DFL Weekly SITREP (6 APR 11)

Current Week **HIGHLIGHTS:**

1. Faculty News:
   
   a. On 2 April, Dr. Rajaa Chouairi, DFL’s Arabic Language Program Director, presented at the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (NECTFL) in Baltimore, Maryland. He led a session entitled, “We Don’t Teach Arabic Dialect, but a Spoken Variety,” challenging the norm among curriculum formulators and teachers to call the spoken varieties of Arabic "dialects." This usage is misleading, giving the impression that a "street" vernacular language void of literary implications is being taught.

   b. On 2 April, COL Rickie McPeak took over as Chief of the civil-military joint (Air Force, Army, and Navy), and combined National Military Academy of Afghanistan (NMAA) Advisor Team.

   ![COL Rickie McPeak and the combined National Military Academy of Afghanistan (NMAA) Advisor Team. (not pictured: our 14 coalition colleagues, NCOs and officers from Turkey)](image)

2. Cadet Events and Academic Trips:

   a. From 1-3 April, Major Richard Chen led the Chinese language and culture club on its trip to Washington DC as part of the Department of Foreign Languages clubs’ annual trip where they received briefings at the Pentagon and the Department of State. The cadets also visited Chinatown, the National Mall, and Arlington National Cemetery.
b. From 1-3 April, DFL’s National Council for US-Arab Relations Model Arab League team competed in the annual National competition at Georgetown University, Washington, DC. The 13 cadet squad, under the leadership of Cadet Catie Beal ‘11 and faculty advisor LTC Mike Trotter, took home “Honorable Mention Distinction” in the Palestinian Affairs (CDTs Katy Tartala ‘11/Ryan Schubert ‘11), Political Affairs (CDTs Danny Moriarty ‘13/Seth Harbol ‘14), and the Environmental Affairs (CDTs Mike Niemiec ‘11/Andy Oswald ‘14) councils. 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.

c. On 30 March, DFL’s LTC Mark Gagnon, presented a lecture on German Foreign Films at Cornwall Public Library’s Foreign Film Evening. Cadets from LTC Gagnon’s 20th and 21st Century Germany course and residents of Cornwall learned about the impact of German films on the international film industry in the last century. The cadets also enjoyed a private tour of Costume Armor Inc. and Bill Diamond Productions in Cornwall, NY.
Cadets and Cornwall Public Library Foreign Film Evening participants enjoy LTC Gagnon’s presentation on the German film “North Face” prior to viewing the featured movie for the library’s Foreign Film Night.

Mr. Warren Miller from Cornwall’s Costume Armor Inc. explains how he creates the West Point class crest molds for Crest Hall in Eisenhower Hall every year.

d. On 2 April, three cadets participated in the 2nd “Chinese Bridge” Eastern America Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students at the New York Service Center for Chinese Study Fellows in New York City (also known as the 10th Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College
Students). The competition provided a well-established stage for American college students to show their talent in Chinese language and Chinese culture.

Chinese speaking West Point cadet competitors and their Chinese professors take a group photo after the Chinese Bridge Speech competition’s award ceremony. See below links for a news video from the performance and a link to an article printed in the largest Chinese published newspaper in North America.

http://gb.worldjournal.com/view_full_news/12609802/article--ifbase4-base160-JUU2JTgwJThDJUU2JUJDJUEyJUU4JUFBJTIFJUU2JUE5JThCJUUzJTgwJThEJUU3JUIOJTkUYU3JUJ0JTg0JUU1JTg4JTIEU4JUJzJUJEpSVFOSVBQVU5OCVFNiU4OSU4QiVFOSU5QiVCMiVFOSU5QiU4Ng~~?instance=iNews

http://video.sinovision.net/?id=1676

3. Hosting Visitors:

On 4 April, DFL’s Chinese section hosted the President of Beijing University, ZHOU, Qifeng, and his delegation. They conducted office calls with the Superintendent, Dean, and the Acting Department of Foreign Languages Department Head.
Lieutenant General Huntoon, the Superintendent of the United States Military Academy meets with his counterpart, ZHOU, Qifeng, the President of Beijing University and his delegation during their official visit to West Point on 4 April. Pictured in the photo from left to right are: Dr. Martha Gallagher, Dr. Yuning Li, Dr. Hongwei Xia, Dr. Yuanman Liu, Beijing University President Qifeng Zhou, Lieutenant General Huntoon, Dr. Xiaoying Zheng, and Ms. Ying Zhang.

4. Upcoming Key Events:

a. On 9 April, the Chinese Literature class will travel to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City to experience the exhibition on “The Emperor’s Private Paradise: Treasures from the Forbidden City” and the “Tibetan Arms and Armor from the Permanent Collection.”

b. On 15 April, The International Cadet Club will travel to the US Naval Academy for the International Ball, an annual event in which international cadets from Navy, West Point, and Coast Guard come together for an end of year celebration and farewell to fourth year cadets who are finishing their last year of study in the US and will soon return to their home countries. The ball is a black tie event which will feature exhibition dances performed by midshipmen, the Trident Brass Midshipmen Jazz Ensemble, a DJ from WRNV, and the Naval Academy Band’s “Electric Brigade.”

c. From 14-18 April, DFL’s Chinese section will host the Superintendent of the Taiwan Military Academy during the Sandhurst competition.