

DFL Weekly SITREP (20 July 11)

Current Week **HIGHLIGHTS**:

1. Summer Faculty Workshop:

The Department of Foreign Languages welcomes eight faculty members to the Summer Faculty Workshop. Arabic welcomes COL Gregory Ebner. Chinese welcomes MAJ Matt Radik. French welcomes CPT Ronald Hijduk. Portuguese welcomes CPT Chris Harrison and LTC Carlos Cinelli, Brazilian exchange officer. Russian welcomes LTC Michael Nerstheimer and Dr. Olga Dobrunoff. Spanish welcomes LTC Netzahualcoyotl Medoza, Mexican exchange officer.



In this photo (L-R): LTC Cinelli, CPT Harrison, CPT Hijduk, MAJ Radik, LTC Nerstheimer, and Dr. Dobrunoff

2. International Cadet and Officer Participation in Cadet Summer Training:

International cadet participants in CFT and US Army Airborne and Air Assault schools are currently conducting their training. The countries represented in this group include: Chile, Georgia, Brazil, and Taiwan. DFL coordinators from Chinese, Russian, Portuguese, and Spanish sections are continuing their coordination to ensure each international visitor has a productive training experience. DFL Sponsors will work to accomplish a smooth transition for the international cadets back to their home countries when training is complete.

3. Faculty participation in training and conferences:

a. MAJ Doug Willig, Instructor in German, is in Dresden, Germany and is participating in a Tactics and Logistics Course at the Officers' School of the German Army. The course is 5 weeks long and will be a great asset to him in teaching cadets

about our allied forces. Several other international officers from various countries are participating as well.

b. Drs. Martha Gallagher and Hongyu Huang are representing West Point and participating in the first Yale Beijing Conference in Beijing, China. Yale and its partner universities are hosting a Global Alumni Leadership Conference in Beijing which includes West Point and seven Chinese universities, including Hong Kong. This conference will help increase contact between Yale and West Point and reinforce their ongoing activities related to China.

c. LTC (P) John Baskerville, Arabic Program Director, and MAJ Mark Whiteman, Arabic Desk Chief, recently returned from a Semester Abroad Program/Academic Individual Advanced Development (AIAD) site development trip to Jordan. They met with US Embassy military leadership and security personnel, program directors for various study abroad agencies in Jordan, and with the commander of the military wing of Jordan's Mu'tah University in an effort to re-establish summer and semester-long immersion opportunities for our cadets in the Kingdom. While senior US leadership in Jordan has limited immersion opportunities by placing civilian campuses off limits to government-sponsored students, LTC (P) Baskerville and MAJ Whiteman received Embassy approval to proceed with coordination with the military university (with whom West Point already conducts a Foreign Academy Exchange Program (FAEP)) as well as other agencies that conduct university-level immersion programs in Jordan (such as AMIDEAST). The intent is to continue coordination with the Embassy and host-nation agencies in order to execute AIAD programs in Jordan in the summer of 2012 and semester abroad programs in either the spring of 2011 or the fall of 2012.



In this photo: LTC Baskerville and MAJ Whiteman accept a plaque from BG Ahmad Mahmoud Al-Habahba, the commander of the military wing of Mu'tah University in Jordan.

4. Faculty participation in language and cultural immersion trips:
 - a. Currently, a group of six Arabic-speaking cadets are conducting a summer AIAD trip to Marrakech, Morocco, that will continue until 6 August. The cadets are traveling without faculty escort. The cadets are spending this week acclimating to the school and language instruction at Al Alamia Language Institute and to their local environment. They will spend five hours a day in language instruction and two to three hours in the evening in cultural exchanges in the local area. This weekend, the cadets will participate in a cultural immersion trip to the Atlantic coast of Morocco.
 - b. Currently, Dr. Martha Gallagher from the Chinese section is leading a group of seven cadets on a summer AIAD trip to Changchun, China that will continue until 6 August. The cadets will spend two and a half weeks of intensive Chinese language and culture study at Jilin University in Changchun, China. During their free time in the last half week of the trip, Dr. Gallagher will introduce the cadets to Chinese culture and famous cultural sites in and around Changchun and Beijing, China.
 - c. Currently, a group of 10 French-speaking cadets are conducting a summer AIAD trip to Rochefort, France that will continue until 6 August. The cadets are traveling without faculty escort. The School, run by France's paramilitary police, gives instruction in the French Language to foreign military members, and also gives French military personnel foreign language instruction prior to their overseas deployments. As such, the cadets will supplement their language instruction with in-depth mil-to-mil contacts with members of all of France's Armed Services. With a total of 27 participants over the entire summer, it is the largest AIAD program offered by West Point.



In this photo: Recent graduates of French Airborne School include: CDTY Armando Peralta, CDT Jeff-Antoine Pierre-Louis, CDT Michael Kohne, and CDT Jessica Fields

d. Currently, one Persian-speaking cadet is conducting a summer AIAD trip to Tajikistan that will continue to 8 August. CDT Philip Knoetgen is traveling without faculty escort. He is participating in an eight-week intensive study of Persian language and culture in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. This program is offered by the American Councils for International Education. CDT Knoetgen is assigned to live with a Tajiki family for cultural immersion.

e. Currently, Mr. Pendergast of the Russian section is leading a group of seven cadets on a summer AIAD trip to Ukraine that will continue until 6 August. The cadets will participate in a three-week intensive language and cultural program designed to increase proficiency and confidence in the Russian language, enhance regional expertise and promote cultural awareness.

f. Currently, LTC Aguirre from the Spanish section is leading a group of five cadets on a summer AIAD trip to Ecuador that will continue until 6 August. Cadets will spend three weeks visiting significant military commands as well as studying national politics, economics, history, and geography in an immersion setting as they travel to various cities and regions in Ecuador.