

DFL Weekly SITREP (14 September 11)

Current Week **HIGHLIGHTS**:

1. Faculty and cadet participation in language and cultural immersion trips and conferences:
 - a. SAP Austria cadets recently completed their 3 week officer training in Vienna and arrived for their academic training at Weiner-Neustadt -home of the Theresianische Militäarakademie since 1752. They successfully finished their training in Vienna by conducting briefings about West Point in both English and German to separate classes. The cadets will spend the next two weeks on a field training exercise similar to CLDT with their Austrian counterparts.
 - b. SAP Germany cadets continue to enjoy their Dresden experience of linguistic and professional military training at the German Army Officer School. Cadets spent the past week exploring Dresden and learning more about the German military profession of arms. In addition to earning their German sports badges, cadets visited the famous Dresden Opera House and received the VW “transparent” factory tour. After their training in Dresden is complete, cadets will continue back to their semester sites to start classes in early October.
 - c. The Russian section recently coordinated for 8 Russian-speaking cadets on a Semester Abroad to Voronezh State University, in Voronezh, Russia. This program is entering its 7th year of semester long immersions and combines university level language instruction with profession of arms lectures by the head of the local Russian ROTC detachment.
 - d. Dr. Chris Lewis and CPT Chris Harrison took a group of cadets from the Portuguese Club to the Brailian Independence Day Celebration last Tuesday. The event is sponsored by the Brazilian American Chamber of Commerce. Cadets were able to meet prominent Brazilian Americans from New York City and practice their Portuguese.
2. Faculty publication: Dr. Qun Ao of the Chinese section co-authored the book, “The Sky is Bright with Stars,” published by Cheng & Tsui, Boston last month. The book is a collection of Chinese language reading passages meant for intermediate low Chinese language learners.



3. Faculty participation in foreign academy assessment and foreign training events:

a. Major Mark Whiteman, Arabic Desk Chief and a Middle East Foreign Area Officer, was selected to serve as part of a USMA-wide assessment team which has begun its work with a partner institution in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. A delegation of four faculty members from the King Abdulaziz Military Academy (KAMA) visited West Point this week and are observing each of the Academy's three pillars of leader development in action. The delegation visited a section of LE101, our Academic Reading and Writing course for non-native English speakers. The USMA assessment team will conduct a reciprocal visit to KAMA in October.



In this photo: LTC Saad al Huwaisheh, LTC Mohammed Dakheel Al-Awwad, Royal Saudi Land Forces Training and Doctrine Department and Mr. Samir Khoury, US Military Training Mission Land Forces Arabia Affairs Advisor join USMA faculty and cadets for lunch in the Cadet Mess.

b. LTC Cinelli and Dr. Josh Enslin are currently in Brazil conducting a site visit to cadets at the Military Engineering Institute and the Brazilian Military Academy.

4. Faculty participation in hosting visitors:

Major Matthew Radik and Dr. Martha Gallagher escorted a delegation headed by General Fan Changlong, Commander of China's Jinan Military District. The delegation included the current Chinese Defense Attaché, the incoming Attaché, and various other generals and staff members. The delegation met with the Superintendent and received the USMA command briefing, a Department of Military Instruction briefing, and a tour of Arvin Gym, introducing West Point's physical program. The delegation took particular notice of how much Cadets must do while attending USMA and how USMA teaches problem-solving in ambiguous situations, rather than teaching problem solving through the use of a check list.

5. Faculty Participation in Cadet Clubs:

a. On the evening of 12 September, Dr. Yuanman Liu, and Ms Can Wang attended the Chinese Language and Culture Club's Bi-weekly meeting. The club's Cadet-in-Charge, Cadet Jacky Kwan, hosted the event. The club learned about the Mid-Autumn Festival, other aspects of Chinese culture, and continued to plan future club activities.

b. Major Matthew Radik attended a CrossFit Level I Training Certification Course (Personal Trainer Certification) in Alexandria, Virginia (TDY) over the weekend in support of Black and Gold CrossFit (<http://blackandgoldcrossfit.blogspot.com>). Black and Gold CrossFit is a functional fitness group made up of Cadets and officers that meets in Arvin Gym's 62 Room Monday through Friday at 0530 to conduct physical training. Major Radik is one of the officer coaches/trainers who attend every morning to help in "Forging the Warrior Athlete."

c. The Russian Language Club held its first meeting on 6 September. 12 cadets attended and discussed possible activities for the year and watched a brief Soviet-era comedy. The Club will hold weekly meetings on Tuesdays at 1900 in the DFL Conference Room, WH 5002.

d. German Language Club cadets represented West Point at the Putnam Valley Oktoberfest on Sunday, 11 September. Cadets were recognized as one of the many groups of service organizations that have responded to the call to selfless-service in the wake of 9/11.

6. Future Events:

a. On 15 September, COL McPeak will attend the Defense Language Steering Committee meeting in Washington, DC. The meeting brings together key language and culture-related subject matter experts from the Department of Defense and other governmental agencies to discuss the current state of language and culture study and readiness, as well as plans and strategies for improvement.

b. MAJ David Ashcraft from the French section will be showing the controversial and award winning foreign film *The Battle of Algiers* at the Cornwall Public Library on the evening of 15 September at 1800. The showing of the film and discussion will take place as part of the Cornwall Library's monthly foreign film series.

b. The German Language Club will represent West Point, the Army, and the US Military at the annual Steuben Parade in NYC this Saturday, 17 September. This year's parade will be televised and followed again by a generous Oktoberfest in Central Park. Last year's success has ensured strong participation from German Language Club cadets. Additionally, the German Army exchange officers will march as well as LTC Fidorra, MAJ Willig, and MAJ Francis.

c. Mr. Chee Hwa Tung, relative to Margaret Chao, the donor who established the Lieutenant General Ying-Hsing Wen Award for Excellence in East Asian Studies, plans to visit West Point during the week of 26 September. Mr. Tung was the First Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Founding Chairman of the China-United States Exchange Foundation, and currently is the Vice Chairman of the Eleventh National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. During his visit, Mr. Tung plans to address cadets on the topic of China-United States relations.