

## Department of Foreign Languages

### Completed Events

The Spanish section led an AIAD to Mexico from 16 June to 6 July. One goal of the immersion experience was for cadets to acquire a general understanding of Mexico's current political system. This was accomplished in part by a 2-day visit to the Fox Presidential Library and Center in Guanajuato (25-26 June). Mr. Laurence Windsor, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army-New York region, helped coordinate this valuable opportunity. Cadets interacted directly with former-president Vicente Fox, as well as local and international scholars on a variety of topics, including migration, economics, and history. Also, through the Fox Center, cadets participated in a service project for the local community, sponsored by the Fox Center and Pres. Fox's wife, Marta Sahagún. They worked on the physical infrastructure for a micro-business comprised of a group of local women who hope to sell products made from *nopal*, or cactus leaf. The cadets who participated were: Mark Salinas, Heather Hernández, Wesley Domeck, Justin Crews, and Joe McKenna.



**In this photo, CDTs Crews and Mckenna talk with former-president Fox about the national elections in Mexico which took place on 1 July.**

### Current Events

***Chinese LEARN Conference.*** From 24-27 July, the Department of Foreign Languages is hosting the Seventh Chinese Language Education and Resource Network (LEARN) Workshop. The

conference, entitled *Language and Culture: The Right Level, the Right Mix*, will discuss the teaching of culture and language and study abroad programs. Sponsored by the Department of Defense, and hosted by the Foreign Language Program Office (FLPO) of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), the National Cryptologic School (NCS), and USMA, this conference will bring together approximately 75 Chinese educators from civilian and military institutions to discuss the latest developments in teaching Chinese language and culture. The first Keynote Presentation will take place at 0900 on Wednesday, 25 July in the Haig Room of the Cadet Library. Ambassador Marianne Myles, Deputy Director, School of Language Studies and Dr. Charlie Miracle, Division Director of the East Asian and Pacific Languages Division (both of the Foreign Service Institute) will present, "Language and Cultural Training at the Foreign Service Institute: The Current State of Play and Challenges Ahead." The second Keynote Presentation will take place at 0830 on Thursday, 26 July in Room 5300, Washington Hall. Dr. Laura Murray, Technical Director, Center for Language and Area Studies, National Cryptologic School (NCS) will present, "What is 'Culture' Anyway, and Why Do We Still Need to Understand It in a Globalized World?" COL Gregory Ebner, Deputy Department Head, DFL will give the opening address.

***International students participate in Air Assault and Cadet Field Training:*** On 23 July two cadets from the inaugural class of the Georgian Military Academy, Cadet Lasha Nozadze and Cadet Merab Oragvelidze, graduated from the Air Assault Course held at Camp Smith from 11-23 July.

Four cadets from the inaugural class of the Georgian Military Academy continue training with USMA cadets at CFT at Camp Buckner. Cadets Beqa Aslanishvili, Vazha Ichquiti, Aleksandre Janashia and Aleksandre Papavadze are fully integrated with the USMA cadet companies with USMA cadets who have studied Russian in DFL as sponsors. The four are scheduled to graduate the course on 27 July and return to their country.



**In this photo: One of the Georgian cadets preparing for the live-fire room clearing during CFT.**

***Summer AIADs.***

***Arabic.*** Currently, the Arabic section is leading a group of seven cadets on a summer academic individual advanced development (AIAD) trip to Marrakech, Morocco that will continue to 11 August. 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](mailto:donna.hess@usma.edu)).

***French.*** Currently, the French section is sponsoring a group of ten cadets on an AIAD to Rochefort, France that will continue to 11 August. 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 23-26 July to attend 2 days of classes with the group. POC is MAJ Annmarie Ruppert ([annmarie.ruppert@usma.edu](mailto:annmarie.ruppert@usma.edu)).

***Russian.*** Currently, the Russian section is leading a group of nine cadets on an AIAD to Ukraine that will continue to 11 August. The cadets are traveling without faculty escort. All nine cadets are living with local families, with whom they have breakfast and dinner every day and converse for additional language immersion.

The cadets took a placement test on the first day of classes. They were introduced to their peer-coaches for additional Russian speaking practice. On the second day after classes and lunch, the cadets took a 2 hour walking tour of the center of Kiev, learning about its ancient history, religion, churches, and monasteries. They visited Golden Gates, Khreshchatik (the main avenue of Kiev), St. Michael's Golden-Domed Monastery, Princess Olga monument, St. Sophia Cathedral, and Bogdan Khmelnytsky Monument. They also learned about Kievan Rus and its ruling Princes including Rurik, Princess Olga, Vladimir Monomakh, and Yaroslav the Wise. The cadets will spend two weeks of intensive language instruction at the NovaMova Language School in Kiev and 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](mailto:michael.nerstheimer@usma.edu)).



**In this photo, Russian language cadets in Kiev, Ukraine**

Currently, three Russian speaking cadets and one DFL instructor are participating in the Georgian Basic Mountain School. The three week course tests Soldiers in the following skills: ascending and descending using ropes; rock climbing; climbing a fixed rope; crossing a river and navigating an obstacle path. The cadets are joined in the course by Soldiers from Latvia, Armenia, Estonia and Norway. Upon successful completion of the course, cadets will earn a certificate and a badge.

*Spanish.* Currently, CPT Adam Riggs and the Spanish section is leading an AIAD to Chile that will continue to 29 July. Cadets are spending three weeks in Chile as guests of the Chilean Armed Forces and the Chilean Military Academy. LTG Huntoon visited the Escuela Militar last week and met with CPT Riggs and the cadets. Also present were two cadets currently studying abroad at Chile's Escuela Militar. Cadets are visiting significant military commands, as well as studying 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](mailto:adam.riggs@usma.edu)).



**In this photo: USMA Superintendent LTG Huntoon and SAP Cadets Casey Smith and Michael Maniaci, CPT Riggs and cadets and officers from Escuela Militar.**

Escuela Militar included a write up on its webpage reference the visit at the link below:

[http://www.escuelamilitar.cl/index.php?option=com\\_zoo&task=item&item\\_id=770&Itemid=324](http://www.escuelamilitar.cl/index.php?option=com_zoo&task=item&item_id=770&Itemid=324)

**Translation follows:**

The Superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point, LTG David Huntoon, toured our fortress.

As part of their visit to our country, officers from the United States Military Academy at West Point visited our institution.

During his visit, the United States Officer toured our primary classrooms, the Academy museum, the First Student Battalion, and the sports complexes, which marveled our guests.

When asked his opinion with respect to our institution, the general responded, “This is a comprehensive program, disciplined, which focuses on preparing students to serve as leaders in the Chilean Army who lead based on the values of the Academy and the Army. I am very impressed; there is an excellent quality in the officers and professors, a beautiful and historic building, and above all, in the quality of the cadets who are motivated to serve their country.”

The Superintendent also praised the Escuela Militar’s academic program and its similarity to that of the United States Military Academy at West Point. “We have a similar curriculum as the Escuela Militar that focuses on preparing cadets to serve as officers and commanders, based on a development of military science, physical fitness, and an excellent academic curriculum”, he stated.

Additionally, he had the opportunity to speak with cadets from the United States Military at West Point, who are studying abroad in our country and pointed out that the United States Army is interested in continuing these types of exchanges. “Military exchanges are fundamental for both Armies. The idea is to increase progressively due to the proximity of both Chile and the United States as allied armies. We seek to increase exchanges between our countries, sending more cadets from West Point to study here and vice versa, as well as exchanges among professors and officers.”

Finally, the Superintendent was grateful for the opportunity to get to know our institution and the hospitality of our people during his visit.