

## DFL Weekly SITREP (18 April 12)

### Completed Events

#### Faculty Participation in Cultural Events:

From 12 – 15 April, the Arabic Language and Culture club traveled to Washington, DC, as part of a larger Department of Foreign Languages trip section. Major Mark Whiteman was the OIC of the group which included 17 cadets. Cadets were introduced to elements of the Army and Joint Staffs at the Pentagon, learned about Saudi Arabian culture and the current state of US-Saudi relations during a visit to the Kingdom's embassy, and sampled authentic Middle Eastern Cuisine at a Lebanese restaurant. The cadets particularly enjoyed learning about language-based career opportunities from the Foreign Area Officer and Mission Information Support Operations (PSYOP) proponents.



**In this photo: A cultural officer from the Saudi embassy introduces typical Saudi dress, modeled by (L-R) Cadets Sepp, Horstman, McKee, and McNamara.**

From 13 – 15 April, the Department's National Council for US-Arab Relations Model Arab League team competed in the annual National competition at Georgetown University, Washington, DC. The 12 cadet squad, under the leadership of Cadet Danny Moriarty '12 and faculty advisor MAJ Mark Whiteman, took home an overall Honorable Mention Team Distinction, the team's best performance in years. Individual Outstanding Delegate honors were earned in the Joint Defense Council (CDT Moriarty) and Political Affairs (CDT Matt Welch '14 and Sean McQuade '15) while CDT Seth Harbol '14 and Jackson Clemens '13 garnered Honorable Mention recognition in Palestinian Affairs. Overall, our cadets displayed great skill in the art of diplomacy and displayed a keen sense of the current unrest facing many regimes in the Middle East today.



**In this photo: The Model Arab League delegation had an award winning performance at its National competition this past weekend.**

From 12 - 15 April, the Chinese Language and Culture Club traveled to Washington DC. Major Matthew Radik was the OIC of the group and accompanied the cadets to the Pentagon where they met with China Foreign Area Officers from the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Army G2. They also met with the Country Director (China) from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Asian & Pacific Security Affairs, East Asia. During these meetings, the cadets learned about how their knowledge of Chinese culture and language can be used in the Army. After leaving the Pentagon, the cadets received a foreign area officer briefing from the DCS G-3/5/7 DAMO-SSF (Foreign Area Officer Proponent). Before returning to West Point on Sunday, the cadets visited the Pentagon's 9/11 Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery.



**In this photo: The Chinese Language and Culture Club at the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial. From left to right: Cadets Austin Keeton, Samuel Bjorkman, Jeffrey Lee, Major Matthew Radik, Cadets Jacky Kwan, and John Lee.**

From 12 - 15 April, the French Club traveled to Washington DC. CPT Ron Hijduk was the OIC of the group, which included 9 cadets and 1 exchange cadet from France. Among the various national monuments visited, the club visited the Embassy of France, the Foreign Area Officer Proponency Office, and the J39 (JCS Military Information Support Operations Planning Office). The French club enjoyed a delicious three course meal at the *Bistro D'Oc*, across from Ford's Theater, and paid respect to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice at the Pentagon Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. This trip proved to be a success – one that incorporated French food, language, and culture with career fields that rely heavily on language and cultural competency.



**In this photo: French Club members enjoy a visit to the French Embassy in Washington DC.**

From 12 – 15 April, the German Language Club participated in the annual Language Clubs Trip Section to Washington, D.C. The club received briefings from various Defense activities and paid a visit the Austrian Embassy. The group of 12 cadets included 4 Austrian cadets on semester exchange. German Language Club cadets enjoyed an authentic German meal at the Old Europe restaurant near the Naval Observatory. Cadets also attended the International Ball at Annapolis on the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> after a mid-day Holocaust Museum visit which culminated in a workshop with Holocaust Museum researcher, Dr. Ann Millin. Before returning on Sunday, the group visited the 9/11 Memorial at the Pentagon and Arlington National Cemetery, witnessing a changing of the guard and a wreath-laying ceremony.

From 12 – 15 April, the Portuguese club traveled to Washington DC. MAJ Fagergren was the OIC. Cadets visited the Brazilian Army Commission where they learned about their mission and functions. They also visited the Holocaust museum, Arlington, the Mall, and Lincoln Memorial.

From 12 - 15 April, 5 members of the Russian Language Club traveled to Washington DC. The cadets enjoyed speaking with various DOD offices that deal with Russia and Eurasia and different aspects of Russian culture. On 13 April the cadets visited the Defense Threat Reduction Agency to learn about nuclear treaty verification procedures; the Defense Intelligence Agency to learn about that Agency's mission and speak with DIA's senior Russia analyst; and the Pentagon to speak with the Russia Desk Officer for Army International Affairs (G3/5/7), the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia/Ukraine/Eurasia (Dr. Celeste Wallander), and the Chief of the MOLINK (Washington-Moscow "Hotline"). Additionally, on 13 April the cadets enjoyed typical Russian fare at a local restaurant; and on 14 April they celebrated Orthodox Easter by attending the midnight mass at Washington's Cathedral of St. John the Baptist.



**In this photo: Russian Language Club members visit the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial.**

On 16 April, 173 cadets studying Beginning and Intermediate Russian traveled to Brighton Beach, NY, to practice their Russian language skills with native Russian speakers at the Shorefront Jewish Community Center. Participating cadets spoke with recent immigrants taking courses in English as a Second Language at the Center, and a few cadets also got to speak with kindergarten students studying at the Center's Day School.



**In this photo: Cadets Rome and Freund with their English as a Second Language counterparts at the Shorefront Jewish Community Center in Brighton Beach.**



**In this photo: Cadets speak with kindergarten students studying English as a Second Language at the Shorefront Brighton Beach Jewish Community Center's Day School.**

On 6 April, DFL held its bi-annual barbeque and soccer game against the International Cadet Club. This event is a wonderful opportunity for faculty and cadets to interact in a friendly game of soccer and DFL faculty enjoyed a 4 -2 win over the cadets.



**In this photo: DFL faculty and International cadets enjoy a moment before the soccer game.**

On 14 April, the International Cadets traveled to Annapolis for the annual International Ball at Navy where International cadets from Coast Guard, Navy, Air Force, and Army gathered for an evening of dancing and socializing with peers.



**In this photo: International cadets Virgilio Morales-Aranda and Mario Cortizo at the International Ball.**

### Semester Abroad:

From 16-20 April, spring break at L'Université Catholique de Lyon, French speaking Cadets Jon Bangert (2013, F4), Noah Currie (2013, F1) and Phil Savoie (2013, G2), are participating in a week of training and language/cultural immersion with the French Foreign Legion. The cadets will learn about the composition, equipment, mission, and history of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Regiment of the Foreign Legion, based in Orange, France, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Engineer Regiment of the Foreign Legion, based in Laudun, France. The cadets will interact with officers and NCOs at all levels and have hands-on experience with French vehicles, weapons, and equipment.

### Faculty Participation in Hosting Visitors:

On 11 April, the Chinese section supported the visit of Mr. Chee Hwa Tung, Vice Chairman of the 11<sup>th</sup> Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, 1<sup>st</sup> Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Autonomous Region, and founding Chairman of the China – United States Exchange Foundation. During the visit, Mr. CH Tung and his delegation met with Brigadier General Trainor and Major General Huntoon. After lunch in the Cadet Mess, Mr. CH Tung addressed cadets about United States – China relations. The visit ended with Mr. CH Tung, his brother Mr. CC Tung, and Mrs. Harriet Wen Tung, the wife of Mr. CC Tung, paying their respects at the grave of Lieutenant General Ying-Hsing Wen. LTG Wen was the first Chinese graduate from West Point, class of 1909, and is Mrs. Harriet Wen Tung's grandfather. The visit was successful and a positive experience for all involved.



**In this photo: Mr. CH Tung's delegation in the Thayer Award Room.**

On the eve of the 16th of April DFL hosted a piano recital as part of its 11th Performance Series. The theme of the recital was : “Souffle du Printemps- the Mighty Handful”. World-renowned British concert pianist Philip Edward Fisher performed work by Russian composers that made up the “Mighty Five” (Borodin, Mussorgsky, Rimsky Korsakov, Ciu and Balakirev). More than 130 guests and cadets attended the formal gala concert and the guests marveled at the virtuosity of Mr. Fisher in the performance of some of the most demanding pieces in the repertoire.

This is the 11th DFL Performance Series, intended to introduce the cadets and the communities around West Point to concert music performed by internationally renowned artists in a formal setting.



**In this photo: Concert pianist Philip Edward Fisher.**

#### Future Events

The Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages will take place from 21-23 April in Baltimore, Maryland. DFL faculty will pair up for two presentations. On Saturday, 21 April, Dr. Rajaa Chouairi and COL John Baskerville will present on demystifying the Arabic language in order to make it accessible to beginning learners and positively influence beginning learners’ attitudes toward what may be perceived as an exceptionally ‘difficult’ language. Also, on Saturday, Dr. Hannes Vazulik and Ms. Sherri Bellinger will present research on various predictors of language learner success (data points available in students’ records) and how they correlate with student ‘success’ in the Arabic, Chinese, and Russian programs at West Point.