

DFL Weekly SITREP (14 JAN 11)

Current Week HIGHLIGHTS:

1. Hosting Visitors:
 - a. On 11 January 2011, DFL hosted the visit of Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) Brigadier General Walid Salman, the Director of the Military Training Academy (a US Service Academy equivalent). The purpose of the visit was to help expose the LAF Military Academy and Military Training leadership to West Point's philosophy, facilities, and curriculum in an effort to help develop an improved LAF Academy. Specifically, the LAF Military Academy commander focused on curriculum options (core courses and specialization courses) West Point offers to its cadets to help him get an idea of how and where he might begin to modernize his institution.
 - b. DFL's Chinese section is hosting the President of Fu Jen University, Bernard Li, and his official delegation from Fu Jen University, Taipei, Taiwan on 13-15 January. The Chinese section maintains a robust semester abroad program relationship with Fu Jen University and currently four cadets are studying Chinese at Fu Jen. The University President is coming to West Point to meet the new Superintendent and Dean.
2. Staff and Faculty Development and Recognition: The DFL faculty are working on submitting abstracts of academic works in anticipation of this year's DFL Mentorship Colloquium, which will be held 22-25 February 2011. The DFL Mentorship Colloquium was created to encourage the academic research of new scholars in the Department of Foreign Languages, to cultivate mentoring relationships between senior and rotating faculty as well as to provide a forum for a mutual sharing of ideas. The Colloquium also provides DFL faculty the opportunity to develop and polish new works in preparation for professional conferences and publication.
3. Academic Trips:
 - a. MAJ Michael Tobias, DFL's Russian Desk Chief, is escorting COL Kastner, Dean's CoS, on a visit to the Georgian Military Academy TCT in Tbilisi, Georgia. The goal of the visit is to advise the Georgian MOD on the establishment of their own 4 year commissioning source by explaining how West Point develops leaders of character.
 - b. DFL's first two Portuguese language Semester Abroad cadets (Joseph VonLehman-2012 and Taylor Whitten-2012) departed for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 11 January. They will study at the Pontifical Catholic University in Rio de Janeiro this semester.
 - c. Dr. Martha Gallagher is currently in Beijing, China finishing the inprocessing of the spring semester abroad cadets at Beijing University and coordinating for the Superintendent's trip to China next week. She returned to West Point on 12 January, in order to participate in the Fu Jen University visit later in the week.

- d. The Chinese language club will begin its semester activities with an 18 January coordination meeting. The following week, on 26 January, the Chinese club will participate in West Point's 2nd Annual International Cadet Night in Thayer Hall. The Chinese club will be promoting Chinese culture and Chinese food to everyone who attends. Future spring semester trips will include a trip to participate in the East Coast Asian American Student Union Conference in Amherst, Massachusetts from 18-20 February, a trip to Washington DC, the Pentagon, Chinatown, and Arlington National Cemetery from 1-3 April.

4. Upcoming Key Events

- a. From approximately 15 January through 15 June 2011, COL Rick McPeak is deployed to the National Military Academy of Afghanistan (NMAA). Effective 21 December 2010, COL David Dimeo assumed duties as Acting Head, Department of Foreign Languages.
- b. From 25-28 January, the Chinese section will host the Chinese Military Academy's official annual visit to West Point. The event will occur with a few Taiwanese cadets so that the cadets from Taiwan can see what US cadet life is like. The accompanying Chinese Military Academy Chief of Staff and a Battalion Commander are planning to have office calls with the Superintendent, the Dean, the Commandant, the Department of Military Instruction, the Department of Physical Education, and the Department of Foreign Languages. The delegation will also observe some early Sandhurst team training as Taiwan is sending a team to participate in West Point's Sandhurst competition this year.
- c. The second annual International Day will take place on 26 January at 1800 on the third floor of Thayer Hall. The International cadets who study and here at the United States Military Academy will be honored and given an opportunity to display cultural items and foods from their respective countries around the world. This event compliments the language and cultural awareness training that all cadets receive through DFL and further strengthens our cadets' ability to think and problem solve from a global perspective.