DFL Weekly SITREP (10 August 11)

Current Week HIGHLIGHTS:

1. Faculty participation in Foreign Training Events:

From 12 June – 24 July, MAJ Douglas Willig participated in the German Army Officer School’s 127th TaLoLe (Tactics and Logistics for Instructors) course in Dresden, Germany. MAJ Willig is the first U.S. officer and non-native German speaker to attend this course in its 30-year existence. The all-German language course consisted of in-depth mission analysis, military decision-making process, and best practices for instructing and facilitating the learning of logistical planning at the Brigade and Battalion levels. MAJ Willig’s participation in this course marked the beginning of a new high-level partnership with our important NATO ally. West Point consequently has an open invitation for additional officers to attend future TaLoLe courses as desired.

In this photo: Major Douglas Willig leads a terrain-based evaluation of the enemy situation and possible courses of action with his German Army counterparts in the German countryside between Dresden and Berlin.
In this photo: Major Douglas Willig listens to 10-15 minutes of German radio situation reports from friendly units in contact with the enemy and creates the enemy situation on a map based on the size, type, and direction of attack of the enemy units reported.

2. Faculty participation in Conferences:

Dr. Jeff Watson, Assistant Professor and Chair of Linguistics and Language Acquisition, Center for Languages, Cultures and Regional Studies (CLCRS), attended the second Russian LEARN Conference (Language Education And Resource Network) from 1-4 August. The primary intent of the LEARN conferences is to provide language instructors working for the U.S. Government an opportunity to share their language teaching experience. Dr. Watson presented a paper entitled, “Striving for Advanced Proficiency: West Point’s Pre- and Post- Study Abroad Assessment Model” in which he discussed CLCRS’ pre- and post- immersion seminars and assessments on DFL’s three domains – language proficiency, cross-cultural competence, and regional awareness. Comparative assessment data was presented including the newly developed (by Dr. Peter Siska) test on Regional Awareness, a brand new area of testing for the Army.

3. Faculty participation in language and cultural immersion trips:

a. Four Arabic-speaking cadets are conducting a semester abroad “pre-session” in Rabat, Morocco under the auspices of AMIDEAST, a non-governmental educational
exchange organization, and Al Akhawayn University, our partner institution. During the three-week pre-session, cadets will study Moroccan dialect daily, participate in cultural excursion on weekends, and reside in Rabat with host Moroccan families.

b. Dr. Martha Gallagher, Ms. Can Wang and six cadets from the Chinese section recently returned from a summer AIAD trip to Changchun, China on 6 August. The cadets spent two and a half weeks of intensive Chinese language and culture study at Jilin University in Changchun, China. During their free time in the last half week of the trip, Dr. Gallagher introduced the cadets to Chinese culture and famous cultural sites in and around Changchun and Beijing, China.

In this photo: Dr. Martha Gallagher, Ms. Can Wang, and the Cadets’ Jilin University Professor stand with Cadets Gabrielle Perez, Carolina Espejo-Saenz, Jung Son, Rita Snyder, Mark Freeman, and Kevin Kusumoto after their graduation from their Chinese Class at Jilin University, Changchun, China.
In this photo: Cadet Rita Snyder practices her Chinese language with Chinese students at the train station while attending her Academic Individual Advanced Development trip at Jilin University, Changchun, China.

4. Faculty participation in hosting visitors: 

The Chinese section is scheduled to host a group of five cadets and one escort officer from Taiwan’s FHK College and Chung Cheng Institute of Technology 24 - 26 August. The delegation is visiting various U.S. academies (to include The Citadel and VMI) in order to compare training, honor systems, cadet activities, and classroom instruction.