

## DFL Weekly SITREP (3 FEB 11)

### Current Week **HIGHLIGHTS:**

#### 1. Hosting visitors:

- a. From 25-28 January, the Chinese section hosted the Chinese Military Academy's (Taiwan) official annual visit to West Point. A few of the Taiwan cadets accompanied that leadership so they could experience what US cadet life is like. The Academy's Chief of Staff and a Battalion Commander attended office calls with the Superintendent, the Dean, the Commandant, the Department of Military Instruction, the Department of Physical Education, and the Department of Foreign Languages.



**West Point cadet hosts say goodbye to their Chinese Military Academy cadet visitors after their annual exchange visit where the Taiwanese cadets got to experience what US cadet life is all about.**

- b. The Vice President of the Helmut Schmidt University (HSU) in Hamburg, Professor Dr. Klaus Beckman, visited West Point from 31 January to 2 February 2011. He was accompanied by Dr. Martin Nassua (Director of the International Office for the University) and LTC Ulrich Hegner (Commander of the German Students). Both Dr. Nassua and LTC Hegner have played pivotal roles in our cadet exchange with the HSU, providing for our cadets academically, physically and militarily. During their visit, they gained a firsthand appreciation for our academy's commissioning program especially the academy's efforts through the

Center for Enhanced Performance, the Mechanical Engineering Department, and the Simon Center, focusing on developing cadets to be officers that are equipped with critical thinking and complex problem solving skills.



**LTC Ulrich Hegner, the Commanding Officer of the Kadett Battalion at the Helmut Schmidt University in Hamburg, describes the mechanics of building a ship in a bottle to the West Point Dean, Brigadier General Tim Trainor, at the fellowship dinner at the Thayer Hotel at West Point.**

## 2. Academic Trips/Events:

- a. On Friday, 29 January, Cadets Dexter Booze, William Choate, Christopher Newman, Pablo Rivera, and David Weaver departed JFK airport on their way to semester abroad study in Brazil. Cadets Booze, Newman, and Weaver will study at the Brazilian Military Academy in Resende, Brazil. Cadets Rivera and Choate will study at the Military Engineering Institute in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- b. Due to the social unrest and deteriorating security conditions in Cairo, Egypt, our 8 semester abroad cadets at the American University of Cairo were evacuated along with all non-essential personnel by direction of the US Ambassador. The security contingency plans in place worked very well, as the cadets were in constant communication with the US Embassy staff, and moved to a secure location based on the security assessment. Dr. Kevin Kilpatrick, Embassy Physician and father of West Point Cadet Kevin Kilpatrick (Class of 2012) graciously hosted the cadets in his secure residence until the order to evacuate was issued. Al-Akhwayn University in Morocco, another of our Semester Abroad sites, agreed to accept the eight cadets into the ongoing academic semester term, so as not to lose their study abroad opportunity. The efforts of Ms. Amy

Fishburne of the International Programs Office at al-Akhwayn were critical in assuring this speedy transition. Thanks to the efforts of the US Embassy staffs in Egypt, Greece and Morocco, the cadets were able to fly from Cairo to Morocco via Athens to begin their studies at al-Akhwayn University.

- c. On Tuesday, 25 January, West Point's French Club held a successful cultural immersion dinner with over 30 cadets in attendance. Also invited were student from Vassar College's French club. The combined group of over 50 cadets, students, and faculty enjoyed food and wine from France's Rhone-Alps region, all prepared and selected by Frank Tabasco, the Executive Chef of the USMA Directorate of Cadet Activities. In addition, the club's leadership organized a presentation on French Language Summer Activities, to include Cadet Louis Griffith's presentation on attending the French Army Commando School, and Cadet Avinash Chaurasia's teaching English as a Foreign Language in Brazzaville, Congo, using the French language as a medium of instruction.

### 3. Faculty News:

- a. MAJ Dewayne White of DFL's Russian Section joined the field grade officer ranks with his promotion to Major on 1 February 2011.



**MAJ Dewayne White's son, Logan, carefully attaches the shoulder boards during the promotion ceremony.**

- b. MAJ Jeff Dunlap departed the Arabic Section this week for training as part of an upcoming deployment to Iraq with an Advise and Assist BDE from the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood. Jeff's fluency in Arabic will certainly bring value added for the BDE's critical training mission as our mission in Iraq draws to a close.



**Acting Department of Foreign Languages head, COL David Dimeo, presents MAJ Jeff Dunlap the Army Meritorious Service Medal for his work as an instructor of Arabic and outstanding performance of his additional duties while assigned to West Point Staff and Faculty.**

#### 4. Upcoming Key Events

- a. On Saturday, 5 February, DFL's Spanish Section will conduct the MIAD physical assessment of cadets interested in attending Ecuadorian Jungle School and Chilean Mountain Warfare School. Other languages will also participate in the assessments: French for -- French Commando School; and German for -- Austrian Alpine School.
- b. West Point's second annual International Day will now take place on 7 February at 1800 on the third floor of Thayer Hall. The International cadets who study here at the United States Military Academy will be honored and given an opportunity to display cultural items and foods from their respective countries around the world. This event complements the language and cultural awareness training that all cadets receive through DFL and further strengthens our cadets' ability to think and problem solve from a global perspective.
- c. On 5 February, Cadets Daniel Zeller, Barbara Lodwick, and Ashleigh Sheets will depart for a study abroad semester at Coimbra University in Lisbon, Portugal.
- d. On 6-9 February, MG (ret) Loeffke, his longtime Chinese friend Mr. LIU, and Mr. Mumford (West Point graduate, served in Vietnam as Army Engineer, current head of Washington Group Consultants) will conduct an official visit to West Point to speak to cadets about Beijing's modern engineering construction and observations from MG

Loeffke's recent trip throughout China. During the visit, Mr. Mumford will conduct a briefing and a discussion with the cadets of the Civil Engineering capstone course.

- e. On 7-9 February, Dr. LIU, Fuhua the Vice Director of Jilin University's International Language College, and the Chinese Language and Culture Department Dean will visit West Point to discuss the Academy's Chinese language semester abroad program there and to observe a few Chinese language and culture classes.