army University concept. With little to critique, bolstering the Army’s intellectual capacity would seem to all but guarantee Fort Leavenworth’s future role in the larger Army structure.

Unfortunately, we are faced with budget constraints that are causing a downsizing of our military even as threats continue to spread across the globe. This will, inevitably, cause the future force to be spread thinly and will necessitate that it do more with

less. That is not a situation I take lightly. And, while Congress continues to debate how to best shape, fund, and support future U.S. military posture, I believe TRADOC’s decision to prioritize the training and grooming of the Army’s best and brightest leaders is forward thinking. No matter the tools or training, without competent leadership to bond, inspire, and compel our fighting force to be the best in the world, our warfighters would fall short. The men and women of the all-volunteer force deserve the best leadership possible. Establishing The Army University will provide just that leadership.

The greatest influence in leadership in my life will always be my father, Wes Roberts. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. He served honorably with the 27th Marine Division in Iwo Jima and Okinawa. It was his tenacity and will that propelled me to serve my country later on, as both a Marine and a member of Congress.

During my time in the Marine Corps, I was fortunate to be tasked to the Education Center, Marine Corps Development Center, Quantico, to assist in writing and editing the Marine Corps’ Fleet Marine Force Manual 21, *Operations Against Guerrilla Units*. This manual enabled the Marine Corps to successfully maintain mission responsibility, and it served as a leadership tool for training. While working as an author, I saw firsthand the value of nurturing our military leaders.

As the future force takes shape, it is important that our future learning structure continues to nurture leaders. It is essential that we create and implement an education system that supports the mission to develop agile, adaptive, and innovative uniformed and civilian leaders to lead in an uncertain future. Through unity of effort and a commitment to education, integration, partnering, and networking, The Army University promises to propel our military leaders far into the twenty-first century.

One key principle for success in The Army University construct is partnering. Already, we have witnessed the success and benefits of Fort

Leavenworth's relationships with regional universities such as Kansas State University and the University of Kansas. Through collaborative research, The Army University is efficiently partnering Army research requirements with established and strongly-supported academic resources across the Nation. Establishing innovative ways to benefit the Army and its colleges and universities throughout the United States is a win for all.

As the Nation faces new challenges and threats at home and abroad, it is vital that our Army continues to focus on the intellectual strength and training of its leaders. ■

Senator Charles Patrick "Pat" Roberts is serving his fourth term as a U.S. senator for the state of Kansas. He is a graduate of Kansas State University, and he served as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps. Before being elected senator, Roberts served as a congressman, representing the 1st District of Kansas for sixteen years.

