



International Affairs Program Newsletter

Headquarters Marine Corps, International Affairs Branch

Third Quarter 2022

Special points of interest:

- Marine FAO Joins FAOA Board of Governors
- IAP Marines Participate in French Staff Talks
- A Marine International Affairs Legacy
- IAP Marines Participate in Australian Staff Talks
- FAO Association Honors Graduates of Marine Corps War College

Marines Graduate Joint Foreign Area Officer Course



International Affairs Program staff and Marines attending the Joint Foreign Area Officer Course in front of the historic Weckerling Center at the Presidio of Monterey, California.

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By: 1stLt Sydney Murkins

U.S. Marines who were recently selected to serve as Foreign Area Officers (FAO), Regional Affairs Officers (RAO) and Foreign Area Staff Noncommissioned Officers (FAS) attended the Joint Foreign Affairs Officer Course (JFAOC) located at The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) from 21-24 June 2022.

The course provided an opportunity for students from across the Department of Defense (DoD) to

hear from distinguished visitors, regional experts, and DoD FAO proponents. Students attending the course not only learned what to expect as a FAO, but also how to advise and add value to command teams during real-world crisis situations and bilateral training events.

The first day of class opened with the FAO Program Director of DLIFLC commenting on the clusters of "red, blue, or green," students, a nod towards each

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branch of service— he urged the room to “turn purple” at the next break, and then again at each subsequent break. This was the first step towards “getting comfortable being uncomfortable” as a new FAO, RAO or FAS, it also allowed for students to develop invaluable relationships from across the DoD. The relationships with sister services are important for more than just trading patches, these are the airmen, soldiers, and sailors who will remain in a specific region throughout their career while Marines return to their primary Military Occupational Specialty. These other Joint FAOs will be a fantastic resource when Marines return to their region for their utilization tour. Additionally, their differences in training and background allow for varying strengths and perspectives when analyzing problems to develop effective solutions.

U.S. Army Officer and Eurasia FAO, CPT Victoria Moscoso, commented on her experience working with the U.S. Marines, “Each service has a unique perspective on strategic operations that can help expand the mindset of young officers working in a joint environment. The Army looks at warfare in one way and the Marines another—Marines add a blended land and sea mindset, as well as expeditionary capabilities that can help shape the way the Army does business, and vice versa.”



LtCol Chris Dellow, International Affairs Program Manager, participates in a panel at the JFAO Course .

As the week continued, students heard from representatives who played a strategic role in their region during crisis situations including recent events, such as the Russia and Ukraine war to natural disasters and government coups from across the globe. The FAO asset, when used effectively, is a step towards the Force Design initiative, providing expeditionary forces a regional expert who has developed mutually beneficial relationships with U.S. allies and partners in unfamiliar locations where a Marine unit may deploy.

A Message from the Program Manager

By: LtCol Christopher Dellow

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this newsletter, we will highlight the important contributions our FAOs, RAOs, FASs, and PEPs continue to make in establishing and maintaining relationships with key allies and partners. “What do FAOs do?” is probably the most frequent question I am asked by Marines outside of the community. While this newsletter primarily focuses on updating the community on the latest program news and opportunities, it is equally vital that we, as International Affairs professionals, ensure our leaders and peers understand the capabilities International Affairs Program (IAP) Marines bring to the table.

In a “grass roots” effort to shape the program in accordance with the Commandant’s Talent Manage-

ment 2030 initiative, the IAP office is working to create more opportunities for talented IAP Marines to serve in their designated regions. While we need to continue developing and training IAP Marines, the IAP office must also ensure the service receives a quality return on investment from its international affairs experts.

To accomplish this, the IAP Office is working with key stakeholders in the Fleet Marine Force and supporting establishment to enable more IAP Marines to employ their regional and political-military expertise in Joint and International billets. Specifically, we are interested in identifying Regional Planner/ Exercise Planner billets at the regional Marine Forces (MARFORS) and Marine Expeditionary Forces (MEF)

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A Message from the Program Manager, Continued

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currently coded for “Any Officer” or “Any Staff Non-Commissioned Officer” (8006 or 8014) and converting them to the appropriate IAP MOS. This initiative will not only provide the Joint and operating forces with better-trained regional experts, but also increase opportunities for IAP Marines to serve additional tours that enable them to employ their specialized experience and expertise.

Additionally, the IAP office is exploring an initiative to create a single-track FAO pipeline for the Marine Corps. Although this initiative is somewhat controversial, we believe that the current dual-track model does not adequately leverage the time and money the Marine Corps invests in training and educating the FAO community. After three years of education and training, a FAO will often serve only one tour within their assigned region. DoD policy requires each of the services to maintain FAO programs and establishes the requirements for becoming a FAO. Considering that the Marine Corps is required to

have a FAO program, and has numerous Joint, MARFOR and MEF staff billet requirements that would benefit from their experience and training, it is logical that the service should create a more predictable and sustainable pipeline to fill them.

While there are many other variables in determining what is best for the service, we believe the best way to meet joint and international affairs billet requirements while simultaneously improving the service’s access to joint, interagency, and international partners is through a single track FAO program.

*If you have any questions about IAP policies or programs send an e-mail to:
IAPMarine@usmc.mil*

Security Cooperation TDY Opportunity!

TDY Opportunity with Office of Security Cooperation (OSC) Angola.: OSC Angola is seeking a qualified FAO or FAS to support security cooperation activities for intervals of 30-179 days. Portuguese language capability at the 2/2 level is desired. Billet availability is immediate. Contact Major Ryan P. Holland at HollandRP@state.gov if interested.

Program Announcements

LREC Sustainment Program (LSP): FY22 LSP is open. FAOs and FASs are encouraged to submit 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 3/3 proficiency in your principal language or an immediate validated requirement if you wish to be considered for an additional same-region 2nd or 3rd language. Priority for funding will go to FAOs below 2/2 and FASs below 1/1 preparing for a FAO/FAS assignment and DLPT. All TAD LSP requests must be command-endorsed and meet all COVID-19 travel restriction requirements. LSP request 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](#).

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Major Eric Hovey Joins Foreign Area Officer Association Board of Governors

This question and answer originally appeared in the Foreign Area Officer Association Journal

The opportunity to learn another language and work in impactful, interagency roles overseas seemed like an incredible opportunity.

Editor's Note: From time to time the FAOA Journal is pleased to present an interview with a member of your Board of Governors (BOG) to provide insight into their background and motivation for joining the FAOA. We hope to not only provide more insight into the current membership and their goals for the organization, but to encourage new members to run and participate in the BOG too. In this edition, we meet one of the newest BoG members, Major Eric Hovey, U.S. Marine Corps.

What is your background?

I am an active duty Marine Corps intelligence officer and was selected to be an 8245 Africa FAO in December 2017. I completed my master's degree in regional security studies at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, followed by French at the Defense Language Institute, then completed one year of in-region training in Rabat, Morocco.

Before becoming a FAO, I was stationed with a USMC CH-46 helicopter squadron (HMM-265) in Okinawa, Japan; an infantry battalion in North Carolina (1st Bn, 8th Marines); and worked on UAV acquisitions within NAVAIR. I was fortunate to have varied and diverse opportunities to deploy with both air and ground units. In 2011, I deployed with HMM-265 to Atsugi, Japan where we supported relief operations following a massive earthquake off the coast of Sendai. That was also my first opportunity to see the intersection of DoD and diplomacy, since all our squadron's flight operations required careful pre-coordination with the Japanese. I think a lot about my first deployment with 1st Bn, 8th Marines these days, because we were mostly in Romania, Bulgaria, and Norway as part of the "Black Sea Rotational Force" (BSRF). Our mission was predominantly theater security cooperation exercises with European partners and allies who were, understandably, wary of Russian aggression following the 2014 invasion of Ukraine and annexation of Crimea. I am glad that some of our Marines had the opportunity to train with the Ukrainians during that deployment and

I am glad that some of our Marines had the opportunity to train with the Ukrainians during that deployment and know that it was time well spent.



The author and his family pose in djellabas with their wonderful Moroccan nounou, in 2021.

know that it was time well spent.

Currently, I am a student at the Joint Military Attaché School and am looking forward to my next assignment as the Marine Attaché to Liberia.

What got you interested in the FAO community?

The first time I remember hearing about FAOs was when I was stationed in Japan and a good friend told me about the program. He applied and became an 8242 Eurasia FAO. Years later, I caught up with him when I was deployed to Romania with BSRF in 2016 and he stopped by as part of his in-region training. I was impressed by his new-found Georgian fluency and, after the deployment, enjoyed hearing about his many travels throughout Eastern Europe. The opportunity to learn another language and work in impactful, interagency roles overseas seemed like an incredible opportunity.

What is a funny and/or embarrassing personal anecdote that FAOs would appreciate?

When I was stationed in Rabat, Ambassador David Fischer and Mrs. Jennifer Fischer graciously hosted a holiday party at their residence and invited everyone on post to attend. This was shortly after President Trump had recognized Moroccan sovereignty over

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Major Eric Hovey Joins Foreign Area Officer Association Board of Governors, Continued

I believe that FAOs have an important role to play in engaging with U.S. partners and allies, worldwide, and ensuring access for the U.S. military. I want to ensure that FAOs in all branches can progress and contribute to meaningful U.S. missions, worldwide.

the Western Sahara -- a seismic foreign policy shift for the region -- and so they were also quite busy managing the many inquiries and questions from the press. The Fischers greeted all their guests in the foyer and took pictures with them, both professionally and with personal phones. There was just one problem: I mistakenly grabbed Mrs. Fischer's phone without realizing it, as we passed through.

Shortly thereafter, we were inside talking with friends and saw Mrs. Fischer's assistant quickly making her way amongst the guests with a concerned look. She reached our group -- "Had we seen Mrs. Fischer's phone, by chance, could we check?" I shook my head no, but then had a sinking feeling as my fingers touched the unfamiliar phone cover in my pocket and realized my mistake. Her assistant was as relieved as I was mortified! It is to the Ambassador and Mrs. Fischer's great credit that they were gracious about the entire affair and went on to give a great press conference later that day.

Why did you want to join the BOG?

My biggest motivation for joining the BOG was to try to increase the advocacy for USMC FAOs. Unlike the Army, Navy, and Air Force, Marines do not have a single-track FAO program, so FAOs often must do a challenging tap-dance between balancing key billets for their primary MOS monitor and the standard FAO track. This is not too hard for most intelligence officers, but many other talented Marines who are or would be great FAOs struggle to have the same balance. I believe that FAOs have an important role to play in engaging with U.S. partners and allies, worldwide, and ensuring access for the U.S. military. I want to ensure that FAOs in all branches can progress and contribute to meaningful U.S. missions, worldwide.

What are you reading right now?

I am reading *In Extremis: the Life and Death of the War Correspondent Marie Colvin*. My brother, John, recommended it to me and it's pretty riveting. Marie Colvin was an American journalist who covered con-

flicts across the world and was able to secure exclusive interviews with such polarizing figures as Yasser Arafat and Muammar Gaddafi. From a FAO standpoint, it is an interesting read because you realize that, as an American journalist, she was able to achieve a lot of access to foreign officials that would simply not be possible for government officials. In pre-Desert Storm Iraq, the U.S. deputy ambassador, Joe Wilson, evidently took advantage of Colvin's insights to shape his cables back to Washington regarding Saddam's intentions. While the focus is mainly on Colvin's life, across highs and lows, there are still lots of good takeaways and insights for FAOs.

Do you know an IAP Marine who should be profiled in the IAP Newsletter? If so, send an e-mail to IAPMarine@usmc.mil.

IAP Marines Participate In U.S. Marine Corps-French Armed Forces Staff Talks

Over these two days, participants identified functional areas of mutual interest, to include cooperative deployments, amphibious exercises, concepts development, and mutual technologies of interest.



U.S. Marine and U.S. Navy representatives take a photo with their French counterparts during bilateral Staff Talks held 30-31 May 2022.

These Staff Talks took place concurrently to CMC's visit to France, where he participated in the annual Belleau Wood Commemoration and held discussions with French senior leaders.

On 30-31 May, U.S. Marine representatives engaged with U.S. Navy, French Army, and French Navy counterparts as part of annual Service-level bilateral Staff Talks. Over these two days, participants identified functional areas of mutual interest, to include cooperative deployments, amphibious exercises, concepts development, and mutual technologies of interest. Held at the one-star level, these Staff Talks formalized bilateral ambitions among sister Services and gave direction to planners to enable NATO integration.

These Staff Talks took place concurrent to the Commandant of the Marine Corps visit to France, where he participated in the annual Belleau Wood Commemoration and held discussions with French senior leaders.

Many of the Marine Corps participants were FAOs and RAOs and played a key role in planning and executing this engagement.

Featured Articles by IAP Marines and Foreign Partners

Booth, Christopher; Mills, Captain Walker D., **Marines Need a Few Good Mules**; Proceedings, Vol. 148/4/1,430, April 2022, [Marines Need a Few Good Mules](#)

Hovey, Eric S., **How to Win Friends and Influence Shipbuilding**; The Marine Corps Gazette, June 2022 [How to Win Friends and Influence Shipbuilding](#)

Mills, Walker D., **Navy's Red Hill debacle is both a warning and an opportunity**; THE HILL, June 2022 [Navy's Red Hill debacle is both a warning and an opportunity | The Hill \(ampproject.org\)](#)

Poirot, Nicolas., **Stand In Forces: A French Perspective**; The Marine Corps Gazette, May 2022 [Stand In Forces: A French Perspective](#)

Salene, Sean., **The Case for Allies and Partners**; The Marine Corps Gazette, May 2022

Colonel William Eddy: A Marine International Affairs Legacy

Deployed to France in World War I, he earned the Distinguished Service Cross while conducting reconnaissance in the German lines. He then earned the Silver Star at Belleau Wood.



Colonel William Eddy (back left) stands with U.S. Navy Captain Keating at a diplomatic engagement in the Middle East.

Photos and article courtesy of The National Museum of the Marine Corps (NMMC)

In North Africa, Eddy was promoted to colonel, assisted Operation Torch, and began working for the Office of Strategic Services (O.S.S.).

Movies often portray larger than life heroes such as Indiana Jones or James Bond. But every now and again, there is a Marine that could give those heroes a run for their money.

The son of Presbyterian missionaries, William Eddy was born in 1896, in Sidon, Lebanon. A graduate of Princeton University, he was commissioned in June 1917. Deployed to France in World War I, he earned the Distinguished Service Cross while conducting reconnaissance in the German lines. He then earned the Silver Star at Belleau Wood. After the war, Eddy medically retired and returned to Princeton to earn his Ph.D. In 1923, he chaired the

English Department at the American University of Cairo (Egypt) and became fluent in Arabic. Dr. Eddy was later a professor at Dartmouth and the president of Hobart and William Smith Colleges. In World War II, Eddy returned to the Marines as a lieutenant colonel with the Office of Naval Intelligence. He was the Naval Attaché in Cairo and in Tangier, Morocco. In North Africa, Eddy was promoted to colonel, assisted Operation Torch, and began working for the Office of Strategic Services (O.S.S.).

In 1944, Eddy left active duty to accept an appointment to the State Department as a "Special Assis-

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A Marine International Affairs Legacy: Colonel William Eddy, Continued

In 1944, Eddy left active duty to accept an appointment to the State Department as a "Special Assistant to the American Minister" to Saudi Arabia.

tant to the American Minister" to Saudi Arabia. In this role, he toured the Persian Gulf and befriended King Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, of Saudi Arabia. The officer turned diplomat was the king's interpreter for his historic meeting with President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Following the war, Eddy helped merge a department of the O.S.S. with sections of the State Department (to form the Bureau of Intelligence and Research) and was involved with the passing of the National Security Act of 1947, which enabled the creation of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Ultimately, Eddy received the Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, three Silver Stars, Legion of Merit, and Purple Heart. He died in Beirut, Lebanon in 1962 and is buried with a Marine Corps headstone in Sidon, Lebanon.



Col Eddy translates President Roosevelt's message to Saudi King Ibn Saud.

Professional Development Opportunities

ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023 NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL DISTANCE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES// MARADMIN 162/22

1. The purpose of this message is to solicit applicants for advanced degree distance learning and certificate distance learning programs administered through the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in accordance with the references. Program start dates begin during academic year (AY) 2022 fourth quarter (Q4)(July-September 2022) through AY 2023 Q4 (July-September 2023).

2. The list of all available distance learning programs and certificates is located on the NPS distance learning graduate education website <https://nps.edu/web/dl>.

2.A. Education opportunities are available that align to Force Design 2030 and Talent Management 2030 concepts and capabilities Interested Marines should refer to MARADMIN 162/22 [HERE](#) for application instructions.

FISCAL YEAR 2022 SECURITY COOPERATION TRAINING DETACHMENT COURSE DATES 261/22

On 19 April 2022, Marine Corps Intelligence Schools (MCIS) established the Security Cooperation Training Detachment (SCTD) and assumed oversight of Security Cooperation (SC) programs of instruction. MCIS provides an O-6 level command authority for SCTD. The purpose of this MARADMIN is to announce the Fiscal Year 2022 course dates for the SCTD courses. For the remainder of Fiscal Year 2022, SCTD will conduct three open enrollment Marine Advisor Courses (N03KYK3) and two open enrollment Security Cooperation Planners Courses (N020JX3) in order to support SC training requirements. For more information and course dates, see the MARADMIN [HERE](#)

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IAP Marines Participate In U.S. Marine Corps- Australian Army Staff Talks



Major General Salene and other U.S. Marine representatives take a photo with their Australian hosts during staff talks held at Victoria Barracks in Sydney, Australia from 2-4 May 2022.

Twenty USMC representatives lead by Major General Sean Salene joined 17 of our Australian Army colleagues and friends at the historic Victoria Barracks in Sydney, Australia from 2 - 4 May 2022.

Over the three days Marines and their Australian colleagues developed mutually beneficial interperson-

al relationships that will enhance interoperability and modernization efforts over the next 12 months.

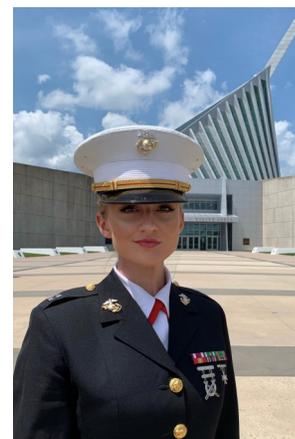
The Staff Talks concluded with the development of 12 agreed-to-actions to be implemented over the year, and the signing of the USMC - Australian Bilateral Service Cooperation Plan.

Regional Affairs Officer Graduates Command and Staff College with Distinction

Last week Captain Brianna Burgett graduated from Command and Staff College in Quantico, VA finishing her second Master's Program. She completed a Master's in Military Studies as a Distinguished Graduate, completed the Gray Scholars Program, and won the Women, Peace, and Security writing award for a paper she wrote on Gender Perspective in Somalia. The paper examines the impact of incorporating gender perspective and Women, Peace, and Security considerations to better understand complex security environments.

Captain Burgett is an Africa Regional Affairs Officer that worked at Marine Corps Forces, Europe and Africa, and has worked with Partner Nations across the U.S. Africa Command area of responsibility.

Capt Burgett completed a Master's in Military Studies as a Distinguished Graduate, and won the Women, Peace, and Security writing award.



Marine Foreign Area Officer Featured in “Faces of Naval Postgraduate School”

This question and answer originally appeared in the “Faces of NPS: Global Impact” Newsletter

I applied for the FAO program because I see it as an impactful way to serve our country through working in the people business (across cultures), learning and using foreign language, and connecting systems and people to solve problems at many levels.

Capt. Natalie Poggemeyer commissioned into the U.S. Marine Corps in 2013 through NROTC after graduating from the University of Southern California with a B.S. in Kinesiology. Her primary MOS is Communication Strategy & Operations (formerly Public Affairs). She has previously served at U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific; II Marine Expeditionary Force; and the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit. She completed the Foreign Area Officer (Eurasia) training pipeline in June 2022 after completing her master's degree in Security Studies at NPS, Russian language at DLI, and one year In-Region Training based at U.S. Embassy Riga, Latvia. She is currently the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing COMMSTRAT Deputy Director, where she is fulfilling the USMC dual career track rotating between COMMSTRAT assignments and FAO assignments.

What was the most impactful part of your studies at the Naval Postgraduate School?

One of the most impactful parts of my studies at NPS was the unique environment created by the convergence of military and civilian academia. The blend of material, professors, thought-leaders, creativity and momentum fostered free and critical thinking, unbounded by procedural constraints of a typical military institution, yet focused on the very relevant problem sets we face within it.

Specifically, I really enjoyed the course “Media and War” with Dr. Mabry. Little did I know that the discussions and papers from that course in Fall of 2019 would be more relevant than ever in Spring 2022 as the world watches a land war in Europe through the lens of all means of media.

What led you to NPS and what factors led to your area of study while attending NPS?

I came to NPS for the Security Studies (Eurasia) master's degree program as the first step in the Foreign Area Officer program. As a COMMSTRAT officer, I worked with a few U.S. Marine Attachés throughout

the world while on exercises and deployments, and the critical role they played connecting U.S. forces with host nation forces, smoothing friction, seizing opportunities - it really appealed to me. Little did I know my eyes would be opened to a much larger security cooperation apparatus than just the attaché service, but this was the

catalyst for my interest. I applied for the FAO program because I see it as an impactful way to serve our country through working in the people business (across cultures), learning and using foreign language, and connecting systems and people to solve problems at many levels.

How did your research and time at NPS help to prepare you for your current assignment?

I was not previously a student of International Relations or Political Science, and NPS did a great job of providing a rapid-fire introduction, then ushering us into deeper themes and more specific topics, all in one year. The foundation (for example, Introduction to IR with Dr. Meierding *shoutout to a great professor*) has been a lens I subconsciously applied without even knowing it whenever I traveled to a new country during In-Region Training. Power transition theory, economic interdependence, balancing vs. bandwagoning, etc. All the theories become very real applications upon exposure to countries' geopolitical dispositions in this line of work.

The invasion of Ukraine in February was a major escalation of the Russo-Ukrainian War. How has the invasion affected Latvia both cul-



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Marine Foreign Area Officer Featured in

“Faces of Naval Postgraduate School,” Continued.

turally and politically? How has it affected the U.S.-Latvia relationship and/or Latvia’s relationship with NATO?

Despite the tragic and appalling nature of the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February, it was an incredible time to be serving in the region and witness the strength and resolve of Latvia, NATO, and the U.S. in response. Immediately following the initial invasion, Latvians came together in support of Ukraine as a nation and as individuals. As refugees fleeing conflict poured into the country (to the tune of about 30,000 by June), Latvians welcomed them with open arms, offering homes, cars, jobs, and more. I think the immense support came from a place of deep and painful understanding, as Latvia endured three occupations, often under brutal conditions, during the 20th century until finally gaining their independence in 1990.

Following the invasion, the U.S.-Latvia relationship and Latvia’s relationship with NATO were strengthened and prioritized. The vocal and tangible support was immediate and persistent, and the very poignant reminder that the threat is real galvanized allies across the region. I witnessed U.S. Embassies and Defense Cooperation Entities focused on assisting Ukraine and listening to NATO allies and other partner nations’ concerns and desires for increased NATO and U.S. posture in the region.

Can you explain the FAO role and why it is important to have military officers with re-

gional expertise? How do DOD educational institutions like NPS and DLI support this?

There is no subtlety in the influence of geopolitics on military strategy in today’s world. Look East and see it, look West and see it. In this arguably multipolar world order, every aspect of DIME (Diplomatic Informational Military Economic) plays a critical role in U.S. national security. By arming a contingent of our military officers with a historical and practical understanding of certain regions, we are building in relevance to policy development, enhancing defense cooperation, fostering interagency cooperation, and ultimately maintaining the primacy and capability of the U.S. military in service of our national security. No other country has defense cooperation apparatuses working in close partnerships across the entire world. DOD educational institutions are foundational in creating a professionalized corps of service members that can understand context and nuance across cultural, political, and literal boundaries. Two and a half years ago, I was writing papers on frozen conflicts and NATO aspirations. Three months ago, I was standing 70 kilometers south of the Russian border with Georgia, with eyes on the occupied territory of South Ossetia. One month ago, I was in Stockholm as the Swedes applied for NATO membership. As the world witnesses unforeseen interest in the Alliance, and a challenged Eastern European order, the relevance of a FAO is an understatement!

DOD educational institutions are foundational in creating a professionalized corps of service members that can understand context and nuance across cultural, political, and literal boundaries.

FAO Association Honors Recent Graduates of Marine Corps War College

By: Maj Lauren Serrano

The start of summer means the end of the academic year and graduation across the many U.S. military War Colleges. The FAO Association recognizes the contributions of outstanding Service Members through their Writing Awards Program. The FAO Association recognized Singapore Army LTC Stanley

Lim and U.S. Marine Corps LtCol Bradley Fultz for excellence in International Affairs as recent graduates of the Marine Corps War College. LtCol Fultz is a Europe FAO. Congratulations to you both and best of luck on your next assignments!

Left: Maj Lauren Serrano, the FAO Association Secretary and Middle East FAO, presents LtCol Fultz with a FAO Association writing award



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Marine Personnel Exchange Program Officer Supports U.S. Naval Academy Visit to Colombia

By: Capt Walker D. Mills

In June, Captain Walker D. Mills, the Marine Corps exchange officer aboard the Colombian Naval Academy, La Escuela Naval de Cadetes 'Almirante Padilla,' helped support a visit by midshipmen from the United States Naval Academy. The three midshipmen were escorted by Marine major David Serrano during their visit to Cartagena, Colombia, which was a cultural enrichment trip and an opportunity for the midshipmen to make a presentation to Colombian cadets on cyberwarfare. As part of a cyber engagement, the midshipmen also got a brief by a Colombian officer studying for a doctorate in cyber at the Colombian Naval Academy.

While the midshipmen were visiting Cartagena, Captain Mills helped translate, coordinate and facilitate the visit, which was planned by the U.S. Naval Mission. In addition to visiting the Colombian Naval Academy, where the midshipmen toured the academy and had lunch with the Colombian cadets, the US midshipmen also visited Colombian special forces units, the headquarters of the Caribbean Naval Forces Command, the salvage diving command and operational units like a frigate and the submarine command. After the official portions of the visit, the US delegation was able to unwind and enjoy the famous Colombian food and nightlife inside the walled city.

The visit was a success and received coverage on social media by the Caribbean Naval Force and the Colombian Naval Academy. The U.S. midshipmen were able to engage with Colombian officers at all ranks and Colombian naval cadets. None of the US midshipmen had been to Colombia or Latin America and they were able to improve their understanding of a close US partner in the region through their visit.

Capt Walker Mills is a Personnel Exchange Program officer assigned to La Escuela Naval de Cadetes 'Almirante Padilla' (Naval Academy or ENAP) in Cartagena, Colombia.

The U.S. midshipmen were able to engage with Colombian officers at all ranks and Colombian naval cadets.

The visit was a success and received coverage on social media by the Caribbean Naval Force and the Colombian Naval Academy.



Above: Captain Mills translates as U.S. Naval Academy Midshipmen visit Colombian military units and facilities.

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Foreign Area Officer Supports Republic of Korea Marine Corps Visit to Marine Aircraft Group 39

Article by: LtCol Alexander Cole, Photos by: LCpl Andrew Cortez

From 16-20 May 2022, the Commander of the Republic of Korea Marine Corps Marine Aircraft Group (ROKMC MAG) visited Marine Aircraft Group (MAG) 39, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, and attended the Marine Aviation Readiness and Operations Symposium (MAROS) in San Diego, CA to learn about utility and attack helicopter operations, training, maintenance, and logistics support.

The ROK MAG was re-established in December 2021 in Pohang, ROK after a 48 year hiatus. Standing up the ROK MAG demonstrated an increased growth and significant commitment to ROKMC aviation capabilities. The ROK MAG currently consists of MUH-1 maritime utility helicopter squadrons, a training squadron, logistics and maintenance units, and airfield support units. The ROKMC is also developing an attack helicopter variant to be fielded in the future. To learn about attack and utility helicopter capabilities, organization, and best practices, the ROK MAG visited MAG-39, HMLA-169, and MALS-39 to meet with their leadership, talk with subject matter experts, and see their aircraft and facilities. The ROK MAG also toured MCAS Miramar to learn about how they support and facilitate attack aircraft training, ordnance operations, and maintenance. Lastly, the ROK MAG spent three days attending the MAROS where they received briefings on aircraft capabilities, future technological initiatives, and discussed aviation topics with other commanders from throughout the U.S. Marine Corps.

The relationship between the U.S. Marine Corps and ROK Marine Corps is very strong and this is an example of how we continue to increase each other's capabilities and improve warfighting interoperability. U.S. Marine Corps Forces Korea is the USMC representative to the ROKMC, and as the LNO, I was grateful to help organize and escort this trip. This visit increased ROKMC aviation capabilities, and helped strengthen the alliance on the Korean Peninsula.

The ROK MAG was re-established in December 2021 in Pohang, ROK after a 48 year hiatus.

...the ROK MAG took a tour of MAG-39, HMLA-169, and MALS-39 to meet with their leadership, discuss with their subject matter experts, and see their aircraft and work spaces.



LtCol Cole (center) looks on as Republic of Korea Marines exchange gifts with U.S. Marine Col. Nathan Marvel, left, the commanding officer of Marine Aircraft Group 39.



Republic of Korea Marines get a tour of a UH-1Y Venom helicopter during a visit to Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, California, May 15, 2022.

LtCol Alexander G. Cole is a North-East Asia FAO currently assigned to U.S. Marine Corps Forces Korea and is serving as the Liaison Officer to the Republic of Korea Marine Corps.

International Affairs Program Newsletter

Selection Board Results

Congratulations to New Selectees!

FY22 2ND QUARTER INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM (IAP) EXPERIENCE TRACK SELECTION PANEL RESULTS// 227/22

For more information, read the MARADMIN [HERE](#)

Name	Grade	PMOS	AMOS	Designation	Region
Ans, A.B.	O3	0202	8247	FAO	Europe
Brousseau, M.P.	O4	0802	8247	FAO	Europe
Christianson, G.I.	O4	1302	8241	FAO	Latin America
Cole, A.G.	O5	7563	8243	FAO	NE Asia
DeLuca, J.A.	O5	0802	8224	RAO	Middle East
Demer, D.S.	O6	8040	8226	RAO	South Asia
Flambert, P.	O4	0302	8247	FAO	Europe
Grader, N.J.	O4	0302	8247	FAO	Europe
Ho, Y.E.	O4	4402	8243	FAO	NE Asia
Ho, Y.E.	O4	4402	8248	FAO	SE Asia
Matthai, N.M.	O3	1702	8225	RAO	Africa
Revell, L.	E9	0291	8231	FAS	Latin America
Richardson, C.H.	O4	0302	8223	RAO	NE Asia

FY22 SUPPLEMENTAL PERSONNEL EXCHANGE PROGRAM (PEP) SELECTION PANEL RESULTS// 291/22

For more information, read the MARADMIN [HERE](#)

Name	Grade	BMOS	Billet	MCC	Report
Giera, B.R.	E6	0369	MCMAP/PT Inst.	K02	Sept 22

International Affairs Program Newsletter

Selection Board Results, Continued

Congratulations to New Selectees!

FY23 SECURITY COOPERATION OFFICER SELECTION PANEL RESULTS//392/22

For more information, read the MARADMIN [HERE](#)

Name	Grade	PMOS	Country	Date	MCC	JDAL
Araica, E	O4	0402	Colombia	Jul 23	N04	00006147
Chu, A.M.	O4	3002	Philippines	Jul 23	NAL	00007277
Hotalen, J.R.	O4	0402	Angola	Aug 23	NFB	00108945

2023 GROUND AND INTELLIGENCE PERSONNEL EXCHANGE PROGRAM SELECTION PANEL RESULTS/394/22

For more information, read the MARADMIN [HERE](#)

Name	Grade	PMOS	Billet	Country	Report
Lehane, J.G.	O6	8041	AMPHIBIOUS PLANNER	AUS	Nov 23
Delisi, J.J.	O3	0202	MCFPEP INTELLIGENCE OFF	AUS	TBD
Dalton, E.W.	O3	0202	ASSISTANT OPERATIONS OFF	AUS	Jun 23
Floresmar, G.	E8	0393	MCFPEP EXCHANGE LAR INSTR	AUS	Dec 23
Brewer, J.M.	E7	0369	TACTICS INSTRUCTOR	AUS	Dec 23
Halverson, L.	O4	0402	MCFPEP EXCHANGE OFFICER	FRA	Aug 23
Labadie, J.R.	E6	0321	MCFPEP EXCHANGE SNCO	NLD	Aug 23
Godbey, A.S.	O4	3002	MCFPEP EXCHANGE OFFICER	PER	Jul 23
Frey, C.M.	O5	0302	MCFPEP UK USMC REP	GBR	Jul 23
Nerdahl, M.A.	O3	0202	MCFPEP INTELLIGENCE OFF	GBR	Jul 23
Cruz, J.R.	E7	0321	MCFPEP EXCHANGE COMMANDO	GBR	Jul 23

International Affairs Program Newsletter

Selection Board Results, Continued

Congratulations to New Selectees!

IAP Marines Selected by FY23 Lieutenant Colonel Command Screening Board

For more information, read the MARADMIN [HERE](#)

Name	MOS	Command
Bebell, Martin	7202	MASS-I, MACG-28
Britain, Jason	0402	MWSS-273, MAG-31
Culver, Nicholas	7557	VMGR-252, MAG-14
Fretwell, Timothy	3002	2ND STORAGE BN
Harris, Jason	7532	VMMT-204, MAG-26
Perazzolaash, Laura	1302	WWBN EAST
Rigaut, Philipp	0302	I-I IST BN, 25TH MAR
Schierling, Daniel	7532	VMM-266, MAG-26
Tenold, Bryceson	0302	3D BN, 4TH MAR
Walker, Daniel	0402	CLB-2
Yang, Adam	0602	2ND RT BN, MCRD PI

Questions? Contact us!
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