

DFL Weekly SITREP (26 October 11)

Current Week **HIGHLIGHTS:**

1. Faculty and cadet participation in language and cultural immersion trips and activities:
 - a. On Saturday, 22 October, three cadet members of the Russian Language Club visited the Holy Virgin Protection Russian Orthodox Church in Nyack, NY. Two members of the DFL faculty accompanied the cadets on this trip section. The cadets received very informative guided tours of the beautiful Church and its religious education facility, and observed the religious education students participating in a prayer to mark the end of the day's classes. Afterward they were treated to a traditional Russian lunch of borscht, pirogi, pelmeny, kisel and chai. During the lunch the cadets listened to the personal and family histories of many of the Church members, all of whose families immigrated to the US during the past century.



In this photo: CDT Sammons enjoys a traditional Russian lunch of pirogi with members of the Russian Orthodox Church in Nyack, NY.

- b. MAJ Michael Tobias of the Russian section visited the two Russian language SAP locations for Semester 2012-1, in Voronezh, Russia and Odessa, Ukraine. The five cadets in Voronezh and three cadets in Odessa are all in good spirits and making the most of this opportunity. MAJ Tobias also met with administrators and instructors at both locations as well as at a language school in Kiev, Ukraine that has hosted USMA cadets before on SAP and likely will again in the future. Personnel at all three programs are happy to host USMA cadets and were responsive to MAJ Tobias' inquiries and requests regarding the language instruction for the USMA cadets.



In this photo: MAJ Michael Tobias and Russian SAP cadets in Voronezh, Russia, at a military instruction class at Voronezh State University.

2. Language Immersion events:

a. German. Semester Abroad Program (SAP)-Austria cadets visited the Wachau for three days, getting hands-on experiences in the local wine culture significant to the region. Cadets also participated in the graduation ceremony for the Austrian Academy cadets.

SAP-Germany cadets completed their third week of courses. The Hamburg cadets received weapons training in preparation for a November weapons shoot with the Bundeswehr.



In this photo: Cadet Madelyne Serrano takes aim with a German version of the AT4.



In this photo: Cadet Brendan Podszus during a road march leading to the Austrian Academy's training area.



In this photo: Cadet Katherine Houle cheering on the home-team FC Bayern, during a match against the Berlin club at the Allianz stadium just north of Munich.

b. Last Thursday and Friday, 20 and 21 October, the Portuguese section hosted the Brazilian Army Commission of officers assigned to Washington, D.C. The Commission is responsible for the acquisition of U.S. military equipment for the Portuguese Army. During the spring of last year, the Commission hosted our cadets from the Portuguese club during one of their visits to Washington, D.C. A group of 8

officers and enlisted soldiers from the Commission, along with their wives and children, made the trip.

c. On Sunday, 23 October, a group of seven Brazilian ROTC students arrived from São Paulo for an annual reciprocal visit in which they stay one night in the barracks with our cadets who traveled to Brazil on AIAD over the summer. While hosting their Portuguese counterparts, our cadets were able to get a heavy dose of practice for their Portuguese. The Brazilian cadets attended two hours of classes with their West Point sponsors, followed by a tour of West Point.



In this photo: COL Barboza and seven cadets representing the seven branches of the Brazilian Army pose in front of the plain.

3. Future Events:

a. From 27-28 October, LTC (P) John Baskerville, Arabic Program Director, and a Model Arab League delegation of 8 cadets will travel to Washington, DC, to attend the 20th Annual Policymakers' Conference sponsored by the National Council for US-Arab Relations. During the conference the cadets will engage in panel discussions focused on the critical issues facing the Arab world and gain a first-hand understanding of how US policy affects the region. The cadets will participate in networking sessions where they will interface in Arabic and English with several current ambassadors to the United States, former CENTCOM commanders, US policy experts and business leaders in the Arab World. This conference will provide the Model Arab League team with the foundational knowledge and current perspectives necessary for a successful performance in upcoming regional and national competitions.

b. On 30 October, the Chinese Section plans to host a group of 10 Peking University ROTC cadets and one instructor who plan to visit West Point in order to further the goodwill 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 hosting a visiting professor, Dr. Yuanman Liu, from Peking University. She brings a wealth of experience and has been a vital addition to our team.

c. 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.

d. The 8th Chinese Model United Nations Conference has invited the West Point Cadets studying abroad at Jilin University in Changchun, China, to attend their Conference which will take place on 18 to 21 November at China’s National University of Defense Technology in Changsha City, Hunan Province. Dr. Martha Gallagher plans on accompanying the Cadets while she is conducting a preplanned Semester Abroad Program maintenance visit. This Conference provides a great opportunity for West Point to further the goodwill between the United States and China.