

DFL Weekly SITREP (9 MAR 11)

Current Week **HIGHLIGHTS:**

1. Faculty News:

- a. From 6 - 12 March, LTC Baskerville is in Doha, Qatar with Dr. Bruce Keith, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. The primary purpose of the trip is to assist the leadership of Qatar's Ahmed bin Mohammad Military College (Qatar's West Point equivalent) with further developing and improving its academic program through a review of the College's curriculum and a series of discussions with its Dean, Commandant, academic department heads, and select senior faculty.
- b. On March 7, Dr. Martha Gallagher from the Chinese Section of the Department of Foreign Languages, introduced cadets in the Department of English and Philosophy attending Dr. Tony McGowan's EP 360 Eastern Art class to the ancient art of Chinese calligraphy.



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- c. From 3 - 5 March, Dr. Vidler presented her paper: "Bourdieu, Boswell and the Baroque Body: Cultural Choreography in 'Fuenteovejuna'" at the Symposium of The Association for Hispanic Classical Theater in El Paso, TX.
- d. On 3 March, during Dean's hour, DFL's LN380 course (The Nature of Modern Languages) sponsored a panel discussion on language and the Army in the DFL

Auditorium, WH5006. The topic for the panel was "Working with Translators and Interpreters." LTC Mark Gagnon, CPT Donna Hess, and CW4 James Hess (G2) drew on their experience in managing and working with translators to lead a discussion on some of the challenges and lessons learned from the field.

2. Cadet Events and Academic Trips:

From 7 - 11 March, Intermediate French classes at West Point will be watching the classic film on terrorism, "The Battle of Algiers" as part of a class unit dealing with French Culture and Cinema. Major David Ashcraft, the Course director for Intermediate French, selected the movie since it will not only help with language instruction, but also teach language in a political and military context. The issues faced by the French in Algeria are many of the same issues currently face by the United States and its allies in Iraq and Afghanistan. Therefore, we are giving relevant instruction that will help our cadets think critically on modern battlefields, both at the tactical and at the strategic level. Fellow Intermediate French Instructor COL (r) Francois Yves and Arabic Instructor Mark Whiteman contributed and researched many of the supplementary reading materials used to familiarize the cadets with the movie.

3. Hosting Visitors:

From 7 - 10 March, The Commandant of the King Abdul Aziz Military Academy of Saudi Arabia, MG Abdul-Aziz Ali al-Khaled, visited USMA. On Tuesday, cadets from LA476, Military Readings in Arabic, had an opportunity to eat lunch with the Saudi Commandant in the Mess Hall and speak to him in Arabic about various military issues in the Arab World. On Wednesday, MG al-Khaled plans hold an office call with the Acting Department Head, COL DiMeo, and to visit Basic Arabic Language classes as well as the Military Readings in Arabic section.

4. Upcoming Key Events:

- a. On 12 March, COL David DiMeo, will attend the annual Founders Day speech for the West Point Society of the Capital District (Albany, NY).
- b. On 19 March, the West Point Society of Paris will be holding its annual Founders' Day Dinner at the Ecole Militaire in downtown Paris. The Guest Speaker will be the former commander of the French Joint Forces Defense College, General Vincent Desportes. DFL's Major David Ashcraft will represent West Point along with all USMA cadets in France on Semester Abroad Programs and the French spring immersion trip.
- c. From 12 - 20 March, MAJ Douglas Willig will lead a group of five cadets on a cultural immersion trip to Berlin, Dresden, and Hamburg Germany. The cadets will experience not only the German culture and language, but also get a snapshot of the political, military, and higher education systems of our ally. Highlights of

the trip will include an insider tour of the Reichstag (German Capitol Hill), a tour and briefings from the administration of the German Officer School in Dresden, and a culture program hosted by the international office of the Helmut-Schmidt University in Hamburg.

- d. From 12 - 20 March, Lieutenant Colonel Brady Crosier will lead a group of 10 cadets on a Chinese spring immersion trip to Changchun and Beijing, China. They will visit our current West Point semester abroad cadets studying in both cities as well as many cultural sites while practicing their Chinese language skills.
- e. From 10 - 20 March, Dr. Guedri Giacalone and MAJ Fagergren will lead a group of ten cadets to visit Rio de Janeiro, Resende, and Paraty Brazil as part of the spring immersion trip. Cadets will visit the Brazilian Military Academy and the Military Engineering Institute.
- f. From 10 - 20 March, DFL's French Section will make its annual spring break pilgrimage to France for a one week cultural immersion trip. Led by Col (r) Francois Yves, ten cadets will undertake this immersion trip to embark on the "crawl" phase of their language and cultural development. Many of the cadets have already committed to furthering their study of French with summer language training or the semester abroad program. Some are considering a future language-based career in the Army, such as Special Forces, Psychological Operations, Civil Affairs, or Foreign Area Officer. Funded by generous donations from the Banque National de Paris, cadets will spend time on France's beautiful southern coast as well as time in Paris. The cadet visit will culminate with attendance at the Founders' day dinner in Paris with the West Point Society of Paris. Major David Ashcraft will undertake a site visit to visit SAP programs in France during Spring Break.
- g. From 10 - 20 March, DFL's Spanish Section will conduct four separate cultural immersion trips to Spain, the Dominican Republic, Honduras and Puerto Rico. This program offers many cadets not only a chance to use their Spanish language skills learned in the classroom, but also an opportunity to think critically while immersed in a variety of multi-cultural environments where different dialects of Spanish are spoken.