

DFL Weekly SITREP (12 October 11)

Current Week **HIGHLIGHTS:**

1. Faculty and cadet participation in language and cultural immersion trips and activities:
 - a. Major Mark Whiteman, Arabic Desk Chief and Middle East Foreign Area Officer, traveled last week to Saudi Arabia as part of a West Point team of faculty and USCC staff officers who conducted a curricular assessment of the King Abdulaziz Military Academy, in cooperation with the United States Military Training Mission (USMTM) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. During three full days on the ground at KAMA the team visited the majority of KAMA's facilities, met with several key faculty and staff members, visited classes, and observed morning physical training/drill and ceremony activities. Major Whiteman specifically focused on KAMA's English language, Islamic culture, and Holy Qur'an courses, in addition to translating and interpreting a host of KAMA source documentation. Major Whiteman is currently conducting a site development visit to the American College of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates and the Sultan Qaboos University in Muscat, Oman in an effort to expand the Arabic program's current portfolio of partners in the Middle East region.



In this photo: The USMA assessment team collaborated with their KAMA counterparts during a lunchtime meal.

- b. The International Cadets traveled to New London, Connecticut over the weekend to participate in an annual conference and gathering of International cadets from Navy, Coast Guard, and USMA at the US Coast Guard Academy. Cadets had the opportunity to socialize with cadets from their respective countries and get to know the Coast Guard Academy.



In this photo: International cadets from USMA, Coast Guard, and Navy with Brazilian Exchange Officer, LTC Cinelli on the front steps of the US Coast Guard Academy.

b. Last night, DFL, Language Clubs, International cadets, and the Simon Center sponsored the third annual Diversity Day which was previously known as International Day. This was the best attended event yet with an estimated 1500 cadets and many families from the community seeing cultural displays and sampling delicious food from all over the world.



In this photo: The hallways of Thayer Hall packed with cadets visiting different cultural displays.



In this photo: BG Trainor, cadets, and family members observe a traditional Filipino hula dance.

2. Language Immersion events:

a. Two DFL Concentrators, Cadet Andrew Webster, a Foreign Area Studies – Middle East double major with Economics, and Cadet Kelly Kingma, French, recently participated in the Ironman Triathlon World Championship in Kona, Hawaii. Cadet Andrew Webster is currently on Semester Abroad in Morocco and has had the opportunity to train in the hills, trails, and pool of Al-Akhawayn University since his arrival in late August. His time of 11:56:05 placed him in 35th place of all 18-24 year olds. Congratulations to both cadets for a fine finish.



In these photos: Cadets Andrew Webster and Kelly Kingma participating in the Ironman Triathlon World Championships on 8 October 2011 in Kona, Hawaii.

b. Semester Abroad Program (SAP)-Austria and Germany cadets have completed their field training (which precedes the academic portion of their SAP) and are now in their respective school sites for semester academic courses. Over the past weekend, cadets visited a Benedictine monastery founded in 1083, Göttweig Abbey, near the southern Austrian town of Krems surrounded by traditional vineyards.



In this photo: Cadets Jordan Sorrenti, Caleb Magnuson, and Brendan Podszus and Austrian counterpart after receiving a tour of the Göttweig Abbey from a monk.



In this photo: Cadets Katherine Houle and Zach Silvis at the Olympic stadium in Munich after finishing a 10k run.

3. Faculty participation in hosting visitors:

45 West Point cadets served as cadet escorts for 96 cadets from the Colombian Air Force Academy's visit to West Point on 28 September. The visiting delegation attended morning classes and ate lunch with their escorts.



In this photo: Cadet Joel Bassette improved his Spanish communication skills while serving as escort to three Colombian Air Force Cadets.

4. Future Events:

a. On Friday, 14 October, Dr. Frank O. Mora, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Western Hemisphere Affairs will brief DFL staff and faculty during Dean's Hour on how to best prepare our future leaders in the areas of languages, cultures and regional expertise and the importance of having competent officers in these areas.

b. On 15 October, Dr. Yuanman Liu, and Ms Can Wang will accompany the Chinese Language and Culture Club on a one-day trip section to Columbia University in order to attend an East Coast Asian American Student Union Meeting. The club will also spend time in China Town practicing their Chinese Language skills and enjoying authentic Chinese Food.

c. No later than 30 October, the Chinese Section plans on hosting a group of 10 Peking University ROTC cadets and on instructor plan to visit West Point in order to further the good will between our two schools. This visit is not currently affected by the present political situation. We currently send cadets to Peking University every summer for Academic Individual Advanced Development trips and for our semester abroad study program. We are also currently host to a visiting professor, Dr. Yuanman Liu, from Peking University. She brings a wealth of experience and has been a vital addition to our team.

d. On 28-30 October, MAJ Matthew Radik will accompany the Chinese Language and Culture Club on a trip section to Montreal, Canada. The cadets will visit the Magic of Lanterns Festival at the Botanical Garden and also spend time in China Town. The Magic of Lanterns features over 700 traditional Chinese lanterns made entirely of silk, designed in Montreal and handmade by craftsmen in Shanghai. The Chinese garden will showcase traditional Chinese culture with, "The First Emperor's Procession", portraying the first Chinese Emperor, Qin Shi Huangdi, soldiers, horse-drawn chariots, sections of the Great Wall of China and many musical instruments from that time.



In this photo: The Magic Lanterns Festival, Montreal, Canada.