



WINTER 2021 ISSUE

# INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM COMMUNITY UPDATE

IAPMARINE@USMC.MIL



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*Maj. Philip Flambert, PEP, deploys with  
6th French light armored brigade to  
Operation Barkhane (Page 2)*

## VTC UPDATE SUMMARY

On February 12, 2021 the International Affairs Program (PLU-8) hosted a VTC for its 2nd Quarter FY 21 community update. The VTC began with a brief from the Center for Regional and Security Studies (CRSS), which covered the USMC transition from CAOCL to CRSS per MARADMIN 227/20. The CRSS brief emphasized the importance of FAOs/RAOs/FASs in fulfilling ongoing unit-led requirements for Language, Regional Expertise and Culture (LREC) training.

LtCol Christopher Dellow, the IAP coordinator then discussed the IAP structure, factors that influence billet assignments, and other current initiatives. LtCol Dellow explained that IAP is an advocate agency that works with MMOA to prioritize FAO/RAO billets listed on the Authorized Strength Report (ASR). Study track FAOs/RAOs owing a payback tour are assigned to billets that are coordinated between PLU-8, the Grad Ed monitor, and PMOS monitors. Whereas, 2nd tour IAP and experience track Marines are assigned based on the priorities of their PMOS monitor which typically fills IAP billets after PMOS billets and 8006 billets are filled. LtCol Dellow and other participants emphasized the importance for Marines to excel in their PMOS in order to increase the probability of getting assigned subsequent IAP utilization tours while the IAP program remains dual-track.

Currently IAP is conducting a comprehensive review of all IAP billets to ensure the needs and priorities of the USMC is being met, and to provide feedback which will serve as a baseline for service-wide re-prioritization. The community update VTC was attended by over 100 participants and provided an opportunity for Marines to get answers to questions covering a wide range of topics. The meeting was a success and plans are being made to host VTCs on a more frequent basis. If you missed the meeting, the link to the video recording can be found on the IAP Intelink website.

# IAP IN THE NEWS

## MINISTERE DE L'EUROPE ET DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES -

"I came to France for two years as part of an exchange between the U.S. marine corps (USMC) and the 6th French light armored brigade," said Major Philip. "It is a chance for me to be here with Operation Barkhane and even more to participate in the operation with the unit of the Foreign Legion that welcomes me daily in France."

At 36, this makes him the first American to be deployed in Operation Barkhane as part of a desert battle group. Assuming the function of S35 (planning officer), he assists the chief of staff of the group and its chief of operations in the planning of actions carried out in the field. "I live a rather unique experience, very rare, with a lot of responsibilities" he says with a smile. "I find that being in "opex" (exterior operation) with my legion friends is an extraordinary way of knowing the French army in its truest form, in operation."

For this American with impeccable French thanks to a childhood spent in Belgium and a French-speaking mother, his insertion in the heart of a French operational center allows him to be confronted with other procedures. "Professionally I learn a lot from what I see and especially from the way you approach problems that Americans or French may encounter in operation."

In these rustic living conditions, Major Flambert feels particularly comfortable. "I was joking this morning with the chief of operations telling him that I felt at home here," he says with a smile. "The USMC is often sent in the opening phase of a theater before the US Army, canvas tents and basic comfort I know it all well. But the soldier's paradox is that it is often in these harsh conditions that cohesion is the strongest!"

From his experience as a staff officer in Operation Barkhane, Major Flambert already has strong recollections. "For me, the projection of the group's operation center on the ground was a significant moment, seeing in real time the planning to which I had contributed unfold as we had worked it out collectively."

At a time when interoperability between allied armed forces is essential, the type of exchange in which the Major Flambert participates matters particularly. "It is extremely beneficial between partner countries to practice this kind of exchange. Interoperability is just a word, but the important thing is to put it into practice at the tactical level. I think it is essential to have foreign officers inserted in both sides to really learn the decision-making process."

Led by the French armed forces, in partnership with the "G5 Sahel" countries, Operation Barkhane was launched on August 1, 2014. It is established on a strategic approach based on a logic of partnership with the main countries of the Sahel-Saharan band (SSB): Burkina-Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Chad. It includes around 5,100 soldiers whose mission is to fight against armed terrorist groups and to support the armed forces of partner countries so that they can tackle this threat.

## Featured Articles by IAP Marines

The Diplomat

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/10/southeast-asia-is-rushing-headlong-toward-an-asian-fall/>

Maj Daniel Grant, S.E. Asia FAO

*Southeast Asia is Rushing Headlong Toward an 'Asian Fall'*

*The U.S. government needs to prepare for a rash of political crises, as COVID-19 exposes the region's endemic governance failures.*

FAOA Journal of international Affairs

[https://urldefense.com/v3/\\_\\_https://faoajournal.substack.com/\\_\\_;!!May37g!eCbHvWUx3HkCvCx7f3b6L3GUH88-3F6Ow3BvPesv0mEx8Epo8fF1AM0FQ-nYQPomfA\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://faoajournal.substack.com/__;!!May37g!eCbHvWUx3HkCvCx7f3b6L3GUH88-3F6Ow3BvPesv0mEx8Epo8fF1AM0FQ-nYQPomfA$)

Capt Michael Kristek Sr., Eurasia FAO

*The Nature of Russia's Threat to NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence in the Baltic States*

LtCol Romeo Cubas, LATAM FAO

*Foreign Area Officers' Perspective on Security Cooperation Organizations and the Defense Attaché System: Observations, Inefficiencies, and Proposed Solutions*

LtCol Laura Perazzola, Africa FAO

*Foreign Area Officers' Perspective on Security Cooperation Organizations and the Defense Attaché System: Observations, Inefficiencies, and Proposed Solutions*

Capt Spencer Marsh, LATAM FAO

*Foreign Area Officers' Perspective on Security Cooperation Organizations and the Defense Attaché System: Observations, Inefficiencies, and Proposed Solutions*

Marine Corps Gazette

<https://mca-marines.org/wp-content/uploads/MCG-January-2021.pdf>

LtCol Gregory DeMarco, N.E. Asia FAO

*We Are Not Inventory - Talent management for next-generation warfare*

# CONGRATULATIONS NEW SELECTEES

MARADMIN 052/21, 053/21, 717/20, 670/20

## **FY21 1ST QUARTER INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM (IAP) EXPERIENCE TRACK SELECTION PANEL RESULTS**

Capt Aldhahraa, Y.H. FAO Mid East  
Maj Hooker, J.A. RAO S.E. Asia  
Capt Liversedge, N.P. FAO Eurasia, Africa  
Col Martinez, A.V. RAO Mid East  
Maj Saunders, D.E. FAO Mid East  
Capt Scott, J.B. FAO LATAM  
Maj Walraven, E.A. FAO S.E. Asia

## **FY21 FOREIGN AREA STAFF NON- COMMISSIONED OFFICER PROGRAM FULL AND PARTIAL STUDY TRACK SUPPLEMENTAL SELECTION PANEL RESULTS**

SSgt Nixon, M.C. N.E. Asia  
GySgt Vaquerocastro, LATAM

## **SUPPLEMENTAL PERSONNEL EXCHANGE PROGRAM (PEP) SELECTION PANEL RESULTS**

SSgt Jones, M.R. CAN Intel Specialist  
SSgt Harcum, E.R. CAN Radio Bn Chief  
SSgt Sauli, P.I. CHL Tactics/WPNS Inst.  
SSgt Litchfield, T.W. GBR WPNS/MRKSHIP Inst.  
GySgt Mullen, W.K. GBR MCMAP/PT Inst.

## **FY20 4TH QUARTER INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM (IAP) EXPERIENCE TRACK SELECTION PANEL RESULTS**

Capt Ortins, A.A. RAO Europe  
Capt Wu, C.Y. FAO N.E. Asia  
Maj Moran, D.A. FAO LATAM (R)  
Maj Krempin, J.O. FAO Europe  
Capt Traynor, C.J. FAO Europe  
Maj Truog, P.A. FAO Europe  
Maj Cousart, S.Y. FAO LATAM (R)  
LtCol Fleischacker, J.M. RAO Africa (R)  
Maj Hull, B.L. RAO Eurasia, Asia  
1stLt Alcalá, A.R. FAO LATAM  
Maj Pluas, B.P. FAO LATAM  
Maj Lim, A.H. FAO N.E. Asia  
LtCol Kyzar, V.N. FAO N.E. Asia

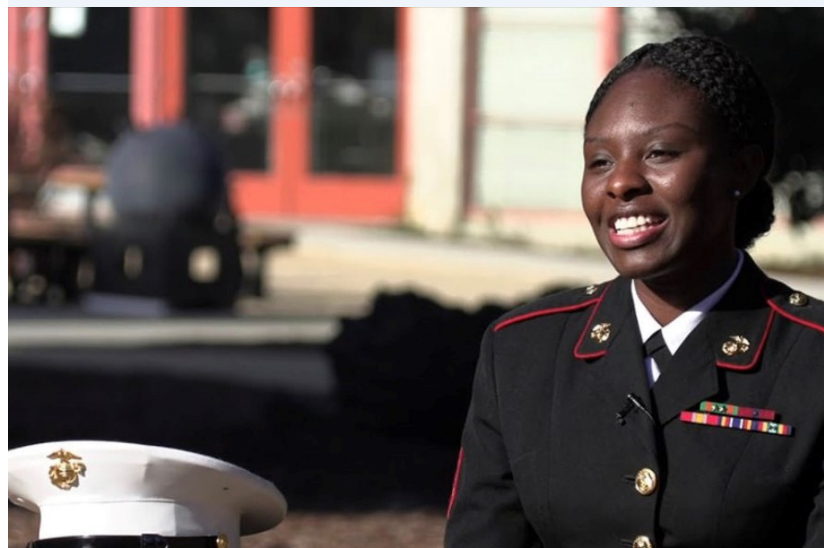


(Above) MSgt Yoon (NEA FAS) and others in attendance of  
NPS GPC Graduate Certificate Program

## **HQMC has published MARADMIN 689/20, UPDATE #2: EXTENSION OF DEFENSE LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY TEST (DLPT) SCORES THROUGH OPERATIONAL IMPACTS OF 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

All DLPTs, including the Oral Proficiency Interview, with  
an expiration date between 16 March 2020 and 1 January  
2021 have been extended until 1 April 2021. The  
MARADMIN is publicly available at:  
[https://www.marines.mil/News/Messages/Messages-  
Display/Article/2417833/update-2-extension-of-defense-  
language-proficiency-test-dlpt-scores-through-o/](https://www.marines.mil/News/Messages/Messages-Display/Article/2417833/update-2-extension-of-defense-language-proficiency-test-dlpt-scores-through-o/)

(Below) Sgt Petgrave, NE Asia Foreign Area SNCOs In-  
Training, was featured on the NPS Fall Quarter Graduation  
video. Listen to her inspiring comments. Gen David H.  
Berger, 38th Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps  
provided commencement remarks.  
Read the full graduation story at:  
[https://nps.edu/-/marine-corps-commandant-senior-  
leaders-commend-fall-quarter-graduates](https://nps.edu/-/marine-corps-commandant-senior-leaders-commend-fall-quarter-graduates)





# PROGRAM UPDATES

## LREC Sustainment Program (LSP):

FY21 LSP is open and Q2 funding is available. Please submit your requests for approval and processing. **Please review the Updated LSP Request Procedures on the IAP website prior to submitting your request.** You must have a FAO/RAO/FAS MOS and a current DLPT to request funds for language sustainment or meet the JFAO Phase II sustainment course requirements to request funds for attendance to regional sustainment courses. Priority is to your principal assignment 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 FAO's below 2/2 and FAS' below 1/1 preparing for FAO/FAS assignment and DLPT. All TAD LSP requests must be command endorsed. Requirements, instructions, and templates can be found at:

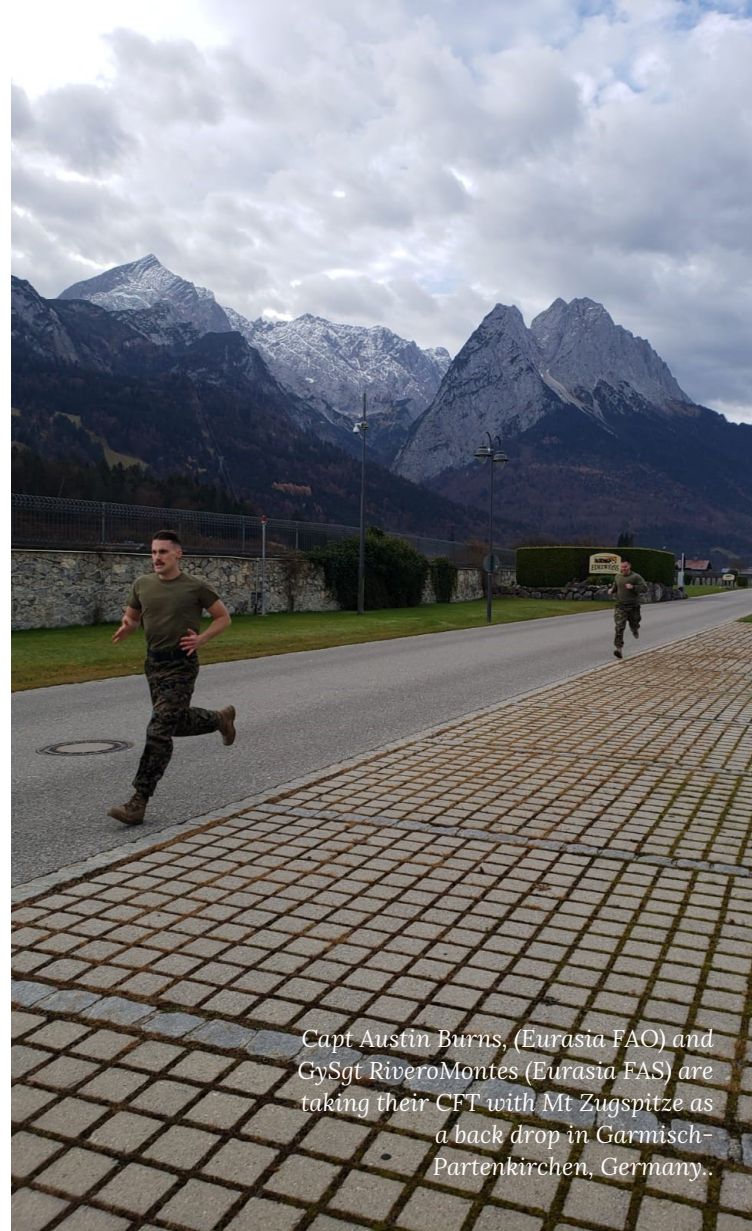
<http://www.hqmc.marines.mil/ppo/Units/Strategy-and-Plans-Division-PL/International-Affairs-Branch-PLU/International-Affairs-Programs/IAP-Resources/>

## FAO/RAO/FAS/PEP's In-Action Photos:

IAP & DLNSEO are looking for high-definition photos capturing FAO/RAO/FAS/PEP's in action. Please send your photos with a quick description of what you're doing to: [IAPMarine@usmc.mil](mailto:IAPMarine@usmc.mil)

## IAP Intelink Sharepoint Website:

We have established an Intelink Sharepoint website containing FOUO administrative documents that we are not allowed to upload to our Marines.mil open source website. Please submit a request for access. IAP Marines can reference AAR's, and SITREPS at the following link: <https://intelshare.intelink.gov/sites/internationalaffairsprogram>



Capt Austin Burns, (Eurasia FAO) and Cysgt RiveroMontes (Eurasia FAS) are taking their CFT with Mt Zugspitze as a back drop in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany..

# AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES

## JOINT FAO SUSTAINMENT COURSE:

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. We will provide more amplifying information once syllabus and venues are approved and confirmed. \*Dates are tentative.

12-15 Apr - USAFRICOM (Venice, Italy)

Registration Open thru 31 March

24-27 May - USINDOPACOM (Honolulu, Hawaii)

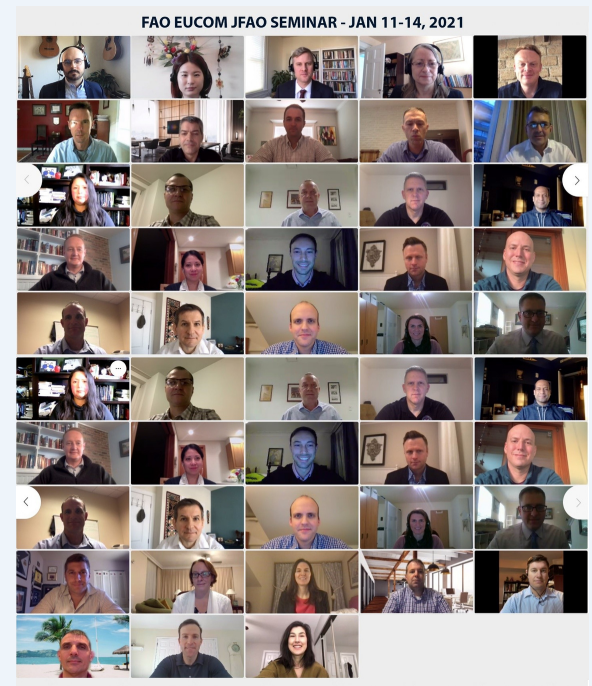
TBD July\* - USSOUTHCOM (Panama City, Panama)

## NPS GPC GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

is now accepting applications. Apply now:

<https://cle.nps.edu/portal/site/e2c3da46-0aa7-4699-94c1-b1ac0740d0dd>

Would you like to add an opportunity here? Please forward the information to [iapmarine@usmc.mil](mailto:iapmarine@usmc.mil)





# FAS PROGRAM CORNER

I know I promised that I would be gone by now. However, in true Marine Corps manpower management fashion, the assignment of my slated replacement encountered massive obstacles down south. Although, we continue to hear “talent management” is one of our Commandant's priorities, which was also reinforced by Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps' Memorandum on “Training and Education Assessment and Change,” I believe there is a long road ahead of us and much more to be done to, not only update our antiquated manpower systems but also change the culture of those in the manpower management business. Enough on that. As some of you might already know, Gunnery Sergeant Jonathan Levine will take over the reins and continue to improve the program. His main goal over the next year will be to continue our efforts to establish the program manager billet as a permanent position, not an easy task as it has proven to be, but I'm optimistic that with all the Force Design working groups completed, he will be able to make some progress.

On to more positive news. COVID-19 has definitely challenge the entire International Affairs Program and Foreign Area SNCOs in-training have been doing an excellent job at remaining Semper Gumby. We have found ways to stay connected using video-telecommunication platforms. Master Sergeant Yoon (Northeast Asia FAS) recently conducted a Security Cooperation Certification Process seminar. A timely discussion given the recent mandated requirements regarding the professionalization of the Security Cooperation Workforce. We also had several of our Foreign Area SNCOs attending the Naval Postgraduate School Great Power Competition Certificate Program and the George Washington University Joint FAO Regional Sustainment Seminars. We will continue to make these opportunities available as space and funds allow. Congratulations are in order to all who have recently been selected to Master Sergeant, First Sergeant, and Master Gunnery Sergeant. Who ever said that the Foreign Area SNCO Program was going to be the end of your careers? Congratulations to you all and also to those selected for the FAS Program study track, welcome to the team! Lastly, MARADMIN 053/21 is out, please pass the word to SNCOs who are interested in applying for the FAS Program study track. You are our best recruiters and advocates.

Semper Fidelis,  
MGySgt Morales, Ronal



## FY22 FOREIGN AREA STAFF NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER PROGRAM STUDY TRACK SOLICITATION MESSAGE MARADMIN 053/21

has been released. Please share the following link with SNCOs interested in a career in International Affairs:  
<https://www.marines.mil/News/Messages/Messages-Display/Article/2490638/fy22-foreign-area-staff-non-commissioned-officer-fas-program-study-track-solici/>

(Top Left) MGySgt Morales and others attend the virtual Joint FAO Sustainment Seam II Course: Strategic Challenges to the Liberal International Order

(Left) Foreign Area Staff Noncommissioned Officers: Not just Learning, also teaching. GySgt RiveroMontes, a student of the Masters of international Security Studies Program at the George C Marshall Center for International Security, presents conclusions regarding hypersonic missiles and their impact on the transatlantic bargain during a breakout session of the Program for Applied Security Studies (PASS).

Questions? Contact Us!  
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