



SUMMER 2021 ISSUE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

IAPMARINE@USMC.MIL



IN THIS ISSUE

- Message from the Program Manager
- Retirement Ceremony
- Featured Articles by IAP Marines
- IAP Marines In Action
- Program Updates
- FAS Program Corner
- IAP Community Events
- Available Opportunities

Message from the Program Manager

BY LTCOL CHRISTOPHER DELLOW

International Affairs Program analysts and will be supporting the FAOs, RAOs, FASs, and PEPs serving around the world. Unfortunately, welcoming a teammate also usually means you are saying farewell to another teammate. Ms. Gabrielle Hall, who has been the first point of contact for IAP Marines over the last year and a half, has moved on to other opportunities. We wish her well and thank her for all her contributions to the IAP community!

Despite a hectic year for international travel, we have had some amazing success stories from our FAOs on In-Region Training (IRT). In this newsletter we will highlight a few of our Marines and show how they were able to directly support service and joint requirements while on IRT. The practical experience they gained, and support they provided to the service and GCCs, will undoubtedly help the program in the years to come.

Our Manpower Survey has been completed and we are immediately taking action on a few of the recommendations that were made. First, with the divestment of MCSCG and COACL we are moving forward with efforts to shift some of our IAP billets forward to the MARFORs and MEFs. These changes may not make it into the ASR process in time for summer 22 movers but the TOECRS are in and being staffed throughout the Marine Corps for final concurrence. Secondly, we are looking to take advantage of some other structure changes to add additional joint structure (SCOs and MARAs) in the INDOPACOM AOR. Since this process takes longer in the joint world I don't expect to see any changes in the ASR until at least summer 23, but the TOECRS are in with TFSD and are being staffed. Lastly, we are working to address the problems we have with Talent Management in the IAP community. As this is a much larger service issue, I expect this effort to take a significant amount of work and time to show improvement. Lastly, but also in line with Talent Management efforts, we are working with the MARFORs, MEFs and Supporting Establishment to review where our IAP billets are actually needed. Until we have a solid list of assignable billets for Manpower to assign against, it's difficult to accurately determine how many IAP Marines we need to produce each year. Although we won't be able to produce enough Study Track IAP Marines each year to meet the demand, a refined list of IAP billets will help to inform our discussions with M&RA on utilization of Experience Track and 2nd Tour IAP Marines.

(Above) LtCol Adam "Lefty" Lefringhouse awards the Meritorious Service Medal to MGySgt Ronal "Machine" Morales during his retirement ceremony at the Semper Fidelis Chapel. MGySgt Morales retired after 24+ years of faithful service.

It has been a busy and productive summer for the International Affairs Program office. First, for those who interact with us regularly, you will notice some changes in the office. We would like to welcome MGySgt Ronal Morales (ret.) back to the PLU-8 team and also extend a warm welcome to Ms. Gizmaan Abdullahi. Mr. Morales and Ms. Abdullahi are our new

MGySgt Morales Retirement Ceremony

On 30 June 2021, MGySgt Ronal Morales retired after nearly 25 years of faithful service to the Marine Corps. MGySgt Morales' last post was at HQMC, Plans, Policies, and Operations (PP&O), Strategy and Plans Division, International Affairs Branch, International Affairs Program where he served as the Foreign Area SNCO (FAS) Program Manager.

A native of Peru, South America, MGySgt Morales enlisted in the Marine Corps in September of 1996 and was assigned to the Motor Transport Maintenance Occupational Field. He served several tours overseas in Okinawa, Japan and Stuttgart, Germany, and multiple combat tours in Al-Anbar, Iraq. MGySgt Morales also completed a successful tour in Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego as a Drill Instructor, Senior Drill Instructor, and Series Gunnery Sergeant. Additionally, he served as a Sergeant Instructor and Platoon Sergeant at Officer Candidate School.

In 2010, MGySgt Morales deployed to Colombia and Panama as a Subject Matter Expert in support of the Security Cooperation Education and Training Center. It was then that MGySgt Morales discovered the world of Security Cooperation, a field that perfectly aligned with his personal and professional goals. Subsequently, MGySgt Morales volunteered and was selected to participate in the Foreign Area SNCO (FAS) Program Beta Test. As one of the first Marines selected for the FAS Program, MGySgt Morales received orders to the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. to attend the School of International Graduate Studies. Upon completion of the Middle-East/Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Area Studies graduate certificate program, he conducted his In-Region Training in Dakar, Senegal where he also attended French language school.

MGySgt Morales completed his FAS Program utilization tour in Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa (MFE/A) where he served as the G-5 North-West Africa Regional Planner, Humanitarian Mine Action Program Manager, and G-3 Pan-Africa Future Operations Planner. During his tour at MFE/A, MGySgt Morales was responsible for planning and coordinating Theater Security Cooperation engagements in North-West Africa. MGySgt Morales also planned and coordinated several engagements in the Gulf of Guinea and deployed in support of the US Navy's Africa Partnership Station Program. MGySgt Morales also participated in planning of Operation United Assistance in West Africa.

As a pioneer for the FAS Program, MGySgt Morales dedicated his years as the FAS Program Manager to ensuring the program would survive budgetary scrutiny and changes in strategy while continuing to select quality SNCOs who now have the reins of the FAS Program.

Featured Articles By IAP Marines

- FAOA Journal of International Affairs: Major Eric Hovey's thesis won the FAO Association writing award at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School. An essay adapted from his work on a larger research report, "U.S. Influence and Levers of Power in AFRICOM Countries," written by faculty and students within the Department of National Security Affairs can be found [here](#).
- Civil Affairs Association Eunomia Journal: Master Sergeant Bruce Villasenor co-authored, "The Rhetoric vs The Reality: Understanding NATO's Capacity to Address Russian Gray-zone Conflict," (Mar 11, 2021) which was published in the Civil Affairs Association. The article examines the question of whether NATO is currently enabled to effectively compete in gray-zone conflict by reviewing NATO's strategy through changes made to force structure and other areas over the past decade. You can read it [here](#).
- The Marine Corps Gazette: Maj Timothy Ornelas's article on China's Active Defense Military Strategy was published on the October 2021 issue of the Marine Corps Gazette.



(Right) Previous and current members of the IAP Office gathered at the Semper Fidelis Chapel to attend the retirement ceremony of MGySgt Morales.

IAP Marines in Action

Supporting Exercise SEA BREEZE



Capt Spanu at Oleshky Sands Training Area in Ukraine with the staff of the Ukrainian 35th Marine Brigade, watching a USAF CV-22 pick up Recon and Ukrainian SOF for a HALO jump.



Capt Spanu in a LAV, attached to 1/6 in Oleshky Sands Training Area Ukraine.

Exercise Sea Breeze in its 21st iteration, was a U.S. and Ukraine co-hosted multinational maritime exercise held in the Black Sea designed to enhance interoperability of participating nations and strengthen maritime security within the region.

Marines with 1/6 participated in Exercise Sea Breeze 21 (SB21) along with land forces from Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. They conducted a series of joint training events, live fire ranges and culminated with a final integrated exercise which simulated an amphibious raid.

The exercise was a fantastic opportunity for Marines to conduct realistic field training in a new environment, and moreover an opportunity to learn from partner forces. The first phase was an opportunity to get familiar with the other services, then a transition period where on the 4th of July the forces executed a pause to celebrate Naval Forces Day for Ukraine and the US Independence Day. The final phase was a multinational raid which began with a simulated amphibious assault into the northern training areas of Oleshky Sands.

Capt Spanu acted as a USMC liaison to the Ukrainian Marines from day one. He escorted the CO and SgtMaj of the US Marine Forces from when they arrived at the airport to the end of the exercise, thus positioning himself properly for any impromptu Key-Leader Engagements that may be sprung on the Marine Commander, which happened often. He liaised with the staff of the Commandant of the Ukrainian Marine Corps to establish an engagement timeline and expectations, acted as a speech-writer (in English and Ukrainian) for the Marine Commander's speech for Independence Day/Ukrainian Naval Forces Day Ceremony, and used his Ukrainian and Romanian language skills to assist the USMC Ops Cell in planning the live fire portions with Ukrainian and Moldovan counterparts.

Ukraine and the U.S. cohosted the exercise with participation of Naval Infantry from Ukraine, Moldova, the United States and Georgia, and the Navies of: Albania, Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania, Senegal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and the United States.

IAP Marines in Action

Marine Corps Training Mission - UAE



Recently, the United States declared the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as a “major security partner” due to the long history of combating extremism in the region. One of the many links in this strong partnership is a team of Marines assigned to train, advise, and assist the elite soldiers of the UAE Presidential Guard.

As the legend goes, in 2010 the recently appointed CENTCOM Commander, General James Mattis, was conducting one of his many whirlwind tours of the Middle East when he was asked to provide a team of Marines to train and advise a newly designated Emirati military branch. General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the United Arab Emirates Forces, specifically asked for Marines to guide the Emirati’s newest and most elite branch, the Presidential Guard. Since 2010, the Marine Corps, in some capacity, has assigned a team of Marines to the Presidential Guard as advisors and trainers.

Under a Title 22 Foreign Military Sales case, the Marine Corps provides training to the Presidential Guard on tactics, leadership, logistics, and small unit employment. Marines are positioned from the Company level to the Presidential Guard Command Headquarters with the mission to assist their Emirati counterparts in the management of planning exercises and training events.

Every year since the establishment of Marine Corps Training Mission – United Arab Emirates (MCTM-UAE), hundreds of Emirati Presidential Guard soldiers have deployed from the UAE to California to participate in Unit Enhancement Training aboard either Twenty-nine Palms or Camp Pendleton. In addition to the desert warfare training, the Presidential Guard will regularly participate in Mountain Training Exercises at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center. Furthermore, officers of the Presidential Guard attend Marine Corps formal schools, to include Expeditionary Warfare School and The Basic School at Quantico as International Military Students (IMS).

Among the small team of MCTM-UAE are two Marine Middle East Foreign Area specialists; Foreign Area Officer (FAO) LtCol Todd Moulder and Foreign Area SNCO (FAS) MSgt Matt Lineberry. LtCol Moulder serves as the team Officer in Charge at the Kahlifa bin Zayed II Brigade and says that his FAO training has significantly helped him do his job as a leader of foreign force security advisors. His language skills and FAO experience have allowed him and his team maximize their training capacity within the mechanized brigade, but most importantly, mitigate some common pitfalls that could have hindered their training efforts.

The MCTM-UAE Operations Chief MSgt Lineberry has leveraged the skills learned through FAS pipeline to foster new and strengthen existing relationships. Routinely, he meets with senior Emirati and U.S. Diplomatic Officials and relies on the thorough education he received during his time at the Foreign Service Institute and the Naval Postgraduate School. Without this critical FAS training, he does not see how he would make it past the initial customary greetings of as-salamu alaykum.

The success of MCTM-UAE has been incredible. Within the past ten years the Presidential Guard has come to fruition as UAE’s expeditionary force in readiness, seeing action abroad in Afghanistan alongside Marine Corps units. The IMS program has also been successful. The Emirati graduates of these challenging Marine Corps schools frequently receive promotions and are hand selected for command positions within the Presidential Guard, cementing the strong ties between MCTM-UAE and the Presidential Guard.



Program Updates

- **LREC Sustainment Program (LSP):** The FY22 LSP will open shortly after the fiscal year turnover is completed. 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:** IAP & DLNSEO are looking for high-definition photos capturing FAO/RAO/FAS/PEPs in action. Please send your photos with a quick caption of what you're doing 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 also trying out a commercial mass communication platform to reach the IAP community while giving you the option to unsubscribe from our emails or add your new emails or other emails to your subscription in order to stay informed and connected.

Program Updates

- **IAP Virtual Community Update:** Please join LtCol Dellow and the IAP team at our next virtual community update. LtCol Dellow will discuss some of the results of the manpower study and future steps. Details as follows:
 - Friday, Oct 8, 2021 | 1000-1100 | Eastern Time
 - Connect using the following link:
 - <https://bahmeet.webex.com/bahmeet/j.php?MTID=m55deb352ac860fcf522e1558c6a319af>
 - Event number: 2427 087 5106
 - Event password: giKie3PYj46 (44543379 from phones)
 - Join by phone:
 - +17034391214 North America VA
 - +16193781249 North America West
 - Access code: 242 708 75106

FAS Program Corner

GYSGT JONATHAN LEVINE

It has been quite a busy and tumultuous summer with all of the changes regarding COVID-19, international policy decisions, and weather events around the world. In much the same theme, the FAS program is also undergoing some changes. In the coming weeks and months I will begin to shift manning priority to Tactical level units such as MEFs, MEUs, MCIOC, and even the new units aligned with the Marine Littoral Regiment. The idea is to send personnel to units that are willing to formalize the structure needed to keep the program running and even help to grow it. Additionally, there have been some changes to the training pipeline. More focus will be placed on skills that the MARFORs have expressed interest in. Some of these skills include Information Operations and Irregular Activities. Personnel that are already in the fleet may be eligible for some of this training as funding as time permits. Finally, we also have funds available on a first come, first serve basis for language sustainment. Create a plan, get a quote from a vendor, and send me the details. Sample packages can be found on the IAP website under the RESOURCES tab. There will also be a new Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus MARADMIN published in the next few weeks, so make sure that you are up to date on all of your qualifications!

FAS Program Corner

GYSGT JORGE RIVEROMONTES - EUROPE/EURASIA FAS



(Above) GySgt RiveroMontes was the first Foreign Area SNCO who attended the Masters of Arts In International Security Program at the George C. Marshall Center in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.

In 2020, I was selected to the Foreign Area SNCO program and applied to the Master of Arts In International Security (MISS) at the George C. Marshall Center in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. After a tedious application process and a slightly intimidating interview with the program director, they welcomed me into the program. MISS is a unique post-graduate program for security professionals which is presented cooperatively by the Universität der Bundeswehr and the George C. Marshall Center for Security Studies. The one-year program is designed to prepare military and civilian students for executive positions in the public and private sectors. The program provides four unique concentrations in Terrorism studies, Countering Transnational Organized Crime, Cyber Security and what I took, Seminar on Regional Security, which analyzed Russian influence in Ukraine and Syria. The program also provided courses on International Humanitarian Law, Program on

Advance Security Studies, Theories and Methods in International Relations, Transnational and International Conflict, and Security and Development, culminating in a fifteen-thousand-word Thesis, which I wrote on Russian hypersonic weapons and their strategic implications.

While at the Marshall Center, I also took advantage of the many seminars offered to further develop strategic thinking for the benefit of the International Affairs Programs. For example, the Eurasian Security Seminar, a four-week seminar that analyses security considerations in the former Soviet space, Russian threat perception and the Kremlin's hostility in Ukraine, Syria, the Caucasus and the Arctic. I likewise attended the German-American Regional Security Seminar, which presents an unparalleled opportunity for military experts, analysts and diplomats to exchange perspective on current and emerging issues in Euro-Atlantic security concerns.

MISS and being in the Marshall Center for one year was a once in a lifetime experience that has brought incredible achievement to both my personal life and career. I experienced life in the most beautiful part of Germany, claimed by the alps and traveled under the harsh conditions set by Covid restrictions. As the first Marine SNCO to go through the program it is an incredible honor, and one which I partially undertook to showcase that enlisted Marines are capable of great academic achievements.

A few acknowledgments are worth noting; I am genuinely thankful to all the members of the Marshall Center, notably those in the Eurasian FAO Office, who took me under their wing and taught me more about Russia and European security in one year than I ever thought possible, the Bundeswehr University in Munich, and above all, to the PLU-8 members who made it all possible. I am permanently in their debt.

(Right) While on an IRT trip to Ukraine, GySgt Rivero stands with a Soviet era SS-18 (Satan) missile at the Strategic Missile Forces Museum in Pobuzke, Kirovohrad Oblast. The trip was not only significant for cultural and language sustainment but also strengthened GySgt Rivero's knowledge of Soviet strategic missile development and deployment while thoroughly supporting his research in hypersonic missiles of the Russian Federation.



Community Events

FAOA on TAP



(Above from Left) LtCol Sasha Khulow (Middle East FAO), LtCol Christopher Dellow (Program Manager, IAP), Ms. Heide Grant (Director, DSCA), and Maj Eric Hovey (Africa FAO/Incoming Marine Attaché to Liberia)

The Foreign Area Officer Association (FAOA) is the professional organization for active duty, reserve, retired, and former FAOs, Attachés and Security Cooperation officers, and other defense language and international affairs experts, as well as corporate supporters. FAOA is organized for educational, professional, fraternal, and social purposes, as well as promoting esprit-de-corps and networking among past and present FAOA members and the FAO, Attaché, and defense international affairs communities.

During the latest “FAOA ON TAP” event, special guest, Ms. Heidi H. Grant met with the FAO community with several Marine FAOs and FASs in attendance. Ms. Grant is the new Director of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), the DoD Agency responsible for U.S. Foreign Military Sales (FMS), International Military Education and Training (IMET), and Building Partner Capacity (BPC). Prior to this assignment, Ms. Grant served as the Director of the Defense Technology Security Administration (DTSA) and the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs (SAF/IA)

IAP Outreach Event

In August, IAP Marines gathered for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic started. During this event, IAP welcomed several FAOs In-Training who recently arrived in the National Capitol Region to attend their foreign language training phase at Defense Language Institute - Washington. We were also joined by FAOs who recently completed their In-Region Training in Oslo, Norway and the George C. Marshall Center in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. In attendance were also HQMC Regional Desk Officers, the previous SDO/DATT to Ghana and now HQMC Security Cooperation Policy Section Head, the previous Marine Attaché to Russia, the future Marine Attaché to Liberia, the HQMC International Affairs Program Manager, and several Foreign Area SNCOs. All in attendance shared their diverse experiences and knowledge with the FAOs In-Training while enjoying a moment of camaraderie.



(Above) LtCol Christopher Dellow (Program Manager, IAP) and IAP Marines, old and new, gathered at the first post-COVID-19 pandemic IAP community outreach event in Crystal City.

Congratulations to New Selectees!

FY21 3rd QUARTER INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM (IAP) EXPERIENCE TRACK SELECTION PANEL RESULTS MARADMIN 424/21:

- GySgt Castellanos, J.C. 8231 FAS LATAM
- LtCol Crawford, C.R. 8247 FAO Europe
- Capt Depekwater, P. 8245 FAO Africa
- Capt Kerstetter, R.S. 8224 RAO MiddleEast
- Maj McGonigle, R.D. 8247 FAO Europe
- LtCol Monday, R.B. 8227 RAO Europe
- LtCol Rawllins, A.L. 8227 RAO Europe
- Maj Schrafft, P.A. 8241 FAO LATAM
- Maj Shim, C.J. 8243 FAO NE Asia
- LtCol Simi, W.B. 8228 RAO SE Asia
- GySgt Storer, A. 8231 FAS LATAM
- Maj Swartz, P.D. 8227 RAO Europe

FY22 PERSONNEL EXCHANGE PROGRAM SELECTION PANEL RESULTS, MARADMIN 410/21:

- Capt Sleasman, B.J. | Canada Armed Forces
- Capt Schmiedeler, A.M. | Dutch Marine Corps
- Capt Todorski, E.A. | UK Royal Marines
- Capt Vedral, O.S. | UK Royal Marines
- GySgt Chandler, C.A. | UK Royal Marines

FY22 COLONEL COMMAND SCREENING BOARD RESULTS, MARADMIN 395/21:

- Col Banning, D.M. | FAO Northeast Asia

FY22 LIEUTENANT COLONEL COMMAND SCREENING BOARD RESULTS, MARADMIN394/21:

- Maj Cesaro, A.J. | FAO Europe
- LtCol Fonseca, R.J. | FAO Africa
- Maj Guerra III, F. | RAO Africa
- LtCol Kratzer, K.D. | FAO Middle East
- LtCol Macak, C.A. | FAO Middle East

Available Opportunities

JOINT FAO PHASE II SUSTAINMENT COURSES:

For your planning consideration, please find the dates for the upcoming JFAO Phase II regional sustainment and SEAM courses below. Please email your bio along with the registration form at least 3 weeks prior to course start dates.

- October 4-8, 2021, Seam Course I (On-line): The Post-COVID Global Political Economy.
(Registration Open until September 30, 2021)
- December 6-10, 2021, Seam Course II, in person in Washington, DC: China's Global Activities (by theme)
- January 10-14, 2022, US Africa Command course (On-line)
- 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

Questions? Contact Us!
International Affairs Program
IAPmarine@usmc.mil