

Department of Foreign Languages

Completed Events

From 28 May – 3 June, MAJ Jeff Van Sickle conducted site visits to the French Language Center at Rochefort and the French National Commando Training Center's maritime base at Collioure. MAJ Van Sickle traveled from Paris to Rochefort with a group of 10 cadets participating in a 3-week intensive language course for cadets at the beginner level. MAJ Van Sickle met with the Center's director, Mr. Jean-Marie Cassagne, received an orientation to the base and the city of Rochefort, assisted cadets in their in-processing, and attended the first day of class with the cadets. From Rochefort, MAJ Van Sickle traveled to Collioure to visit 6 cadets from USMA during their second week (maritime operations) of the rigorous French Commando course. MAJ Van Sickle was able to observe 2 days of training and spend 30 minutes with each cadet individually to talk about their experience thus far in the Commando course.



In this photo: CDT Noah Currie (L) and CDT Jon Bangert (R) upon completion of rappelling training at Collioure.

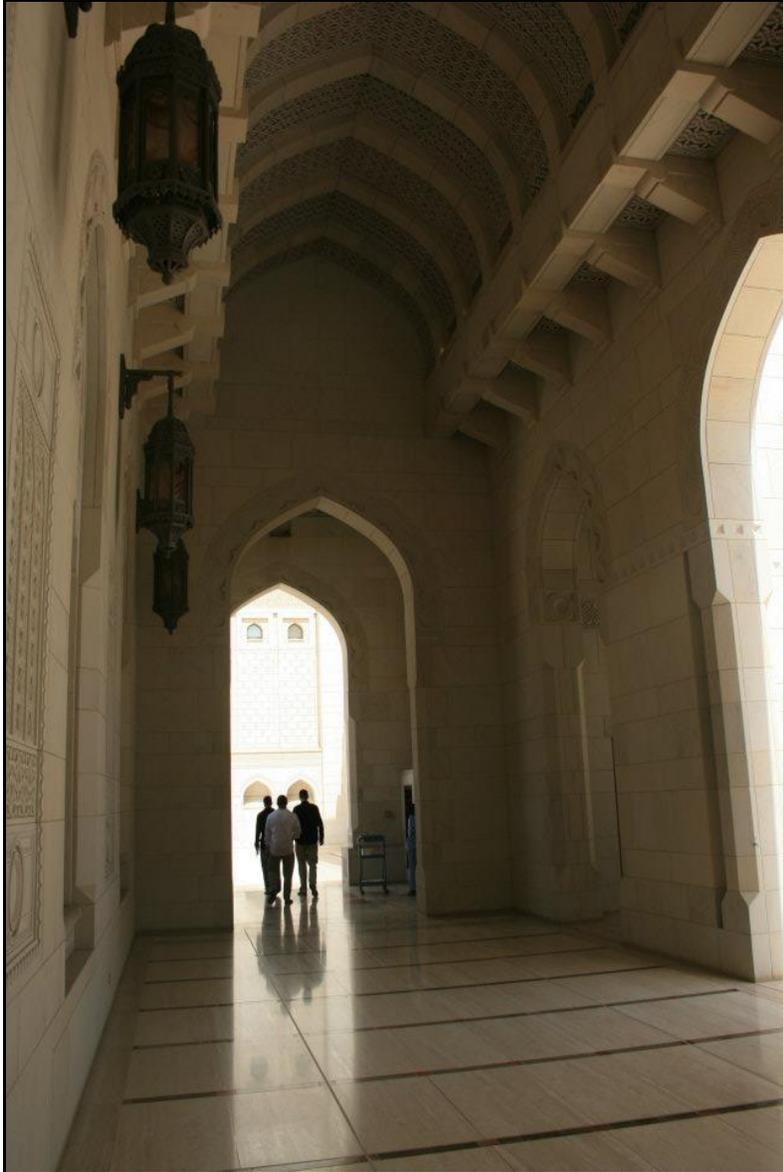
Current Events

International cadets summer training: International cadets have completed their participation in West Point's Cadet Leader Development Training during the academy's summer military training at Camp Buckner. The Department of Foreign Languages continues to play an integral role in preparing the remaining international cadets for participation in Air Assault. POC is MAJ Mike Tobias (michael.tobias@usma.edu).

Summer Leaders Seminar: Currently, from 4 – 15 June, three DFL faculty members are participating in teaching the Summer Leaders Seminar (SLS) classes. Dr. Rajaa Chouairi serves as the DFL point of contact and in conjunction with Mr. Khanna Mandzha and Dr. Steven Verolla, DFL is teaching a total of six Arabic and six French SLS classes. Participation in SLS this year is the largest ever and continues through Friday, 15 June. POC is Dr. Rajaa Chouairi (rajaa.chouairi@usma.edu).

Summer AIADs

Arabic. Currently, the Arabic section is leading a group of four cadets on a summer academic individual advanced development (AIAD) trip to Oman that will continue to 16 June. COL Baskerville joined the group for a site visit and coordination with the US Embassy, Muscat on 9 June and he will remain until 14 June. During breaks from their classes, the cadets recently visited the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque in Muscat, experienced a traditional and historical Arab market at Souk Muttrah, walked the Muttrah Corniche, and visited Bait Al Zubair Museum. The cadets will complete their very rigorous and intense Arabic curriculum at the Center for International Learning (www.omancenter.org) this week and say farewell to their home-stay families. POC is MAJ Donna Hess (donna.hess@usma.edu).



In this photo: Cadets walk inside the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.

Chinese. Currently, Dr. Martha Gallagher and the Chinese section are leading a group of seven cadets on a summer AIAD trip to Taiwan that will continue to 16 June. Classes started on Monday, June 4th and the cadets are at Fu Jen University for the last week,. Each day they have four hours of class in the mornings, and tutoring along with other activities in the afternoon. Their language classes also include cultural classes such as calligraphy and Taichi. The cadets visited a local high school where they played basketball and held informal discussions with the local students. Additionally, they visited the National Palace Museum, the Taipei 101 Building, and the Taipei Zoo. POC is Dr. Martha Gallagher (martha.gallagher@usma.edu).



In this photo: Cadets learn Taichi at Fu Jen University, Taiwan as part of their cultural and language immersion.



In this photo: Dr. Martha Gallagher introduces the cadets to Chinese culture at the National Palace Museum in Taipei, Taiwan.

Currently, Dr. Hongyu Huang and the Chinese section are leading a group of four cadets on an AIAD trip to Changchun, China that will continue to 16 June. The cadets are continuing their two-week intensive Chinese language and culture study at Jilin University in Changchun, China. After class hours, they practice Taichi Movements and Chinese calligraphy, and they also participated in the Jilin University International Culture Festival. They will receive their certificates Tuesday morning and leave for Beijing Tuesday evening. During the remaining time in the last week of the trip, Dr. Hongyu Huang will introduce the cadets to Chinese culture and famous cultural sites in and around Changchun and Beijing, China. POC is Dr. Hongyu Huang (hongyu.huang@usma.edu).



In this photo: Cadets practice the 24-Form Tai Chi Movements, an ancient Chinese martial art system, with P.E. teacher, Liang Ming from Jilin Univeristy.



In this photo: Cadets practice shufa or the art of Chinese calligraphy. From left to right: CDT Zachery Lim, Dr. Hongyu Huang (OIC), CDT Michael Fung, Calligrapher Song Yu from Jilin University, and CDT Jason Ko. The cadets are holding their Chinese names written in calligraphy.

Dr. Qun Ao and the Chinese section are leading a group of seven cadets to Xi'an, China on Major General (ret) Loeffke's Friendship Fund summer AIAD trip that will continue to 16 June. This past week they visited Yaoshan Middle School in the countryside where they introduced the history of West Point, taught English, and taught preventive medicine from Major General Loeffke's activity book. The cadets also interacted with Jiaotong University Students by introducing aspects of American culture such as sports, music and current events. At the end of this activity Jiaotong University students taught the cadets China's traditional dragon dance. Additionally, the cadets were introduced to Chinese painting and calligraphy. During the last half week of the trip, Dr. Qun Ao will introduce to the cadets additional study of Chinese culture and famous cultural sites in and around Xi'an and Beijing, China. POC is Dr. Qun Ao (qun.ao@usma.edu).

French. Currently, the French section is sponsoring a group of six cadets on a MIAD to the French Commando School that will continue until 16 June. The cadets spend three weeks at Mont Louis for mountain and urban operations and one week at Collioure for maritime operations. The cadets recently completed their second week of training at Collioure, highlighted by the challenging "piste verte" obstacle course, maritime infiltration/exfiltration techniques, reconnaissance and raid operations, and rappelling training. Throughout the course, cadets improve their language skills, hone their military skills and enhance their understanding of French military culture. POC is MAJ Annmarie Ruppert (annmarie.ruppert@usma.edu).



(1)



(2)



(3)

In these photos: (1) Jon Bangert recovering and evacuating a wounded soldier on rappel; (2) Noah Currie traversing the tight rope on the "piste verte" obstacle course; and (3) Matt Jedras and Miles Gabrielson rehearsing Zodiac infiltration in preparation for their platoon's night raid.

The French section is also sponsoring a group of three cadets on an AIAD to Djibouti that will continue until 15 June. Traveling without escort, the cadets are immersed in French military culture with the French Army's 5th Combined Arms Overseas Regiment. The cadets are each paired with a French Platoon Leader in the Regiment's infantry company, artillery battery and air-defense artillery battery. The cadets are participating in a myriad of training events with their French platoons, to include desert survival training, long-range patrols, and live-fire training with French artillery and small arms weapons. This AIAD permits cadets to be immersed in the

French language and French military culture, and to experience a taste of Francophone African culture. POC is MAJ Annmarie Ruppert (annmarie.ruppert@usma.edu).

Ten cadets, under sponsorship of the French section are completing an AIAD to Rochefort, France, that will continue until 16 June. The cadets are attending a basic level language course at the Center for French instruction at Rochefort, a language program run by the *Gendarmerie Nationale*. During their time in Rochefort, cadets attend three weeks of intensive language training—focused primarily on oral comprehension and speaking—for six hours per day, five days per week. In addition to the classroom instruction, a key element of the Rochefort AIAD experience includes visiting local cultural and historical sites in the Rochefort area and practicing real-world situations, such as ordering meals, purchasing tickets, and navigating the area via public transportation. POC is MAJ Annmarie Ruppert (annmarie.ruppert@usma.edu).



In this photo: Cadets visit “La Corderie Royale,” the historical site in Rochefort famous for manufacturing ships for the French Navy during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Finally, the French section is sponsoring a group of three cadets on an AIAD to Gabon with the French Army’s 6th Combined Arms Overseas Regiment that will last until 21 June. The cadets are each paired with a French Platoon Leader in the motorized infantry company of the 6th Marine Infantry Battalion, participate in a battalion-level FTX and spend 3 days at the French Army’s tropical forest survival and training school. This AIAD permits cadets to be immersed in the French language and French military culture, and to experience a taste of Francophone African culture. POC is MAJ Annmarie Ruppert (annmarie.ruppert@usma.edu).

German. Currently, the German section is sponsoring a group of six cadets on a summer AIAD to various Bundeswehr units in Southern Germany that will continue to 16 June. Traveling without faculty escort, the cadets are spending three weeks in intensive cross-cultural programs of physical fitness, marksmanship, field training, and garrison operations with a combat or combat support unit of the Bundeswehr. The cadets will gain knowledge of Germany and

German Army operations while improving their competence in speaking, listening and comprehension of German. The program is designed to enhance cultural knowledge through interaction with military counterparts and the local populace and immersion in day-to-day life situations. POC is MAJ Jordan Francis (jordan.francis@usma.edu).

Currently, the German section is sponsoring a group of four cadets on a summer AIAD to the Austrian Military Academy that will continue to 10 July. The cadets are spending four weeks in an intensive cross-cultural program of physical, marksmanship, and field/alpine training with the cadets and staff of the Theresian Military Academy in Wiener-Neustadt. The cadets are gaining knowledge of Austria and Austrian Army operations. Cadets are improving their competence in speaking, listening and comprehension of German through a 4-week language course at the Academy. The program is also designed to enhance cultural knowledge through interaction with military counterparts and the local populace, and immersion in day-to-day life situations. POC is MAJ Jordan Francis (jordan.francis@usma.edu)

Portuguese. Currently, Dr. Enslen and LTC Cinelli of the Portuguese section are leading a group of eleven cadets on a summer AIAD to Brazil that will continue to 16 June. The group transitioned to Manaus, the capital of the Amazon region where they spent time at the Brazilian Army Jungle School (Centro de Instrução de Guerra na Selva, CIGS) and experienced first-hand basic techniques of jungle training and survival. The cadets also explored and investigated the importance of the Amazon River. The cadets met with with LTG Floriano Peixoto, Commander, 2nd DIV and visited the Instituto Militar de Engenharia (Military Engineering Institute) and several historical sites in the city of Rio de Janeiro. Currently, the cadets have transitioned to AMAN (Brazilian Military Academy) where cadets were lodged with Brazilian Cadets and are immersed in the AMAN cadet schedule. In addition to building upon cadets' language and cultural abilities, this AIAD is strengthening ties between USMA, the Brazilian Army and the Brazilian Army's Military Academy. This annual trip develops lasting military contacts between future military leaders in both countries. POC is Dr. Joshua Enslen (joshua.enslen@usma.edu).

Russian. Currently, COL McPeak and the Russian section are leading a group of cadets on a summer AIAD to Kazakhstan that will continue to 16 June. Cadets spent the first week traveling to the All-Arms Defense Institute (ADI) in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 28 May for two weeks to observe training and participate in Russian language development. Cadets are experiencing all aspects of their Kazakh cadet hosts' daily lives and interacting with them exclusively in Russian. On 30 May, the group visited the US Embassy and Embassy officials recognized four citizens of Kazakhstan who have gained admission to US service academies; 2 to West Point and 1 each to USAFA and USNA. This AIAD experience will enhance the cadets' language proficiency and regional expertise, and promote cultural awareness. After their time at ADI, they will tour historically and culturally significant sites throughout Kazakhstan, interacting with the local population in day-to-day situations. POC is COL Rickie McPeak (rickie.mcpeak@usma.edu).

Currently, Mr. John Pendergast of the Russian section is leading a group of cadets on a summer AIAD to Georgia that will continue to 16 June. Cadets recently visited the Krtsanisi Training Area where troops and officers train primarily for deployment in support of the NATO mission ISAF in Afghanistan. Cadets were able to view the simulation centers for small arms, shoulder-mounted ADA and for artillery Forward Support Officers. Cadets then visited the Georgian

Cadet Lyceum (a college prep military academy) in Kutaisi and enjoyed a basketball game against the academy's star team; they lost miserably! After this, the cadets toured the National Treasury, the Occupation Museum, and a school for national folk dancing. At the Black Sea resort of Batumi, the group enjoyed meals at Georgian and Ukrainian restaurants, visited Gonio castle and Green Cape Botanical Gardens. The group will be finishing language classes and will visit the home of LTC Paul Schmitt, US Embassy Tbilisi ODC. POC is Mr. John Pendergast (john.pendergast@usma.edu).



In this photo: Russian speaking cadet with a local seller of honey beer.

Spanish. Currently, MAJ Vijay Gallardo and the Spanish section are leading a summer AIAD trip to Colombia that will continue to 14 June. Cadets spent one week in Miami visiting SOUTHCOM and continued on to Colombia. Cadets will visit significant military commands, as well as study national politics, economics, history, and geography in an immersion setting as they travel to various cities and regions in Colombia. POC is MAJ Vijay Gallardo (vijay.gallardo@usma.edu).

Future Events

Arabic. From 14 June to 12 July, the Arabic section - in conjunction with AMIDEAST - will lead a group of four cadets on a summer academic individual advanced development (AIAD) trip to Jordan. The cadets will spend 4 days/week in an Intensive Arabic Program at Al Qasid University in Amman, Jordan. Cadets will spend their remaining time being introduced to famous cultural sites in and around Amman. POC is MAJ Donna Hess (donna.hess@usma.edu).

From 14 June to 4 July, the Arabic section will lead a group of four cadets on a summer academic individual advanced development (AIAD) trip to Marrakech, Morocco. The cadets are traveling without faculty escort. The cadets will spend 4 days/week in an Intensive Arabic

Program and will spend their remaining time being introduced to famous cultural sites in and around Marrakech. POC is MAJ Donna Hess (donna.hess@usma.edu).

Chinese. From 16 June to 6 July, Major Matthew Radik and the Chinese section will lead a group of eight cadets on a summer AIAD trip to Changchun, China. The cadets will complete two weeks of intensive Chinese language and culture study at Jilin University in Changchun, China. Cadets will spend their remaining time during the last week of the trip being introduced to Chinese culture and famous cultural sites in and around Changchun and Beijing, China. POC is MAJ Matthew Radik (matthew.radik@usma.edu).

French. From 24 June to 7 July, the French section is sponsoring a group of four cadets on a MIAD to French Airborne School. Traveling without escort, the cadets will participate in French Airborne School along with cadets from the French military academy at St.-Cyr and with officers and NCOs from the French Army and armies throughout the Francophone world. The cadets will participate in 5 jumps; learn about the differences between US and French airborne operations, equipment, and procedures; and earn the French jump wings. The cadets are able to improve their competence in the French language and increase their understanding of French military culture through this great training opportunity. POC is MAJ Annmarie Ruppert (annmarie.ruppert@usma.edu).

From 24 June to 14 July, the French section is sponsoring a group of ten cadets on an AIAD to Rochefort, France. The cadets are attending an advanced level language course at the Center for French instruction at Rochefort, a language program run by the *Gendarmerie Nationale*. During their time in Rochefort, cadets attend three weeks of intensive language training—focused primarily on oral comprehension and speaking—for six hours per day, five days per week. In addition to the classroom instruction, a key element of the Rochefort AIAD experience includes visiting local cultural and historical sites in the Rochefort area and practicing real-world situations, such as ordering meals, purchasing tickets, and navigating the area via public transportation. From 6-8 July, the cadets will attend the *Cérémonie de l’Hermione*, a festival in Rochefort celebrating the Marquis de Lafayette’s voyage to America to support the Continental Army during the American Revolution. Since the late 1990s, ship-makers at Rochefort have re-created by hand a replica of the *Hermione*, the name of the LaFayette’s boat, and the boat will launch from Rochefort on Saturday, 7 July. The cadets will attend the ceremony, which will attract some 50,000 people from across France and the EU, in formal fashion (white over gray) and sit in the VIP stand with local representatives from Rochefort and the Gendarmerie base. CPT Ron Hijduk and Dr. Steve Verolla will conduct a site visit from 9-11 July to attend 2 days of classes with the group. POC is MAJ Annmarie Ruppert (annmarie.ruppert@usma.edu).

From 22 July to 11 August, the French section is sponsoring a group of ten cadets on an AIAD to Rochefort, France. The cadets are attending an intermediate level language course at the Center for French instruction at Rochefort, a language program run by the *Gendarmerie Nationale*. During their time in Rochefort, cadets attend three weeks of intensive language training—focused primarily on oral comprehension and speaking—for six hours per day, five days per week. In addition to the classroom instruction, a key element of the Rochefort AIAD experience includes visiting local cultural and historical sites in the Rochefort area and practicing real-world situations, such as ordering meals, purchasing tickets, and navigating the area via public

transportation. MAJ Annmarie Ruppert will conduct a site visit from 23-25 July to attend 2 days of classes with the group. POC is MAJ Annmarie Ruppert (annmarie.ruppert@usma.edu).

German. From 18 June to 6 July, the German section will lead a group of six cadets on a summer AIAD trip to various Bundeswehr units in Southern and Central Germany. Cadets will spend three weeks in intensive cross-cultural program of physical, marksmanship, field training, and garrison operations with a combat or combat support unit of the Bundeswehr. The cadets will gain knowledge of Germany and German Army operations. Cadets will improve their competence in speaking, listening and comprehension of German. The program is designed to enhance cultural knowledge through interaction with military counterparts and the local populace, and immersion in day-to-day life situations. POC is MAJ Jordan Francis (jordan.francis@usma.edu)

Portuguese. From 17 June to 21 July, the Portuguese section will lead a summer military individual advanced development (MIAD) trip to Brazil. Three Cadets will spend five weeks in Brazil as guests of the Brazilian Army and the Brazilian Military Academy. Cadets will attend a 2-week mountaineering training at the Military Academy as well as a 2-week air assault training at the Army Aviation Instruction Center. In between those two trainings Cadets will spend one week in Rio de Janeiro for both physical recovery and cultural immersion. POC is Dr. Rebecca Jones-Kellogg (rebecca.jones-kellogg@usma.edu).

From 20 June to 11 July, Mr. António M.A. Igrejas, Dr. Lewis and the Portuguese section will lead a summer AIAD trip to Portugal. Ten cadets will study national politics, economics, history, and geography in an immersion setting as they visit cities and sites in Portugal, such as the World Heritage town of Sintra, the Portuguese Military Academy, and the United States Embassy. Cadets will speak Portuguese at all times during the AIAD. In addition to the immersion experience, the DFL OICs will lead cadets in academic discussions of various experiences during the AIAD as well as language instruction. Cadets will improve speaking, listening, reading and writing skills while gaining a greater understanding of the Portuguese language and Portugal's role in the world. POC is Mr. António M.A. Igrejas (antonio.igrejas@usma.edu)

Russian. From 23 June to 14 July, the Russian section will lead a group of cadets on a summer AIAD trip to Russia. Cadets will complete two weeks of intensive language instruction at Voronezh State University designed to increase Russian language proficiency, enhance their regional expertise and promote cultural awareness. Cadets will tour historically and culturally significant sites in the Voronezh area as well as in Moscow and St. Petersburg, interacting with the local population in day-to-day situations. POC is LTC Michael Nerstheimer (michael.nerstheimer@usma.edu).

From 21 July to 11 August, the Russian section will lead a group of cadets on a summer academic individual advanced development trip to Ukraine. Cadets will two weeks of intensive language instruction at the NovaMova Language School in Kiev, designed to increase Russian language proficiency, enhance their regional expertise and promote cultural awareness. Cadets will tour historically and culturally significant sites throughout Ukraine, interacting with the

local population in day-to-day situations. POC is LTC Michael Nerstheimer (michael.nerstheimer@usma.edu).

Spanish. From 17 June to 7 July, Dr. Jonathan Steigman and the Spanish section will lead a summer AIAD trip to Mexico. Cadets will spend three weeks visiting significant military commands as well as study national politics, economics, history, and geography in an immersion setting as they travel to various cities and regions in Mexico. POC is Dr. Jonathan Steigman (jonathan.steigman@usma.edu).

From 9 to 29 July, CPT Adam Riggs and the Spanish section will lead a summer AIAD trip to Chile. Cadets will spend three weeks in Chile as guests of the Chilean Armed Forces and the Chilean Military Academy. Cadets will visit significant military commands, as well as study national politics, economics, history, and geography in an immersion setting as they travel to various cities and regions in Chile. POC is CPT Adam Riggs (adam.riggs@usma.edu).