

USAWC Fellowship Focus—Lt. Col. Dan Brice

By Patricia Hayes 19 December 2022



Lt. Col. Dan Brice talks about his experience as a U.S. Army War College Fellow at Indiana University - Russian and East European Institute.

Lt. Col. Dan Brice is a U.S. Army War College Fellow at Indiana University - Russian and East European Institute. We had a chance to catch up with him and find out how his experience has been going thus far.

Tell us about your Fellowship. I am a Russian Foreign Area Officer, or FAO, in the Army, and I am required to take Russian as a foreign language. As part of my Fellowship, I am also auditing graduate courses on Russian nuclear foreign policy and international relations. Additionally, I give presentations/talks to different departments within the University...I have an arms control talk coming up about the New START Treaty. One of my goals this year is to learn Ukrainian, so I'm auditing a course in that, too.

I see you participated in the Russian and Ukrainian Table. Can you tell us about that? In addition to auditing classes, writing my research paper, and interacting with the local community, I joined these two languages and culture clubs called the Russian and Ukrainian Table. They include IU Faculty, students, and native speakers, and we meet weekly for an hour (speaking only Russian or Ukrainian for the 1st hour). It's been exciting because of the war in Ukraine. Local Ukrainian refugees attend this Table, and it gives us an opportunity to speak about current events. At the Russian Table, we try authentic Russian foods, share stories, and play board games designed to make us use the language. I speak Russian much better than Ukrainian, so the most challenging part is sometimes not mixing up the two.

How many languages do you speak? That depends on how you define "speak." For example, I speak Russian, as I've been doing so in the Army for ten years. I lived in Germany for ten years and picked up German to a degree, but I've gotten a little rusty. If I had to go back, it would probably come back quickly. I studied Spanish in high school and college. When I was at NATO for three years, I picked up a little French. And, of course, I've just started out in Ukrainian.

Have you had any unique or memorable experiences, speakers, or meetings since being an Army War College Fellow? My office is a few feet away from former Congressman Lee Hamilton, the school's namesake, who was co-chair of the 9/11 Commission in Congress. A few weeks ago, we were invited to the premiere screening of the documentary, "Are We Safer Today?" and that's where I also met Dan Coats, the former Director of National Intelligence. After the screening, there was a Q & A with Congressman Hamilton and others. They spoke about their experience with the 9/11 Commission and said it was a unique time in their career when the country came together and worked as one united group. Partisanship was essentially put on the back burner.

We also had a guest speaker in our Russian class who spoke about what

was happening in Ukraine and Russia. She was from Kharkiv, a Russian-speaking Ukrainian city and the second-largest city in Ukraine. She said the city is decimated, and the local population has started to get used to the death and destruction, casually walking by dead bodies every day. Sad to see, because when I lived and studied Russian in Ukraine, I had the opportunity to go to Kharkiv. Before, it was a nice, modern European city.

Recruiting efforts have been a major focus this year. Have you been a part of any recruiting opportunities that you have been a part of? I

took Gen. McConville's advice and recruited my son. He's 19 and will soon enlist as a 17C/Cybersecurity Operations Specialist. I was also in contact with the Battalion Recruiting Commander for Indiana, and I'm presenting about Ukraine to his Rotary Club.

What's in your future? I've recently been nominated to be the next Defense Attaché to Kazakhstan. This will be the fifth post-Soviet county I will have the opportunity to work in. Now that I know where I'm going next, I plan to focus my research paper on Kazakhstan. Also, we're having a baby in December, so pretty eventful in the Brice household.