

DFL Weekly SITREP (21 September 11)

Current Week **HIGHLIGHTS:**

1. Faculty and cadet participation in language and cultural immersion trips and activities:
 - a. On 20 September, DFL faculty members moderated round-table discussions between select cadets and visiting International Fellows from the U.S. Army War College. The sessions allowed the cadets and faculty members to discuss and share perspective on myriad social, political, and security-related issues with distinguished field grade and general officers from around the world. The visiting fellows were grouped according to the Geographic Combatant Commands with which their countries are affiliated. LTC John Baskerville moderated the CENTCOM session. LTC Mark Gagnon and MAJ Mike Tobias moderated EUCOM sessions. MAJ Alissa McKaig moderated the NORTHCOM session.
 - b. 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.



- c. The German Language Club represented West Point, the Army, and US Military at the annual Steuben Parade in New York city this past Saturday, 17 September. This year's parade was televised on PBS, local Channel 13, from 1200-1330. Last year's success ensured strong participation from German Language Club cadets along with the contingent of German cadet officers. Leading the cadet group was Club CIC CDT Alex Imbriale. LTC Fidorra, MAJ Willig, and MAJ Francis accompanied formations.
2. Language Immersion events:
 - a. SAP Austria cadets are experiencing the Austrian troop training environment through two weeks of field training exercises with their Austrian counterparts that is similar to West Point's similar to Cadet Leader Development Training.



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, as well as the nation's capital of Berlin with other international cadets. They continue to learn more about the German military profession of arms and receive advanced German language instruction. After their training in Dresden is complete, cadets will continue back to their semester sites to start classes in early October.

3. Faculty participation in hosting visitors:

a. MAJ David Ashcraft from the French section organized a visit from the Army's Foreign Area Officer (FAO) Proponent. LTC Paul DeCecco is visiting West Point on 21 and 22 September. He will preside over a presentation/discussion with the USMA FAO community in the West Point Club's Grey room from 1200 -1430 on Wednesday, 21 September. The FAO proponent will discuss the results of the recently completed review of the Army's FAO program, as well as discuss the future of the Army's FAO corps. On Thursday, 22 September, LTC DeCecco will meet with Mr Brent Matthews and LTC Gagnon of the Office of International Intellectual Development Division; with Assistant Dean for Personnel, Ms. Debra Scully; and with the Head of the Department of Foreign Languages, COL Rickie Mc Peak. He will conclude his visit with a Dean's Hour presentation for Cadets on the FAO Program in the Department of Foreign Languages Auditorium, Washington Hall 5006. MAJ Ashcraft is looking forward to working with other faculty members to organize cadet presentations for the other 'language-affiliated' branches and career fields, such as Special Forces, Civil Affairs, and Psychological Operations.

b. Cadets in intermediate and advanced level Spanish classes attended a FAO information briefing on Friday, 16 September. COL Humberto Rodriguez, USMA Class of 85, delivered the brief.



In this photo: COL Rodriguez present a coin to LTC Aguirre at the conclusion of the FAO information briefing.

4. Faculty participation in foreign academy assessment and foreign training events: LTC Cinelli and Dr. Josh Enslin return from Brazil on Wednesday, 21 September after conducting a site visit for cadets at the Military Engineering Institute and the Brazilian Military Academy.
5. Faculty Participation in Cadet Clubs: West Point welcomed its largest foreign Academy Semester Abroad contingent with the arrival of the sixteen member contingent from the Ecole Special Militaire de St-Cyr. Already commissioned as second lieutenants in the French Army, they will be present at USMA to conduct research for their masters' level theses. While not taking classes here at the Academy, they will nevertheless be participating in mandatory meals, sports, clubs, and parades. This semester abroad is part of St-Cyr's unique policy of requiring its student-officers to spend one semester of their six semester academic program outside of France. The French Lieutenants arrived on Sunday, 11 September, when they immediately met their sponsors for reception and integration into their cadet companies. The French club organized a "social welcome" for the St-Cyriens at the Firstie Club on Monday, 12 September.
6. Future Events: 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.