
FAO Branch History Overview

Authorized Military Representatives

1888 – Congress passed the Navy and Army Appropriations Act establishing the military attaché system

1892 – War Department creates the Military Information Division (modern day Army G-2)

1907 – War Department creates the first language school in Tokyo, Japan with four officers. By 1911, eleven officers would graduate from the school and become attaches to Japan. A sister school would also be created in Peking, China.

1916 – War Department creates the first graduate school training program (today's ACS program)

WWI through WWII

1921 – first formal training for military attaches created by War Department

1943-1944 – Army creates the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) with one of 13 subcategories called the Foreign Area and Language Studies (FALS). Attempted to train ten of thousands of college personnel in foreign areas and languages for WWII. Program failed to only produce several hundreds of fluent officers.

1946 – Strategic Intelligence School (SIS) created (modern day JMAS)

Post WWII to Cold War

1946 – Army established the Language and Area Training (LAT) course for Russia, Japan, and China.

1946 – Detachment R – Russia established in Germany and Detachment S – Sino established in China (modern day Garmisch and China IRT programs)

1947 – The Language and Area Training Program (LATP) establishing eight different LATP areas

1960 – LATP changed to Foreign Area Specialist Training Program (FASTP) which establishes the training pipeline (DLI, IRT, and ACS), but it is not mandatory

FAO Birthday

1967 – Army creates the Military Advisor Officer Program (MAOP)

1969 – Army changes FASTP to Foreign Area Specialty (FAS) program

1969 – first known use of Foreign Area Officer – Foreign Area Officer Command and Staff Course created

23 March 1972 – GEN Westmoreland signs MFR consolidating the MAOP and FASP programs.

06 March 1973 – Army Regulation 614-142 published establishing the Foreign Area Officer Program with an implementation date of 15 April 1973.