



Defense Language and National Security Education Office

A three-year milestone has been accomplished for the Foreign Area Officer (FAO) Community. The FAO Heritage Pentagon Exhibit is complete with the Groundbreaking ceremonies confirmed for December 12, 2016. The event(s) will be hosted by Daniel P.C. Feehan, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Readiness), Performing Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Readiness). More details can be reviewed at: www.faoa.org/page-1696618



Following the ceremonial activities, a social will be hosted at the Sine Irish Pub (Pentagon City) in Arlington, VA.

The exhibit archives and documents the foundation, rich history and achievements of the present-day U.S. FAO program. This history dates back to the early 1800's with U.S. Army Captain Merriweather Lewis who was co-Commander with Captain William Clark who were asked by former U.S. President Thomas Jefferson to explore the lands west of the Mississippi River. Their mission was to conduct diplomacy with and gather information about various nations of American Indians, which included contact with at least 55 different native cultural groups, including assistance from guide and interpreter Toussaint Charbonneau and his wife, Sacajawea.

The remainder of the *History and Development* Section is portrayed in three time eras: 1920-1940 (World War), 1950-1980 (Cold War and Insurgencies), and 1990-21st Century (Redefining Global Partnerships). This section also included a tribute to two FAO Pioneers, former U.S. Army Lieutenant General, *confidant* to Dr. Henry Kissinger and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Vernon Walters and former General James A. Van Fleet, known as the "Father of South Korea's Army" and establishing foundational security assistance practices.

Retired U.S. Army Lieutenant General Samuel Vaughn Wilson (AKA General Sam) is also displayed as the FAO Founder as one of the first graduates the Russia Foreign Area Specialist Training (FAST) who spent a lifetime as a *soldier-statesman* at the highest levels of U.S. Government including advisement to at least five U.S. Presidents (Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, and George H.W. Bush). As a veteran Merrill's Marauder and Fort Benning Small Units trainer for Office of Strategic Services (OSS) his experience is the true *coin of counterinsurgency* training, tactics, and procedures (TTP). Upon retirement, "General Sam" continued to consult, including assistance with the development of the Goldwater-Nichols Act of 1986 legislation

known as the Nunn-Cohen Amendment that led to the establishment of the present-day U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM).

Other sections of the FAO Heritage Pentagon Exhibit include a tribute to the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) titled, “The Evolution of Foreign Language in the Armed Forces,” and artifacts memorabilia wall and the first-ever FAO Annual Awards Program and Hall of Fame.

In addition to individual FAO contributions, multiple organizations across the globe assisted with the development of this display to include the George C. Marshall Center for European Center for Security Studies in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the DLIFLC in Monterrey, California and the George C. Marshall Foundation at the Virginia Military Institute.

Additionally, a very special thank you to the Office of Secretary of Defense History and Curation Programs Office who has managed the development and completion of this project in cooperation with DLNSEO and the FAO Association (FAOA).

For more info on DLNSEO: <https://dlnseo.org>