

# USASMA Bulletin

The United States Army Sergeants Major Academy

*Educating Today's Leaders For Tomorrow*



Volume 3 Issue 4

*An Institution of Excellence*

July 2015



## USASMA's Mission

*To provides professional military education that develops enlisted leaders to meet the challenges of an increasingly complex world.*



*We are committed to producing the right Soldier with the right skills at the right time in support of the Army and a nation at war.*

## In this Issue

*Academy Welcomes Class 66 International Students, Pg. 1*

*From the Command Team, Pg. 2*

*NCO Heritage and Education Center holds grand re-opening, Pg. 3*

*Menaced by Russia and Islamic State, NCOs in Europe find way to win, Pg. 7*

## Academy welcomes Class 66 international students



Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Defreese, commandant of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy officially welcomes the 47 international students of Class 66 during a luncheon in their honor June 2, at the Fort Bliss Centennial Club.

### Story and Photos by David Crozier Command Communications

The U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy staff broke bread with the incoming international students of Sergeants Major Course Class 66 June 2 at the Fort Bliss Centennial Club. The event was hosted by Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Defreese, commandant of the Academy.

Mike Huffman, director of the International Military Student Office began the event by welcoming everyone and making a few introductions of key staff present.

"Sergeant Major I am proud to report that we do have 47 international military students here for Class 66 of the Sergeants Major Course," Huffman said. "This is the largest percentage of international students to Sergeants Major Course students in the history of USASMA – approximately 9 percent of the student population."

Huffman then introduced students from Saudi Arabia and Indonesia explaining that these students represent the first attendees from their respective countries to attend the Sergeants Major Course. Huffman also introduced the first female student from Mongolia.

With his introductions complete, Huffman introduced Defreese for his welcome remarks.

See INTERNATIONAL on Page 5

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## From the Command Team

**T**hanks to all who made this year's graduation ceremony for Class 65 a great success. This one was by far the best the Academy has seen in years. Kudos goes out to the S3 Team for the hard work in making it all come together. We got kudos from all who attended including Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey and Command Sgt. Maj. Dave Davenport from Training and Doctrine Command. Both told us it was the best they had ever seen and wanted us to pass along their thanks for a job well done.

We had quite a busy couple of weeks leading up to that day with all of the ceremonies and activities. It all began with the ribbon cutting ceremony at the newly renamed and renovated NCO Heritage and Education Center. What phenomenal job the volunteers did in bringing new life to our 34-year-old facility and exhibits. Class 65 has left us with a great legacy gift that will surely help to educate and inspire future generations of noncommissioned officers for years to come. We got the opportunity at that ceremony to give special thanks to all of the spouses who volunteered not only countless hours of their time, but brought their special talents to bear on the exhibits turning them into something to behold. The renovation could not have been done without their efforts.

The very next week we watched 110 of our students, cadre and family members walk the stage to receive their degrees – 51 Masters, 48 Bachelors and 11 Associate degrees. That's lifelong learning in action. These individuals will go on from here and help to make our enlisted force and our Army better.

From there we recognized our spouses and families for all they do for the academy during their stay by presenting them with awards for public service and certificates of appreciation. In all these individuals donated more than 4,500 hours of volunteer service. Then it was on to the Internationals of Class 65 and the awarding of the International Military Student Badge, recognizing the service of four of the Military Professional Exchange Program instructors and inducting four former international military students into the International Military Student Hall of Fame. To cap it all off we held the graduation for Class 65.

With Class 65 on their way to their next assignments the academy does get a little quiet time, but there is still plenty of work to be done – developing the Master Leader Course which is slated for its first pilot class in October; preparing for the arrival of the first USASMA Fellows who will begin their yearlong studies with Penn State University this August and which included the establishment of the Penn State Room to be used for their studies; the International Military Student Pre-course for the 47 international students who will be a part of Class 66; the second official iteration of the Commandant Pre-Command Course; Battle Staff training; Warrior Leader Course VTT training and much, much more. It is that type of work which happens here that many outside of our walls don't realize is a part of our mission. It is a mission that we do very well and everyone can take pride in that.

We are certainly proud of all of the work you do. 🇺🇸

Ultima!!



CSM Tedd Pritchard  
Deputy Commandant, USASMA



CSM Dennis Defreese  
Commandant, USASMA



## USASMA News

### MLC on track

The Master leader Course is on track to launch the first pilot course in October to be held at USASMA. This 15-day course will fill the education gap that exists between sergeant first class and sergeant major.

### First fellows selected

The first class of 20 fellows have been selected and will begin making their way to USASMA in July in preparation of starting their studies with Penn State in August. These 20 sergeants major went through a vigorous selection system and will now spend the next year taking classes with Penn State University via distance learning. Upon graduation they will have earned a Masters Degree in Adult Education and then will spend the next three years as an instructor in the Sergeants Major Course. **NOTE:** Applications for the FY16 Fellowship are now being accepted. Visit [http://usasma.armylive.dodlive.mil/?page\\_id=222](http://usasma.armylive.dodlive.mil/?page_id=222) for more information.

### New Soldiers Guide

The USASMA has been hard at work updating and putting the finishing touches on the next edition of the Soldiers Guide. It is expected to be completed and available to the field by August.

## *NCO Heritage and Education Center holds grand reopening*



The Noncommissioned Officer Heritage and Education Center officially dedicated its new look and exhibits May 28 in a grand reopening and cake cutting ceremony. During the event Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Defreese and Command Sgt. Maj. Tedd Pritchard (center left to right) commandant and deputy commandant of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, recognized the efforts of many of the volunteers who made the renovation possible. Above, Defreese and Pritchard are joined by the Class 65 President (center right) to officially cut the ribbon to the center. The NCO Heritage and Education Center is open weekdays from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. There is no charge and the public is welcome.

**By David Crozier**  
**Command Communications**

The commandant of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Defreese, welcomed several honored guests along with staff and faculty members of the Academy and Class 65 of the Sergeants Major Course to a special ribbon-cutting, grand re-opening of the newly named NCO Heritage and Education Center May 28.

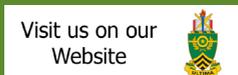
The Center, formerly known as the Museum of the Noncommissioned Officer, was originally established on 24 June 1981, using an old officer's mess building. The Commandant of that time was Col. Joseph Ostrowidzki, who was present for the ceremony. Now some 34 years later, the museum, still in the same facility, has undergone a renovation - exhibits refreshed and updated, walls removed, built and painted, new technology put in place, and has been renamed to incorporate its new mission of not only preserving NCO history, but helping to teach that history to students of all noncommissioned officer education courses. The center also boasts a lecture area which can be used for NCO Induction and Promotion ceremonies, as well as holding educational classes and lectures.

After the official ribbon cutting was complete, the event moved inside where Defreese recognized many of the volunteers who worked tirelessly over the past six months to breathe new life into the center.

Class 65 president, Sgt. Maj. James Lamberson presented Defreese with a plaque that will stand as a testament to Class 65's legacy in contributing to the renovation of the center. The plaque will hang on the walls of the center for all to see.

Following the presentation, Defreese awarded the Department of the Army Commander's Award for Public Service to 14 volunteers. The Commander's Award for Public Service recognizes the service and achievements that contributed significantly to the accomplishment of the mission of the NCO Heritage and Education Center. The Award reads: "For exceptionally outstanding public service during the period 27 January through 28 May 2015 while serving as a volunteer on the

## Quick Links



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upgrade of the NCO Heritage and Education Center for the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy. Your exceptional dedication to the enhancements of the facility, formerly known as the Museum of the NCO, resulted in improved exhibits, beautification of the facility, and increased public awareness of the many significant contributions of the Noncommissioned Officer to the history of the United States Army. Your service reflects distinct credit on you, the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, the Training and Doctrine Command, and the United States Army.”

Receiving the award were Abigail Abrahamson, Stephanie Abrahamson, Rebecca Ann Garcia, Ivett Lily Gonzalez, Heather LaRocque, Victoria Laick, Sandra Lopez, Mary Lou Morehouse, Astrid Christa Owens, Jessica Poindexter, Crystal Ann Stevens, Kurt Wagner, Chandra Williams, and Jennifer Corrylee Wood the Volunteer Leader. These spouses helped in all aspects of the renovation and provided invaluable skills to help bring the exhibits to life.

Defreese also recognized four military members, two Class 65 students and two Soldiers assigned to the Center. Receiving the Army Achievement Medal for outstanding achievement, while serving as a member of Class 65, in volunteering in the renovation of the NCO Heritage and Education Center were Class 65 students Master Sgts. Kenneth Ball and Deborah Patterson. Receiving the Army Commendation Medal for exceptionally meritorious



The Noncommissioned Officer Heritage and Education Center officially dedicated its new look and exhibits May 28 in a grand reopening and cake cutting ceremony. Above, Col. Joseph Ostrowidski, U.S. Army retired and the 5th Commandant of USASMA, talks with one of the Class 65 students who stood as live exhibits telling the story depicted in the exhibit they stood in front of.

# SSD Links

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*“I was bold in the pursuit of knowledge, never fearing to follow truth and reason to whatever results they led.”  
Thomas Jefferson*

## INTERNATIONAL Continued from Page 1



Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Defreese (2nd row center right), commandant of USASMA, Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Coleman (2nd row center left), director of the Sergeants Major Course, and Mike Huffman (bottom row kneeling), director of the International Military Student office, pose for a group photo with Class 66 international students. This year's class is the largest international class (47) and includes two new countries - Saudi Arabia and Indonesia - among the attendees.

“Welcome to all of you. This is one of my top priorities for USASMA as a whole is building relationships and friendships around the world,” Defreese said. “Indonesia and Saudi Arabia, welcome. We really want, one, this to be a great experience for you for the next almost a year, but more than anything it is not just about the experience you get, but what you bring to us – your interactions with the students, teaching us about your culture and just bringing diversity to this academy. So the relationship with you is just as important to us as it is to you.”

Following the commandant's remarks, Command Sgt. Maj. Gary W. Coleman, director of the sergeants Major Course introduced some key leaders and instructors for the course and also welcomed the students on behalf of the course.

“Congratulations to all of you for coming here and being a part of our team, strengthening and building our partnerships and relationships around the world” he said. “If there is anything I can do to make your stay more pleasurable or more successful as you navigate through our Sergeants Major Course please don't hesitate to ask any of us. Our doors are always open to make sure you are successful and that you graduate next year.”

USASMA became internationally renowned early in its history when in 1975 the academy hosted its first international student in Class 6, Robert J. May of Australia, and over the last 40 years has graduated 764 international students from 76 countries in the SMC. Class 66 will add 47 more to this distinguished list. These graduates have returned to their homeland to expertly lead and train their Soldiers and foster greater relations with the United States and their enlisted counterparts. The international military student pre-course introduces the international students to the Sergeants Major Course overview and requirements to include the course calendar, general course content, and a summary of what is expected of the students while attending the academy.

Students are expected to participate in lessons, discussions, homework assignments, and impromptu speaking events, conduct a country brief, after action reviews, journals, essays and a written biography. These lessons support the lessons of the Sergeants Major Course by providing basic knowledge of topics, theories, doctrine and procedures that international students will see during their time in the course. The completion of the international pre-course will support the international student's integration into the US Army Sergeants Major Academy Sergeants Major Course. 🇺🇸



A member of Class 65 brings the Drill Sergeant/Recruiter exhibit to life as she tells the story/history behind the exhibit to visitors during the grand reopening and renaming of the NCO heritage and Education Center. Several of Class 65's students acted as living exhibits during the grand reopening. The Center is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. and can be used by units for NCOPD, NCO Induction ceremonies, units tours and lectures.

service from 1 July 2014 to 31 May 2015 were: acting curator Sgt. 1st Class Skeet Styer and Staff Sgt. Brandon Burkhart. Their outstanding performance of duty contributed significantly to the overall improved function, operation and presentation of the facility.

Defreeze lauded the work of all and remarked on the fresh new look.

“Thank you all for being here today to help us cut the ribbon to this newly renovated facility and to recognize some of the folks who spent countless hours in this building over the last six months knocking down walls, building new ones, creating and revitalizing exhibits, painting, decorating, hanging televisions and so much more.

“When I got here about a year ago this center looked pretty much like I remembered it when I came through the Academy as a student attending Class 53 of the Sergeants Major Course. My battle buddy, Command Sgt. Maj. Tedd Pritchard, said he had a vision for the center and wanted to start a project to bring some new life to the center. So I gave him the go ahead and stepped aside. The result has been amazing. This center now stands as a shining testament to NCO history and a place where future leaders can learn from the past, embrace the legacy of those who came before them, and hopefully be inspired to create their own legacy to the NCO Corps.

“This newly renovated center now has this lecture area which enables us to tie the center into our NCO education courses, while at the same time providing an area for unit NCO promotion and induction ceremonies and guest lectures on NCO history. Sergeant Major Pritchard, Ted, your vision and your team of volunteers have accomplished something very special here.

“Class 65 should be proud of their efforts in helping to make this happen and know that your legacy will be one that will be enjoyed by all for many years to come. To the Staff and faculty who also got behind this project, thank you. You truly know the meaning of Team ULTIMA and continue to amaze me with your dedication and professionalism.

“Now for those who truly get a special thank you. The spouses of Class 65 and the Academy. These ladies and their

many diverse talents have brought our exhibits to life and helped us to better tell the story of the Noncommissioned Officer. We could not have done this without you. I wish I could keep you all here forever, but I know your Soldier needs your support at their next duty station and beyond. I want you to know, however, that what you have accomplished here is very special and I cannot thank you enough.

“Finally I want to thank Mr. Sylvester Smith and his team at the Center, Sgt. 1st Class Skeet Styer and Staff Sgt. Brandon Burkhart. You have kept all of this renovation in sync and ensured we got a first class center.

“This is a living project and more improvements are forthcoming, but I can truly say this is something to be very proud of.”

The Mission of the NCO Heritage and Education Center is to collect, preserve, exhibit, and interpret historically significant property related to the history of the U.S. Army Noncommissioned Officer from 1775 to the present. The Heritage Center of the NCO supports military training and education, conducts research, stimulates esprit de corps and morale, and informs the public of NCO service to the nation. Using uniforms, weapons, insignia, and equipment The Heritage Center of the NCO depicts the history of the U.S. Army Noncommissioned Officer from 1775 to the present. Exhibits highlight the NCO role as a small unit leader, the development of NCO symbols and insignia, and the evolution of the NCO Corps.

Those in attendance were treated to guided tours of the renovated facility and were greeted by Class 65 and USASMA personnel dressed up in period uniforms and acting as living exhibits telling the story of their time.

The facility is located on East Fort Bliss on SSG Sims St., in Bldg. 11331 and is open weekdays from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Admission is free and is open to the public. The staff is available to give guided tours for groups and can be contacted at 915-744-8646/8609. 🇺🇸

# Menaced by Russia and Islamic State, NCOs in Europe find way to win

By CLIFFORD KYLE JONES  
NCO Journal

The Army Operating Concept is “Win in a Complex World.” The Soldiers of U.S. Army Europe know better than anyone that we can’t do that alone.

USAREUR is down to about 28,000 troops from a Cold War peak of 218,000, but the threats across the Atlantic have only magnified since the latest major U.S. cuts to the region in 2012. Vladimir Putin’s Russia skirmishes with Ukrainian forces after occupying the nation’s Crimea region and aggressively menaces the United States’ allies — NATO and otherwise. The Islamic State is building up its land forces near the continent’s southern edges, its wars create a burgeoning immigrant crisis and the terrorist organization’s recruiters and sympathizers put all of Europe under constant threat.

“Nowadays our enemies — it doesn’t matter if we’re talking about the Russians or the Islamic State — will use any means and any way to achieve their strategic ends,” Brig. Gen. Miha Škrbinc, assistant to Slovenia’s chief of defense, told a gathering of NCOs from more than 30 countries recently. “That means they will use all spectrum of power.”

It’s called “hybrid warfare,” Škrbinc said, and it’s defined as a combination of regular and irregular warfare. “But that would be so easy if hybrid warfare was just that,” he said. Škrbinc described Russia’s tactics as a combination of economic exertions, aggressive foreign policy, diplomatic pressure and diversions, clandestine cyber warfare attacks, information and propaganda offensives — all backed by a well-equipped and well-trained conventional army.

Škrbinc was speaking at the ninth annual Conference of European Army NCOs, which took place in April in Bled, Slovenia. The conference, co-hosted by USAREUR and the Slovenian army, is intended to develop professional land forces across Europe and build relationships among the enlisted ranks of those armies. But the critical need for that professionalism and relationships may be more apparent now than at any other time in the conference’s decade-long history.

“I think they (the allied nations) were reassured,” Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Huggins said after the conference he helped organize with Igor Tomašić, the senior enlisted leader of the Slovenian army. “We don’t know much about the deterrence piece of what we’re doing, but I think that having that large group gathered together, having a common understanding and shared vision of the future — at least the defense part — I think there has to be some kind of deterrent value in that.

“I don’t know if that’s something that translates into the Russian lexicon or not,” he said.

Maybe not. Even as the conference was underway, Russia was conducting artillery exercises along its border — “literally counter-battery fire to the CEANCO,” Huggins called them.

## The CEANCO

Usually, the command sergeant major of USAREUR would help lead the conference, but the new senior enlisted advisor, Command Sgt. Maj. Sheryl Lyon, just started her duties late last month. She was able to attend, but Huggins, who is command sergeant major of the 7th Army’s Joint Multinational Training Command at Grafenwoehr, Germany, stepped in to coordinate.



Spc. Shawn Betschart of 3rd Platoon, Lightning Troop, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, secures the perimeter with a Lithuanian counterpart during an offensive operations exercise at the Pabrade training area in February in Lithuania. U.S. troops and Lithuanian soldiers of 3rd Company, Algirdas Mechanized Infantry Battalion, worked together in a three-day field training exercise in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Megan Leuck)

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