

THE FOREIGN AREA OFFICER PROGRAM AND FAO COURSE

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-THE FAO PROGRAM-

The Foreign Area Officer Program produces officers qualified for assignment to positions requiring a language proficiency, detailed knowledge of foreign areas, and politico-military awareness. Foreign Area Officers serve in positions which require specialized knowledge in fields such as plans and operations, attaché duty, service school instructor, special warfare, intelligence, security assistance, and politico-military affairs.

The training of a Foreign Area Officer now is programmed to include any or all of the following: an advanced degree in area studies or another FAO program-related discipline at selected universities in the United States or overseas; the 5-month Foreign Area Officer Course at the Institute for Military Assistance at Fort Bragg; 6-to 12-months of intensive language training; and 1-to 2-years of travel, research, and study in the individual's overseas area of specialization.

Upon completion of this training, Foreign Area Officers will serve in a wide variety of assignments dealing with the formulation and execution of politico-military policy and doctrine.

-THE FAO COURSE-

The 21-week/1-day Foreign Area Officer Course must be understood in terms of four major phases of instruction, augmented by a guest speaker program, a field trip to Washington, and a course-culminating 3-day symposium.

PHASE I: Operational Environment. This phase consists of 175 hours of instruction reinforced by 14 hours of guest speaker presentations and seminar.

The instruction provides an introduction to the geopolitical environment of the 1970's; 46 hours of seminar in one of five geographic areas of the world (Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and Middle East) in which the geography, demography, history, cultures, religions, political dynamics, economic systems, external relations, military affairs, and external pressures are discussed; instruction in the disciplines of anthropology, sociology, psychology, political science, economics, and law insofar as the concepts and methodologies of these disciplines contribute to understanding the processes of modernization and change, conflict, and intercultural communications; a concentrated examination of the foreign policies and security assistance-type programs of selected world powers; and a practical exercise in which the students in each regional seminar make an assessment of the potential for internal conflict within a country in their respective regions.

The guest speakers address topics such as "The World Scene: Foreign Policy Perspective"; "The World Scene: Security Perspective"; "Conflict and Change: The Chinese Experience"; "Conflict Theory: A Systematic Approach-Approach"; and "The Political Role of the Military in Non-Western Nations."

PHASE II: Considerations of National Resource Allocations and Management: This phase consists of 97 hours of instruction reinforced by 15 hours of guest speaker presentations and seminar, and addresses the complexities and interdependence of development and defense Resource Management requirements, programs, plans, and operations.

The purpose of this phase is to enable the students to identify the manner in which natural and human resources, energy, and information are allocated throughout the world. The phase includes a practical exercise on the Resource Management requirements of a selected country in each region with emphasis on the potential or actual involvement of the country's military in development, and another exercise in which the students prepare an internal defense estimate.

The guest speakers address topics such as "The Dynamics of Modernization: Theory versus Practice"; "Development Planning: Lessons of Experience"; "Defense and Development: Resource Competitors"; "The Military Role: Providing Internal Security"; and "Urban Insurgency Movements: Nature and Countermeasures."

PHASE III: Security Assistance: This phase consists of 108 hours of instruction reinforced by 34 hours of guest speaker presentations and seminar, and addresses US security assistance, the US organization for assistance, and the national factors that have direct bearing on US policy.

The purpose of this phase is to prepare the student to act as a manager in execution of US security assistance programs or in design of plans. The phase culminates in the students preparing security assistance plans for selected countries. Desk officers from various governmental agencies participate in the exercise as resource people.

The guest speakers address such topics as "International Law in Foreign Policy Decisionmaking"; "Department of State and Security Assistance"; "US Foreign Policy: The Congressional Perspective"; "The Department of State and Politico-Military Affairs"; "The National Security Council and US Foreign Policy"; "National Security and the Media"; "Department of the Army and Security Assistance"; "Department of the Air Force and Security Assistance"; "Department of the Navy and Security Assistance"; "Commercial Military Sales"; "The Defense Attaché and the MAAG"; "The Strategic Arms Limitations Talks"; and "Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions."

PHASE IV: Civil-Military Operations: This final instructional phase consists of 61 hours of instruction reinforced by an additional 6 hours of guest speaker presentations and seminar, and insures that the student develops a working knowledge of the managerial and staff responsibilities of the civil-military operations (CMO) officer.

In this phase, particular emphasis is placed on the management and integration of psychological operations and civil affairs resources and activities. There is one case study on CMO contingency planning using the Dominican Republic **crisis** of 1965. A practical exercise on CMO responsibilities in a mid-to high-intensity conventional warfare environment culminates the phase.

The guest speakers address such topics as "The CMO Officer in the US Army"; and "Politico-Military Operations in the 1970's."

FAO Language Study: The Foreign Area Officer Course provides basic or intermediate level language instruction in more than a dozen languages-- for both the FAO student and his or her spouse. Study for the student officer is mandatory and for the spouse is optional.

The Washington Interdepartmental Agency Field Trip: A week-long field trip to Washington is scheduled midway through the course. This trip permits students to visit and confer with representatives from government and private agencies in the Washington area who are concerned with US international relations and international security assistance programs and objectives. Wives may wish to accompany their husbands.

End-of-Course International Affairs Symposium: An International Affairs Symposium culminates the course with 3-days' **presentation of professional papers** and workshop discussions. **Military** and civilian experts, FAO program members, USAIMA staff and faculty, and others in military assistance will participate in the Symposium, scheduled for the end of the course.

Participation by Dependents in FAO Course Instruction: Wives of Foreign Area Officer Course personnel are welcome to participate in all unclassified FAO instruction. Wives are especially invited and encouraged to attend the 46 hours of area studies instruction, the 44 hours of unclassified guest speaker presentations, and 60 hours of language training. Wives are also invited to participate in the Washington Interdepartmental Agency Field Trip.

Recommendation for Accreditation: In May 1973, the Commission on Accreditation of Service Experience (CASE) of the American Council on Education evaluated the FAO Course and recommended it as equivalent to **6 hours graduate** work and 20 hours of undergraduate work. Since that date, a significant number of major universities have provided FAO graduates with such credit as they have pursued further civil schooling.