



FALL 2021 ISSUE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

IAPMARINE@USMC.MIL



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(Above) SSgt Issac Pelendo participates on a Women, Peace, and Security discussion with members of the Armed Forces of Liberia.

Message from the Program Manager

BY LTCOL CHRISTOPHER DELLOW

First, we look to MMOA to determine what billets need to be filled for the upcoming PCS season. Since promotion boards, school boards, and special program selection boards (e.g., Attaché) are not announced until Nov/ Dec we really don't have a clear picture of who is a mover and what billets will be open until mid-December. In an effort to get the process started early, in November we send out a questionnaire asking for general desires (CONUS, OCONUS, NCR, etc...) to all Marines who owe a payback from the Study Track program. As we coordinate with the Graduate Education Monitor and PMOS Monitors, names are added to and deleted from the list when board and panel results are released into December. This process takes time and we don't have a solid idea of where the entire Study Track group is going until late December. Once we have a solid lock on all the billets that have not been filled by those who owe the Marine Corps a payback tour, we publish the list of remaining billets on the PLU-8 website [HERE](#). Although these billets are filled directly by the PMOS monitors, we have a large interest in making sure that FAO/RAO billets are filled adequately. While the monitors can issue orders without us knowing, it helps if you also let us know that you are interested in a billet so that we can advocate for you and the program. The process takes time and our only advocate within MMOA also manages all of the other Graduate Education Programs in the Marine Corps. While we are hoping that some of the concepts discussed in the Commandant's Talent Management Strategy will provide more transparency to the process, it is important to remember that the tools required to affect these changes will take time to incorporate. Additionally, while a new "Market Place" for billets will give Marines increased input into the orders slating process, individual desire will always need to be balanced with the needs of the Service. Lastly, I want to reassure the community that the International Affairs Program Marines we are creating today are truly some of the most ambitious and forward-thinking Marines we have ever seen. I encourage all the "Old IAP" Marines to find the younger generation of IAP Marines in their commands and share your insights and experiences.

Happy New Year Ladies and Gentlemen! In this edition of the IAP community update I wanted to use my space to discuss the process to fill FAO and RAO coded billets. As this is slating season at MMOA, we have gotten quite a few requests for utilization from 2nd tour and Experience Track FAOs and RAOs. I sense your frustration in not being able to see what billets are available and thought maybe pulling back the curtain would help everyone understand the process.

IAP Marines in Action

United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission – South Korea

Major Joseph F. Phippen is a North-East Asia FAO currently serving at the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission in South Korea.



Maj Phippen and UNC Liaison officers from 16 different nations observe the ROK Marine Corps Task Force setup to counter Chinese piracy in the Han River Estuary located between North and South Korea.



Major Phippen escorts counterparts from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and Ministry of National Defense Agency for KIA (Killed in Action) Recovery and Identification (MAKRI) into the Korean DMZ near Hill 111. Still mined and under watch of North Korean guard posts, the site is the last known location of 1stLt Carl Lindquist, a Platoon Commander from 1st Battalion 3rd Marines. Officially declared missing in action just two days before the end of the Korean War, his remains may still be there.



Major Phippen discusses with MAKRI counterparts their thoughts on likely locations of US and Chinese remains at Hill 111, where a fierce battle was fought just prior to the end of the Korean War.



Maj Phippen and DPAA counterparts survey Hill 111 and discuss their thoughts on demining and remains recovery in a sensitive area. The effort to bring home each Marine from any clime or place does not end.

IAP Marines in Action

Latin America FAOs In-Training Visit Puerto Belgrano Naval Base, Argentina

- What: USMC FAO Visit
- When: 17 December
- Who: Capt Walker (FAO-Brazil), Capt Traynor (FAO-Peru) Maj Benitez (PEP Arg)
- Where: FAIF (Argentine Fleet Marine Force), Puerto Belgrano Naval Base
- Notes: The USMC delegation received a warm welcome from the FAIF Commander CNIM Bonani. The FAIF prepared an equipment display that included elements of the Logistics, Air Defense, Field Artillery and Communications Battalions.
- Pic 1: USMC officer having coffee with CNIM Bonani, the Argentine Fleet Marine Force Commander.
- Pic 2: USMC officers run through a course of fire at the FAIF's Marksmanship Simulator. The simulator is invaluable to maintain the marksmanship proficiency of the FAIF.
- Pic 3: An Argentine Marine with the Communications Battalion brief USMC officers on the Battalion Command and Control capabilities..
- Pic 4: An Argentine Field Artillery Marine leads a brief USMC officer on the survey capabilities of the Field Artillery Battalion .



- What: USMC FAO Visit
- When: 17 December
- Who: Capt Walker (FAO-Brazil), Capt Traynor (FAO-Peru) Maj Benitez (PEP Arg)
- Where: BIM-2, Amphibious Commando Group, Argentine Marine Corps Historical Complex, Baterias Marine Corps Base.
- Notes: BIM-2 and the Amphibious Commando Group prepared an equipment display that included weapons, vehicles, and other specialized gear used by the Battalion.
- Pic 1: Argentine Marines with Weapons Company describes the capabilities and characteristics of the Battalion's 81mm Mortars.
- Pic 2: Argentine Marine Commandos displayed parachute and specialized mountaineering equipment.
- 3. An Argentine Marine Commando describes the characteristics of the weapons used by the Amphibious Command Group.
- Pic 4: US Marines at the Argentine Marine Corps Historical Complex. The Museum contains a wealth of historical artifacts and records dating back to their foundation.



Foreign Personnel Exchange Program Spotlight

By Mark Brouwer, Netherlands Marine Corps.

My colleagues from the United States Marine Corps have regularly asked me since when the Dutch exchange officers have been at Camp Lejeune. So I started a couple months ago to dig in the history. With some help from my (former and retired) colleagues from Korps Mariniers I found all my predecessors. It started exactly 45 years ago, June 1976. There has been 21 captains done this amazing job. Most of them did a tour (mostly 2 years) with one of the battalions or regiments from 2d Marine Division. Some did a tour with II Marine Expeditionary Force, but all aboard Camp Lejeune. and everyone is still alive!

I decided to make a wooden plaque with all the names on it. Had the pleasure to hand it over to the Commanding General of the 2d Marine Division. Major-General Donovan (also a Recon Marine) promised me to hang the plaque in his office.

To our successors: There are some spaces left. Fill them with honor, commitment and dedication!

Semper Fidelis and Qua Patet Orbis!



Mark Brouwer, Netherlands Marine Corps and Exchange Officer with 2d Recon Battalion from July 2019 to 2021 presents Netherlands Marine Corps Exchange Officers plaque to MajGen Donovan, 2d Marine Division Commanding General

Plaque representing 45 years of history of the US Marine Corps and Netherlands Marine Corps Exchange Program



FAS Program Corner

SSGT ISAAC PELENDI - AFRICA FAS
MARINE CORPS FORCES EUROPE AND AFRICA



(Above) SSgt Pelendo and members from the Armed Forces of Liberia.

In July 2021, SSgt Pelendo led a Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) discussion panel in Monrovia, Liberia. The purpose of this panel was to initiate discussion on potential opportunities for new female recruits in the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL). Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa (MARFOREUR/AF) and Naval Forces Africa (NAVAF) collaborated together in order to assist the AFL in developing a recruiting program that will support their mandated Presidential decree to have 20% women in their ranks. The panel discussion introduced and examined the purpose and means of increasing new AFL female recruitment and integration among stakeholders. WPS is an integral component in the effort to enhance African partner capability, enabling U.S. security cooperation to better leverage the contributions of both men and women.

During the discussion panel, SSgt Pelendo led discussions in various topics to include challenges, motivation, gender role and inclusion in the military, recruitment and retention. Various ranks amongst the participants were present. From junior enlisted, to senior enlisted and officer. This event informed the State Department, USAID, and AFRICOM's WPS branch on the current situation, way forward, and opportunities to increase the amount of women. As an Africa Foreign Area SNCO, knowing the country's history, culture, and language were instrumental and crucial to the success of the panel.

Program Updates

- **LREC Sustainment Program (LSP):** FY22 LSP is opened with some restrictions due to Continuous Resolution and Marine Corps transition of financial systems. FAOs and FASs are encouraged to submit your requests for processing and approval. Please review the LSP Request Procedures on the IAP website prior to submitting your request. You must have a FAO or FAS AMOS and a current DLPT to request funds for language sustainment. Priority is to your principal assigned language. You must show a proficiency (3/3) in your principal language or an immediate validated requirement if you wish to be considered for an additional same-region 2nd or 3rd language. Additionally, priority for funding will go to FAOs below 2/2 and FASs below 1/1 preparing for FAO/FAS assignment and DLPT. All TAD LSP requests must be command-endorsed and meet all COVID-19 travel restriction requirements. LSP requests requirements, instructions, and templates can be found [here](#).
- **FAO/RAO/FAS/PEP's In-Action Photos and Articles :** IAP & DLNSEO are looking for high-definition photos capturing FAO/RAO/FAS/PEPs in action and articles highlighting your contributions to the service and the joint force. Please send your articles and photos with a quick captions to IAPMarine@usmc.mil.
- **IAP Intelink Sharepoint Website:** We have established an Intelink Sharepoint website containing trip reports, after action reports, situation reports, and other official administrative documents. IAP Marines can submit a request for access [here](#). Please note, this site is CAC-enabled.
- **IAP Outreach:** As you might imagine, reaching IAP Marines using NIPR emails is not effective. In order to improve our community outreach, we asked that you increase your visits to our marines.mil website. We will continue to post community updates and future newsletters on our website, which can be found [here](#).
- **IAP Mass Communication:** We are also testing a commercial mass communication platform to reach the IAP community while giving you the option to unsubscribe from the distribution list or add new email addresses to your subscription to stay informed and connected.
- **2022 Slate Available Billets:** 2022 movers who are looking for opportunities in FAO Program assignments can find the list of available billets [HERE](#).

Available Opportunities

JOINT FAO PHASE II SUSTAINMENT COURSES:

For your planning consideration, below are listed the dates for the upcoming JFAO Phase II regional sustainment courses below. These courses are conducted by the George Washington University. Registration opens 30 days before the course start date: Please provide your BIO along with the registration form at least 3 weeks prior to course start dates. Registrations form can be found [HERE](#):

- February 7-11, 2022, US Central Command (USCENTCOM) course (On-line)
- March 14-18, 2022, US Indo-Pacific Command course in Hawaii
- April 25-29, 2022, US European Command (USEUCOM) course (On-line)
- June 13-17, 2022, US Southern Command course in Miami, Florida

Featured Articles By IAP Marines

- 1945: Europe FAS, GySgt Jorge RiveroMontes published his article titled "SMART BOMBS: MILITARY, DEFENSE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND MORE. The Future Of Russia's Hypersonic Weapons Program." Read it [HERE](#).
- Modern War Institute at West Point: PEP at the Colombian Naval Academy, Capt Walker Mills, co-author an article titled "THE PROMISE OF HYDROGEN: AN ALTERNATIVE FUEL AT THE INTERSECTION OF CLIMATE POLICY AND LETHALITY." Read it [HERE](#).
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand: Southeast Asia FAO In-Training, Capt Kevin Alter was invited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand to participate in a video that showcases diplomats who can speak Thai. Watch it [HERE](#).
- US Embassy Singapore: Watch 55 seconds of a Q&A with Marine Attaché to Singapore and Southeast Asia FAO, LtCol Doug Krugman. Watch it [HERE](#).
- Joint Forces Quarterly: Marine Attaché to Liberia and Africa FAO, LtCol Michael Clark recently coauthored an article titled "Read the Manual: Reversing the Trend of Failure in NATO Humanitarian Interventions with Airpower." Read it [HERE](#).
- Marine Corps Gazette: Marine Attaché to Liberia and Africa FAO, LtCol Michael Clark recently authored an article titled "Missionizing Operational Culture Studies: Engaging Marines' Brains Before They Engage Their Weapons." Read it [HERE](#).

Congratulations to New Selectees!

FY21 4th QUARTER INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM (IAP) EXPERIENCE TRACK SELECTION PANEL RESULTS MARADMIN 642/21:

• Capt Arango, S.J.	8221	RAO	LATAM
• LtCol Belsha, J.L.	8247	FAO	Europe
• LtCol Cover, C.G.	8247	FAO	Europe
• Maj Elizalde, A.G.	8241	FAO	LatAm
• LtCol Lefringhouse, A.V.	8227	RAO	Europe
• Maj LeValley, M.E.	8241	FAO	Europe
• Maj Towles, C.A.	8241	FAO	LatAm
• Maj Trunk, R.L.	8241	FAO	LatAm

FY22 COMMANDANTS CAREER-LEVEL EDUCATION BOARD RESULTS MARADMIN 715/21. The following officers were selected for the Foreign Area Officer

Program:

NAME	PMOS
• COFRANCESCO, JESSICA M.	0202
• BREW, DANIEL P.	0602
• CHEW, NATHAN R.	0102
• CONNELL, CHANDLER W.	0402
• DODDS, LUKE E.	0402
• FREDRICHSDORF, JEREMY	0402
• GUTHMANN, ELIZABETH M.	1302
• HAMES, FORREST A.	3002
• HOON II, ROBERT C.	0602
• HOWARD, WINN	0302
• HUDIE, PATRICK D.	0802
• JONES, BRAINARD J.	6602
• KUSH, KEEGAN C.	0202
• LARKIN, JAMES B.	4402
• MURKINS, SYDNEY E.	4502
• PIEKOSZ, TERRI L.	0602
• PINARD, MEGAN L.	0102
• PUGH, NICHOLAS G.	0602
• SKLAR, ERIK M.	0202
• SONG, CHRIS Y.	0602
• VALENZUELA, MARCO A.	4502
• WARD, ZACHARY R.	0202
• YODER, DAVID W.	7208

FY22 COMMANDANTS PROFESSIONAL INTERMEDIATE-LEVEL EDUCATION BOARD RESULTS MARADMIN 674/21. The following officers were selected for the Regional Affairs Officer

Program:

NAME	PMOS
• COLE, BENJAMIN T.	0602
• ENGEL, DAVID J.	7220
• FERNS, MATTHEW D.	0802
• HERMANSON, BRETT A.	0302
• MAYFIELD, TRAVER K.	7202
• MOBILIO, SARAH B.	4502
• REMPE, KYLE J.	0602
• TRAN, VIET Q.	0202
• SOLIS, M.A.	3404
• WILHELM, L.M.	1302

FY23 MARINE ATTACHÉ SELECTION BOARD RESULTS MARADMIN 711/21:

Name	Country
• Bartok, Paul T.	Latvia
• Baskins, Robert I.	Papua New Guinea
• Gilbert, Brian J.	Ghana
• Krusinger, Lowell D.	Dominican Republic
• Giles, Jennifer F.	Singapore
• Illies Jr., Jeffery D.	Cameroon
• Krebs, Jacob J.	Australia
• Romans, Daniel A.	Vietnam
• Showalter, Jacob A.	Madrid, Spain

FISCAL YEAR 2023 U.S. MARINE CORPS MAJOR GENERAL SELECTIONS ALNAV 084/21:

- BGen Salene, SM (Currently Director, Strategy and Plans Division, DC PPO and study track RAO)

OTHER SELECTIONS: Congratulations to all other International Affairs Program Marines who were also selected for promotion in the most recent Colonel, Lieutenant Colonel, Major, SgtMaj/MGySgt, and 1stSgt/MSgt selection boards.

Questions? Contact Us!
International Affairs Program
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