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JONESBORO — When military personnel returned to the United States after serving in the Vietnam War, they were unwelcome, discouraged and shunned by many Americans.

Veteran Carl Mosby told students from the Army War College on Monday at Arkansas State University that veterans don't want to see the same thing happen to current troops returning home from active duty.

Mosby, a retired Army sergeant, and Loyd Davis and Billy Cribbs, both members of Chapter 26 of Disabled Veterans in Jonesboro, and Army Maj. Brian Mason spoke to representatives from the War College on Tuesday as part of the Eisenhower National Security Series.

This week's trip was the second time members of the War College visited ASU.

War College is the Army's professional development institution that prepares selected military, civilian, and international leaders for the responsibilities of strategic leadership, according to the college's web site.

The Eisenhower National Security Series is the college's community and outreach program designed to encourage dialogue on national security and other public policy issues between its students and the public, according to information provided by officials of the Beck PRIDE Center on the ASU-Jonesboro campus.

Visiting the Jonesboro campus Tuesday and today are: Col. Jon Peck, Army War College instructor; and resident students Lt. Col. Charles Poche, Col. Robert W. Turk and Lt. Col. Ricardo "Riccoh" Player.

The men met during an informal gathering in the day room of the Beck PRIDE Center on Tuesday morning.

The director of the center, Sandra Worlow, provided an overview of the center and its role on the university campus and in the Jonesboro community. She described the center as a "social service agency" for wounded veterans. It's been on campus for six years.

The center, which fills a void in Northeast Arkansas for wounded veterans, has 170 active participants in its program, with 64 enrolled in higher education.

They are a proud group, and some find it difficult to get into the routine of college attendance alongside 18- and 19-year-old A-State students, especially if required to take remedial courses, Worlow said.

Mosby recalled that when he returned from the Vietnam War, places such as Texas, North Carolina, South Carolina and Fort Hood saw returning military men as soldiers, not "baby killers or whatever."

"I didn't want to go to Vietnam, but I knew I was going."

Carl Mosby
retired Army sergeant

"It made it hard on families, too," he said. "We had difficult times."

Davis said it took 20 years to put the Vietnam War behind the soldiers before they could involve themselves in organizations that focus on veterans.

He said he had an infant when he was drafted, and his No. 1 goal was to return home safely to help his wife raise the child.

"I didn't want to go to Viet- nam, but I knew I was going," he said. "You were called. I spent 12 months over there. I knew — even when I was over there — if I lived and made it back home I would be glad I went and served my country. I did my duty. If my duty caused me pain and anguish, I'd have the ability to take care of it."

He added that the country has a responsibility to veterans who served their country.

Other items on the visitors' agenda included: panel discussions, classroom talks, and visits with student and community veterans.