

## DFL Weekly SITREP (5 October 11)

### Current Week **HIGHLIGHTS:**

1. Faculty and cadet participation in language and cultural immersion trips and activities:
  - a. Major Mark Whiteman, Arabic Desk Chief and Middle East Foreign Area Officer, is traveling this week to Saudi Arabia as part of a West Point team of faculty and USCC staff officers who will be conducting a curricular assessment of the King Abdulaziz Military Academy, in cooperation with the United States Military Training Mission (USMTM) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. After completion of his work in the Kingdom, Major Whiteman will be conducting two AIAD/semester abroad site development visits to the American College of Dubai and the Sultan Qaboos University in Muscat, Oman in an effort to expand the Arabic program's current portfolio of partners in the Middle East region.
  - 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.
  - c. A total of 219 cadets, all students in Russian language courses at USMA, visited the Shorefront Jewish Community Center in Brighton Beach, NY on 3 October. The cadets held informal discussions with volunteer members of the Russian language community in Brighton Beach, home to one of the largest populations of ethnic Russians in the US. Following these discussions, the cadets had an opportunity to walk around the community and sample some of the ethnic foods available and purchase books, magazines, souvenirs and food items from Russia and other countries in the region.



**In these photos: Russian-speaking cadets converse with members of the Russian community in Brighton Beach, New York.**

d. On 1 October, DFL celebrated the win over Tulane with the Fall Festival-Oktoberfest. Over 100 DFL Staff, Faculty, Cadet majors and international Cadets enjoyed traditional German food and drink as well as a traditional dance performance by the German Intermediate students under the direction of Dr. Xenia Harwell.

2. Language Immersion events:

a. Cadet Andrew Webster, currently participating in a semester abroad program with the Arabic section in Morocco, will be participating in the Ironman Triathlon World Championships in Kona, Hawaii on 8 October. As the West Point triathlon team's only qualifier, Cadet Webster has been training hard in the hills, trails, and pool of



Al-Akhawayn University since his arrival at the beginning of the semester in late August.

b. Semester Abroad Program (SAP)- Austria and Germany cadets have completed their field training (which precedes the academic portion of their SAP) and are now in their respective school sites for semester academic courses.

**In this photo: CDT Brendan Podszus experiences a true Austrian Alpine mountain-top view with an Austrian cadet during their field training exercises prior to semester academic courses.**

3. Faculty participation in hosting visitors:

a. Colonel (Retired) Alfred D. Wilhelm, Jr. spoke to Dr. Martha Gallagher and Ms Can Wang's LC475 classes, and Dr. Qun Ao and Dr. Yuanman Liu's H-hour LC361 classes about United States-China relations on 28 September 2011. He has been an attaché in China and has advised and worked with some of our country's most senior leaders. This unique opportunity for the Cadets to hear about a half century of US-China experience stemmed from an unplanned meeting between Al Wilhelm and the Chinese section. The Chinese section will work to continue its relationship with experienced regional experts, such as COL Wilhelm.



**In this photo: Dr. Martha Gallagher introduces Colonel (Retired) Alfred Wilhelm Jr. to two sections of LC475 and two sections of LC361(H hour, 28 SEP 11) . Al Wilhelm has almost a half century of experience in United-States-China Relations.**

4. Faculty publications: Dr. Josh Enslin, Assistant Professor of Portuguese, published an article entitled, “Vinicius de Moraes and ‘Pátria minha’: The Politics of Writing in Post-War Brazil,” in *España, The American Journal for Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese*. The article is about a poem written by a Brazilian diplomat while living in the US in post-war period (1949).
5. Future Events:
  - a. 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.
  - b. MAJ Fagergren, Instructor of Portuguese and LTC Cinelli, Brazilian International Exchange Officer are accompanying the International Cadets to an annual conference and gathering of International cadets from Navy, Coast Guard, and USMA at the US Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT over Columbus Day weekend. Cadets have the opportunity to socialize with cadets from their respective countries and become acquainted with the Coast Guard Academy.
  - c. On 15 October, Dr. Yuanman Liu, and Ms Can Wang will accompany the Chinese Language and Culture Club on a one-day trip section to Columbia University in order to attend an East Coast Asian American Student Union Meeting. The club will also spend time in China Town practicing their Chinese Language skills and enjoying authentic Chinese Food.
  - d. 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.**