

Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute Internship Program expands

Carolyn Holl, Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute

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United States Military Academy cadets serve as interns with PKSOI and CSL for the summer and visit with Lt. Col. Janet Holliday, garrison commander of Carlisle Barracks, and Maj. Gen. Gregg Martin, commandant of the U.S. Army War College. Courtesy photo.

Aug. 5, 2010 -- The Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute welcomed 13 students from a variety of universities last month, doubling

the size of its program from last year.

The program has expanded exponentially from only five students last year to its current size of 13. About thirty students applied to the program this year from a variety of universities and areas of study.

The program aims to treat interns as full-fledged members of the organization, letting them participate in staff meetings and organization events. Each is paired with a member of the PKSOI staff and assigned a real world project based on their area of study.

“The only way an intern is brought on is if there is a project for them,” said Karen Finkenbinder PKSOI’s Research and Publication Analyst. “One of the benefits of the program is that we have had interns work on projects that would not have been completed otherwise.”

The experience also benefits the interns as well.

“The internship has really helped in my development as a strategic thinker and future military officer, thinking beyond just the tactical level and thinking more about it from a national security and world perspective,” says Tomo Takaki, International Relations major and ROTC cadet at Tufts University.

“So far, the most rewarding part of the internship has been the networking and talking with all of the officers and subject matter experts to gain insight about how government agencies work,” comments Carolyn Pruitt, a sophomore at Tufts.

Another one of the interns, U.S. Army Military Academy Cadet Marc Bowdoin, is a Truman Scholar from Maine and has been selected to serve this next year as First Captain of the Corps of Cadets. Beaudoin provided research and development support to create a lesson structure and recommended readings for many U.S. Agency, International and Nongovernmental approaches to analyzing regions of conflict in the world. He also provided case studies and examples to be used in course exercises.

Another USMA Cadet, Cadet Nathaniel Pendleton, was assigned to the Security, Reconstruction and Transition Division. He provided research on lessons learned in Iraq and applied them to suggest modifications to existing models of economic development in post-conflict areas. His paper creates a roadmap for future economic development success in Iraq and other post conflict states.

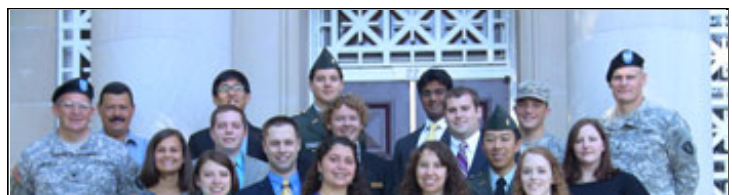
"Overall, my experiences at PKSOI have forced me to think strategically and apply the skills taught at West Point in a way that can be beneficial to the Army," he said. Pendleton will return to USMA to be a Platoon Leader.

To date Tufts has been the largest source of interns, all of whom are members of the student organization, Alliance Linking Leaders in Education and the Services (ALLIES). The program provides a forum for undergraduate students to discuss current civil-military issues through a variety of initiatives involving chapters from the service academies and civilian institutions. Last year, three of PKSOI's interns came from the program leading PKSOI to establish a formal relationship with the institution last November.

“Because of the nature of the ALLIES program, PKSOI is a natural fit because of what we do,” said Col. Lorelei Coplen, Policy, Knowledge Management Division Chief.

Working at PKSOI also gives the interns exposure to agencies like United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and The State Department. Beth Paige, from USAID, and Richard Smyth, from The State Department gave briefings on their respective organizations to the interns to broaden their knowledge of other government organizations.

The interns also took a day trip to Washington, D.C. to tour the Pentagon and received a briefing on the Office of U.S.



Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), an organization under USAID.

A group photo of 2010 Summer Interns of PKSOI in front of Upton Hall, joined by intern supervisors Col. Bryan Groves and Col. Michael Anderson. Courtesy photo.



“Having background knowledge going into our trip to D.C. from Beth Paige really helped to better understand the organizations and presentations we were given,” says Caitlin Fitzpatrick, International Business and Economics major at Appalachian State University.

For more information on the internship program visit <http://pksoi.army.mil>

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