

DFL Weekly SITREP (10 FEB 11)

Current Week **HIGHLIGHTS:**

1. Hosting visitors: From 6-9 February, the Chinese section hosted Major General (ret) Loeffke, his longtime Chinese friend Mr. LIU and his family, and Mr. Mumford during their official visit to West Point to speak to cadets about Beijing's modern engineering construction and perceptions from Major General Loeffke's recent trip throughout China.
2. Academic Trips/Events:
 - a. On Monday 7 February, DFL and the Simon Center hosted the 2nd Annual International Day where international cadets, officers, and foreign language clubs showcased food and cultural items from around the world. Groups from Africa, South America and the Caribbean, Central America, Southeast Asia and Oceania, East Asia, and Europe presented elements of regional cultures to nearly 1000 cadets. International Day complemented the language and cultural awareness training that all cadets receive through DFL and further strengthened our cadets' ability to think and problem solve from a global perspective.



Cadet Jun Hyuk Oh from Korea in traditional dress addresses questions from fellow cadets.



Cadets enjoy traditional food from South-East Asia and Oceania during the 2nd Annual International Day festivities.

- b. On Saturday, 5 February, the Department of Foreign Languages conducted the MIAD physical assessment of cadets interested in attending international military training and schools this summer. Cadets competed for a chance to attend: Ecuadorian Jungle School, Chilean Mountain Warfare School, French Commando School, and Austrian Alpine School. Candidates were challenged as individuals and as a team with events including: a climbing test, 10km road-march, an APFT, team events, and an additional 10km road-march. The observer teams, composed of DFL Faculty and cadets who previously graduated from the various courses, assessed the candidates' physical prowess, mettle, leadership, and teamwork. The assessment ended at 1730 with peer evaluations and AAR. The DFL and DMI teams are tallying the final results for placing the best qualified cadets into the summer schools of their choice.
3. Faculty News: LTC John Baskerville's article, "Narratives of Empowerment: A Cultural Analysis of Hezbollah," was published in the U.S. Army War College's annual (2011) refereed anthology – Information as Power (volume 5). LTC Baskerville's article places Hezbollah's information strategies into cultural context to demonstrate the utility of cultural knowledge in the realm of national strategy and policy. He examines U.S. policy toward Hezbollah in light of the group's use of ceremonies, narratives, images, and institutions to communicate to the Shi'a of Lebanon and to the larger Lebanese population that 'the resistance' is an integral part

of the landscape that has helped move them from a state of weakness and humiliation to a state of empowerment and dignity.

4. Upcoming Key Events: On 11 February, Dr. LIU, Fuhua the Vice Director of Jilin University's International Language College, and the Chinese Language and Culture Department Dean will visit West Point to discuss the Academy's Chinese language semester abroad program there and to observe a few Chinese language and culture classes.