

TALKING POINTS FOR
FOREIGN AREA OFFICER CONFERENCE
26 JUNE 1986
1600-1630 HOURS, ROOM 2E715A

- Purpose of Conference (Solid initiative by Secretary Marsh)
 - enables us to get first-hand assessments of situation in various countries and regions of the world;
 - to receive policy recommendations and discuss issues relevant to your area; and,
 - to give you a chance to "take the pulse" of Washington.

- Today's Army (FAO's need to know "State of the Army" because they are U.S. "standard-bearers" in other nations; must be able to "speak with one voice.")

-- Best Army ever; best soldiers ever.

-- Modernization

--- balanced, flexible, and modern forces

--- new equipment

--- revised doctrine

--- superb training

-- Jointness

-- Stewardship

--- resources and materiel

--- people

-- "Steady On The Course"

- Foreign Area Officer Development Program
 - We have a good program; we are making it better
 - making qualitative improvements
 - building a stable of officers
 - CSA review on 7 June 1985
 - VCSA follow-ups on 24 March and 10 June 1986
 - Key elements:
 - reduce unnecessary FAO authorizations (1300 to 764)
 - tighten program entrance criteria (language, GRE, & earlier accession)
 - improved sequence of professional development, education, and continued branch qualification.

- FAO Challenges

-- Continue personal and professional growth

--- self-study

--- knowledge of your country and region of the world

--- knowledge of the U.S. and its security interests and policies; challenges of your job: consistency/inconsistency of U.S. policy, complex formulation of U.S. policy (many different actors, etc), lack of domestic concern for foreign policy.

-- Sacrifices and unique dangers or hardships for you and your family.

--- LTC Ray - Paris

--- LTC Nicholson - Germany

--- LTC Crabtree - Namibia

--- Hardships and dangers associated with remote or underdeveloped areas of world.

- FAO Contributions and Satisfactions
 - FAO's, like Army divisions in Europe or NEA, are "forward-deployed" forces in critical areas of world.
 - 40% of billets are overseas; 60% of billets are joint
 - maintain U.S. presence; "show the flag"
 - establish "deterrence," protect our interests
 - provide military assistance and advice
 - contribute to development and execution of National Security policy.
- Year of Values: FAO's personify the traditional values of our Army and Nation.
 - loyalty (unit, Army, Nation)
 - integrity
 - duty
 - selfless service
- Satisfactions of selfless service