

DFL Weekly SITREP (28 September 11)

Current Week **HIGHLIGHTS:**

1. Faculty and cadet participation in language and cultural immersion trips and activities:
 - a. On 25-27 September, MAJ Mike Tobias (Russian instructor) and 5 Russian Language majors travelled to Washington, DC and northern Virginia to meet with senior policy makers on the OSD Staff, the Joint Staff and in the Missile Defense Agency. The goal of this trip was to gather information about US Missile Defense policy as it relates to the Russian Federation and the European Phased Adaptive Approach (EPAA) to missile defense deployment. Under the mentorship of the officers from DFL's Russian section, the 5 cadets are working on a proposal for improving collaboration with the Russian Federation on Missile Defense in Europe. The Missile Defense Agency is sponsoring the research.
 - b. LTC Fidorra, German Liaison officer is currently overseeing the training for, execution of and awarding of the German Proficiency Badge (GPB) test. The GPB is annually organized by cadet companies in cooperation with LTC Fidorra. The award tests physical prowess and marksmanship in accordance with the standards of the Bundeswehr.
2. Language Immersion events:
 - a. German language cadets on the Semester Abroad-Austria program completed their two weeks of field training exercises with their Austrian counterparts. The training is similar to West Point's Cadet Leader Development Training.
 - b. As part of their Semester Abroad-Germany Program, cadets completed 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. Cadets are now preparing to continue to their semester sites to start classes in early October.



In this photo: Semester Abroad Program - Hamburg and Munich cadets finish out their time in Dresden at the German Officer School with a group photo.

3. Faculty participation in hosting visitors:
 - a. MAJ David Ashcraft of the French section organized a visit from the Army's Foreign Area Officer (FAO) Proponent on 21 and 22 September. LTC Paul DeCecco represented FAO Proponent and on 21 September, he conducted a presentation/discussion with the USMA FAO community on the results of the recently completed review of the Army's FAO program, as well as the future of the Army's FAO corps. The following day, LTC DeCecco met with several FAO community stakeholders at West Point, including Mr. Brent Matthews and LTC Gagnon of the Office of International Intellectual Development Division, Dr. James Loy, Assistant Dean for Plans and Resources, and the Head of the Department of Foreign Languages, COL Rickie Mc Peak. LTC DeCecco concluded his visit with a Dean's Hour presentation for cadets on the FAO program. Over 70 interested cadets attended the briefing and participated in the follow-on discussion.
 - b. BG Raul Torrado Alvarez, Director of the Colombian Military Academy and a delegation that includes Colombian staff officers and Colombian academy cadets are currently at West Point for a visit (28 September 11). The visit will include a Command Brief, a historical walking tour, an office call with COL MCPeak, the Head of the Department of Foreign Languages, and a no-host lunch at the West Point Club. LTC Jesus Aguirre, DFL's Spanish and Portuguese Program Director, will assist with the visit. West Point's Colombian cadets and other Spanish speaking cadets will also assist with the visit.
4. Future Events:
 - a. DFL will host its annual Oktoberfest celebration at the 49er Lodge after the Army-Tulane game on Saturday, 01 October.
 - b. The French Club will take its largest ever contingent for a visit to the biggest French speaking city in North America-Montreal, Canada. The trip will take place over Columbus Day weekend, 7-10 October 2011 and coincides with Canadian Thanksgiving holiday. 35 Cadets will embark on a visit that will include a meeting and discussion with Department of State Diplomats at the US consulate general, as well as a tour and scavenger hunt in the old downtown area.