Foreign Student Program

US ARMY AIR DEFENSE SCHOOL
Fort Bliss, Texas

- Administration
- Operations
- Activities
- Language
- Supply
- Mess
- Mail
The Foreign Student Program

FOREWORD

In an effort to provide an academically stimulating atmosphere for the thousands of Allied students who are graduated annually, the US Army Air Defense School has inaugurated a series of activities and special operations known as the Foreign Student Program. This program is the combined effort of all personnel assigned to the School to insure not only intellectual attainment, but also a comprehensive understanding of the American way of life by all Allied students and their dependents.

The US Army Air Defense School is proud of the reputation it has built among the numerous nations who have sent their sons to study here. If foreign students and Americans can realize that people are basically the same the world over, then world peace is one step closer.

This booklet is intended to provide a brief description of the Foreign Student Program at Fort Bliss. Questions and comments pertaining to information contained in this publication should be addressed to the Commandant, US Army Air Defense School, ATTN: AKDAAS-87-5, Fort Bliss, Texas 79916.

George T. Powers III
Commandant

Major General, USA
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GENERAL

Since the advent of the missile age and guided missile training in 1953, more than 11,000 foreign students have been trained at the US Army Air Defense School at Fort Bliss, Texas (fig 1). These students represented a total of 50 countries of the free world (fig 2). At any one time, there are usually students from about 15 nations in residence. Training for foreign students is conducted under the provisions of either the Military Assistance Program (MAP) or the Military Assistance Sales Program (MAS). The programmed student load for FY 66 is indicated in figure 3. 

Figure 1. Hinman Hall, Headquarters US Army Air Defense School.

Figure 2. Students from 50 countries trained at US Army Air Defense School.

Figure 3. Programed foreign student load for fiscal year 1966.
ALLIED STUDENT BATTALION

The Allied Student Battalion commander is charged with the responsibility of administering the Foreign Student Program. The battalion is organized into seven sections: operations, activities, supply, mail, administration, mess, and English language enhancement (fig 4).

The operations section provides identification cards for students and dependents, makes out payrolls for MAP students, prepares travel orders and meal cards, and maintains locator files and rosters on all students. This section also processes students; arranges for passports and X-rays of students and dependents; and provides for messing, billeting, and transportation.

The activities section makes provision for student tours, sporting events, recreational activities, and the foreign student host family program.

The supply section provides for all billeting needs of enlisted students, procures athletic equipment, and handles student laundry and dry cleaning needs.

The mail section provides a message center facility for student use and also provides normal postal services.

The administration section maintains the grounds in the student battery area, operates a repair shop for station property, and retains contract janitors for the student billets. Enlisted students are required to clean only their immediate living area. Dayrooms, halls, and offices are cleaned by contract personnel because almost all students living in the barracks are noncommissioned officers and there are no duty soldiers available for detail.

LIAISON OFFICERS

Six foreign countries presently maintain liaison officers at the US Army Air Defense Center. These countries include:

Canada  Germany  Korea
France  Japan  United Kingdom

Those countries which do not maintain a permanent liaison officer at the School normally appoint a senior student to act as Senior Country Representative.

The liaison officers work closely with the Allied Student Battalion and are concerned primarily with the personal welfare of the students. Additionally, some liaison officers exercise limited command authority. For example, package students, while in the School and before unit activation, are normally under the command of their respective liaison officer. (For details of package training, see page 8.) When the package unit is formed under the 1st Training Brigade (Air Defense), personnel revert to command of the package unit commander who exercises disciplinary authority.

Figure 4. Allied Student Battalion organizational chart.
BILLETING

In the Allied Student Battalion, foreign enlisted students are billeted in three-story quarters with normal squadroom sleeping areas and enjoy normal dayroom activities (figs 5 and 6). Officer personnel are billeted in modern bachelor officer quarters with US officers.

It is policy to accommodate countries with large representations here in adjacent billeting areas. However, it is sometimes necessary to combine countries with smaller numbers of students in one large area. In this case, the students enjoy the added advantage of spending their student days at Fort Bliss with students of another country and deep understandings and relationships usually result. No serious problems have arisen over mixed billeting since the program was inaugurated.

Figure 5. Foreign student studies in the privacy of his quarters.

Figure 6. Foreign student enjoys one of the games offered in the dayroom.
M Essing

Meals for all foreign enlisted students are prepared and served in the messhalls of the Allied Student Battalion (fig 7). Foreign officer students normally eat at the officers' field ration mess located in the vicinity of their quarters, at the Fort Bliss Officers' Open Mess, or at any other facility available on post.

A large variety of foods must be prepared for each meal, as the individual tastes and special dietary restrictions of each nationality are rigidly observed. For example, some national groups are not permitted to eat pork or foodstuffs prepared using a byproduct of pork such as shortening. In the case of Israeli students, preparations have been made to serve Kosher meals if desired by the students. On special national holidays, the students of each of the countries in residence are served traditional national dishes whenever possible.

Special messing hours and schedules must also be arranged for some national groups. From approximately mid-January to mid-February, foreign students of the Moslem faith are forbidden to eat food of any kind during daylight hours. To accommodate these students, two special meals, late evening and early morning, are arranged at the messhalls.

Those students who are assigned for training under the Military Assistance Program do not pay for their meals. In this case, the Office of the Finance and Accounting Officer is paid on a headcount basis. Other national groups are paid by their respective governments and then pay for each meal consumed on an individual basis.

Holidays

Foreign student groups attending courses of 3 months' duration or longer are permitted to celebrate one national holiday of their own country in addition to US holidays. The national holiday to be celebrated is determined by the liaison officer from each country. This control is required because with students of many nations in attendance, and because of the numerous national holidays that many countries celebrate, class scheduling would be almost impossible if the observance of all US and foreign holidays was permitted.

Among the national holidays of countries in attendance are the Day of Unity celebrated by West Germany; the Emperor's Birthday in Japan; Independence Day celebrated by the Republic of Korea; Bastille Day in France; and the Anniversary of the Republic observed by Italy.

In addition to a national holiday, the School provides a 3-day weekend every 6 weeks for each foreign student class in residence. This is done to permit students to participate in tours to points of historical interest in the Southwestern United States.
A special 2-week Christmas leave is scheduled for most foreign students. These students take advantage of this holiday leave to tour various parts of the United States.

Religious holidays and holydays also form a part of the foreign student's life. An Allied Student Chapel (fig 8) has been provided on the post. Chaplains are in residence to administer to the religious needs of foreign personnel. Services are conducted each week, and the chaplains maintain regular office hours.

FAMILY HOUSING

Many foreign students bring their families with them to the United States. No post housing is provided for dependents and they must live on the local economy. There is an abundance of excellent rental housing available at reasonable cost in the Fort Bliss area.

Presently 195 foreign students live with their families in El Paso, Texas. These families comprise a total of 346 dependents. Their children attend US public or private schools as there are no foreign language schools in El Paso (fig 9). Foreign dependents mix well with the local population who are accustomed to meeting and working with international visitors.

Figure 8. Allied Student Chapel.

Figure 9. Daughter of a foreign officer getting assistance with her lessons in a US parochial school.
Figure 10. Non-US courses of instruction, fiscal year 1966.

Figure 11. Foreign students receiving instruction on Hercules missile system.

Figure 12. Foreign students learning by practical experience on the Hawk equipment.

**INSTRUCTION**

Foreign students attend courses of instruction varying in length from 1 to 60 weeks (fig 10). There are three categories of instruction: supervisory, orientation, and technician type courses. Classes are normally conducted in the English language. However, for those class groups classified as non-English fluent, classes are conducted in English and translated by an interpreter into the native language of the particular student group. Interpreted classes generally require an additional two weeks.

Foreign students are trained on Nike Hercules, Hawk, and fire distribution systems, depending upon the type system deployed by the particular country (figs 11 and 12). Practical exercises and individual training are conducted on the same basis as for US students.

Classes are normally broken down to a 5:1 student-to-instructor ratio to insure that students receive close personal attention and detailed instruction. For non-English fluent groups, one instructor and one interpreter are required for each student group (figs 13 and 14).
LANGUAGE ENHANCEMENT

The Military Assistance Advisory Groups (MAAG's) in the students' home country prepare a report for the Air Defense School indicating the students' English fluency. Those from non-English speaking countries who are attending an English-speaking course are given an English fluency test during their initial in-processing.

The test results often prove helpful in determining how a student can raise his academic standing by showing where he can improve his English comprehension. The English fluency tests are administered in the Language Enhancement Laboratory (fig 15) under the supervision of skilled personnel.

In addition to testing students, the Language Enhancement Laboratory provides facilities for English enhancement of students and their dependents on an individual and group basis. Evening classes are offered at no expense for those who desire to learn more about the English language.
**PACKAGE TRAINING**

A major portion of the foreign student body is engaged in package training. The package concept is used to train those officer and enlisted personnel required to provide a skilled cadre for a complete unit, such as a battalion. The normal procedure for training a package unit is as follows (figs 16 and 17).

Initially, Department of the Army gives the US Army Air Defense Center a timeframe in which a non-US battalion is to be trained. Center headquarters then recommends a starting date for the package training based on its capacity to train a battalion during the recommended timeframe. If the starting date is agreeable to the country concerned, and if equipment is available, the School is requested to schedule and conduct training for the battalion cadre.

The School must schedule cadre personnel so that all personnel finish their School courses simultaneously. Because of the difference in length between supervisory, operations, and technician courses, the starting date for each course input is staggered.

Another factor which enters into determining the starting dates for the classes is the English speaking ability of the students. If the students are non-English fluent, as determined by the MAAG from the country concerned, the course length is increased proportionately to allow for interpreters to translate classroom instruction.

Upon completion of School training, the battalion cadre draws its equipment and begins unit training under the 1st Training Brigade (Air Defense) at Fort Bliss. The 1st Training Brigade (Air Defense) trains missile operators and crewmen and creates the new missile unit by combining School-trained cadre personnel with Brigade-trained personnel to complete the unit package.

Unit training is conducted at McGregor Guided Missile Range. Tactical exercises and unit proficiency tests are conducted to uncover any existing training or equipment problems which might arise. Upon completion of the unit training cycle, the package normally conducts a live missile service practice to determine its combat readiness. When the package is determined to be combat ready, the unit returns to its home country for deployment.
ORIENTATION PROGRAM

Upon reporting to the Allied Student Battalion (fig 18), foreign students are welcomed by the School commandant or his designated representative and by their respective liaison officers. Following the welcoming, the students receive a series of orientations designed to familiarize them with life at the US Army Air Defense School.

These orientations usually last three days unless interpretation is required, in which case a day is added. During the extra day, non-English speaking students take a language enhancement examination.

The initial orientations acquaint the student with post regulations, United States military courtesy, uniform regulations, post facilities, and the services available to them through the Allied Student Battalion. Training policy, security regulations, and leave and pass policy are also discussed at that time. These orientations provide the students an opportunity to question any aspects of military life in the United States they do not understand.

Immediately following their orientations, the students are taken on two tours. A tour of the post is conducted to show them the major facilities of Fort Bliss and its historic sites. A second tour is conducted of the El Paso area, showing them places of interest (fig 19).

An entire day of the orientation is devoted to the activities section of the battalion. During this time they are shown films to familiarize them with life in this country.

Figure 18. Foreign students arriving at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Figure 19. Allied students tour an El Paso brewery.
ACTIVITIES SECTION

A special section of the Allied Student Battalion was formed to implement a Department of Defense information program. This program was designed to familiarize the foreign students with non-military aspects of American life. Typical of non-military aspects of America are: government (fig 20), radio and TV, press, agriculture, industry, education, and labor.

A function of the activities section (fig 21) is to sponsor lectures and films or specific programs such as the host family program, tours program, sports program, and special events program.

Figure 20. Mayor Judson Williams addressing a group of foreign students.

Figure 21. Allied students review highpoints of the activities section records.
HOST FAMILY PROGRAM

To give the students an opportunity to see the true "heart" of America—the family, the Allied Student Battalion has instituted the host family program (fig 22).

The host family program is offered to all English speaking students who attend courses of 3 months or longer. Approximately 75 percent of the students desiring host families are introduced into American homes (figs 23 and 24).

Host families are not expected to entertain their students lavishly, but rather include them as part of the family. Some activities that students have enjoyed are sightseeing, barbecues, church socials, PTA meetings, Girl Scout and Boy Scout activities, and family gatherings.

This program is a joint effort of the citizens of El Paso and military of Fort Bliss. The Allied Military Program Committee, part of the El Paso Council for International Visitors, is responsible for recruiting host families, while the activities section is responsible for the students and administration.

It is felt that if foreign students can visit and exchange ideas with a typical American family, world understanding will be furthered.

Figure 22. Administrative coordinator and Japanese Liaison Officer discuss the host family program.

Figure 23. Allied students participating in the host family program.

Figure 24. Allied students visiting in the home of a host family.
TOURS

A tour program is conducted to provide sightseeing and recreational activities for foreign students. Tours to such places as Carlsbad Caverns, White Sands National Monument, Kennecott Copper Mines, Las Cruces, Stahmann Farms, the Mescalero Indian Reservation (fig 25), and El Paso are weekly events (fig 26).

Tours to Carlsbad Caverns and the Grand Canyon are outstanding attractions to the foreign student. A trip to the East Coast, which covered 17 states plus Washington, D.C., was the highlight of 1965. A trip to the Grand Canyon and California was also conducted. Tours more than 100 miles distant from Fort Bliss use commercial bus facilities while Fort Bliss transportation provides buses for local tours. Although the Allied Student Battalion often receives discount commercial rates, out-of-town tours are at the students' expense.

Stahmann Farms of New Mexico is a place of popular interest to the foreign student. The farm, which employs over 600 people and is 4,000 acres in size, produces 7,000 eggs per day; processes 130,000 hens and 200,000 geese per year; produces from 5 to 7 million pounds of pecans per year; and produces about 50 tons of feed per day. A commercial farm of this size is unheard of to the average foreign student.

Kennecott's Chino Mines Division is an outstanding tourist attraction. Located near the southern edge of the Gila National Forest in New Mexico, the open pit at Santa Rita is a colorful man-made canyon nearly a mile and a half across and 1,000 feet deep. From this mine, ore averaging less than one percent copper is dug by electric power shovels and is loaded onto trucks which carry from 40 to 85 tons of material. Every day, 22,500 tons of ore are sent to the concentrator at Hurley, New Mexico, where the material is upgraded and then processed to finished copper at the smelter refinery.

During 1965, 204 tours were conducted with a total participation of 9,314 students. Some places visited and participation in the program were as follows:
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Activity visited</th>
<th>Number of tours</th>
<th>Students participating</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Carlsbad Caverns</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kennecott Copper Mines</td>
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<td>349</td>
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<tr>
<td>White Sands National Monument</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>993</td>
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<td>Mescalero Indian Reservation</td>
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<td>700</td>
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<td>Stahmann Farms</td>
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<td>314</td>
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<td>The City of Rocks</td>
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<td>473</td>
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<td>Elephant Butte Dam</td>
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<td>Grand Canyon</td>
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**SPORTS**

Foreign students are provided an active sports program during their free time, with leagues being held throughout the year in the students' national sports. In addition, many individual tournaments are held and facilities are available daily for the students.

Sports which attract the greatest interest are soccer, European handball, and volleyball. Other sports with active participation are table tennis, softball, judo, and karate (figs 27 through 29).

The largest single sports program is the soccer league with teams from Asia and Europe competing. In addition, intramural leagues are conducted by the German students at the School. Allied Student Battalion soccer teams have played in many exhibitions that include contests with Mexican teams, the US Military Academy, and other US military teams. The German and Korean soccer squads have played in many cities around the Southwest.

Judo and karate are popular with some countries and classes are held that include US military participation in these sports. During the year, exhibitions and tournaments around the El Paso area have been held in kendo, judo, and karate with foreign students participating.

The sports program conducted by the activities section provides the students sports with which they are familiar. The Allied student gymnasium is located on Fort Bliss and many of the athletic fields are made available for them.

Figure 27. International volleyball competition (Korea versus Belgium).
The special events section handles all special events within the activities section for Allied students. A weekly bulletin listing sports schedules, tour schedules, and all events of student interest within the Fort Bliss-El Paso area is published. Local sporting events, symphonies, and rodeos are advertised in this bulletin. Discount tickets and transportation are usually available for interested students.

When students are planning a vacation, this section provides travel aid in the form of YMCA and military guest house reservations, letters of introduction to aid them in their travel requirements, and discount cards (fig 30).

Invitations extended to students for dinner and requests for Allied guest speakers are coordinated by this section.

A very popular program is the semianual barbecue-style picnic for all Allied students which is sponsored by the activities section.