The Big Picture – What Makes a General

Master Sergeant Stuart Queen: When an Army general retires, more often than not he is invited to take on towering responsibilities in civilian life, positions where he can bring to bear his talents and training, along with the benefits of mature experience. Many a famous former wearer of the star has moved over to important jobs in the field of public welfare, in education, in business and commerce, and in government service, accenting the respect Americans have not only for these men, but for the character, education, and training the rank of general stands for.

From Washington’s time to the present day of missiles and atomic warheads, for leadership in maintaining our liberty and security from foreign oppression, we have looked to the generals. What makes these men tick, the generals? What sort of training do they have? What sort of background fits them for their ultimate missions? Or to put it another way, what makes a general?

Perhaps we’ll have a better idea of the answer to that very complex question after viewing today’s Big Picture, the story of the school for generals, the Army War College.

Narrator: It is early morning on or about 20 June, on a green-bordered, ivy-covered campus. As somebody once said, or perhaps, should have said, “What is so rare as a day in June without a graduation?” For on campuses across America, it is time to say goodbye to familiar surroundings, and move to a new stage in an up-and-coming career. It is that way, too, at the picturesque campus of the Army War College...