

USAFA Cadets' Spring Break Trips

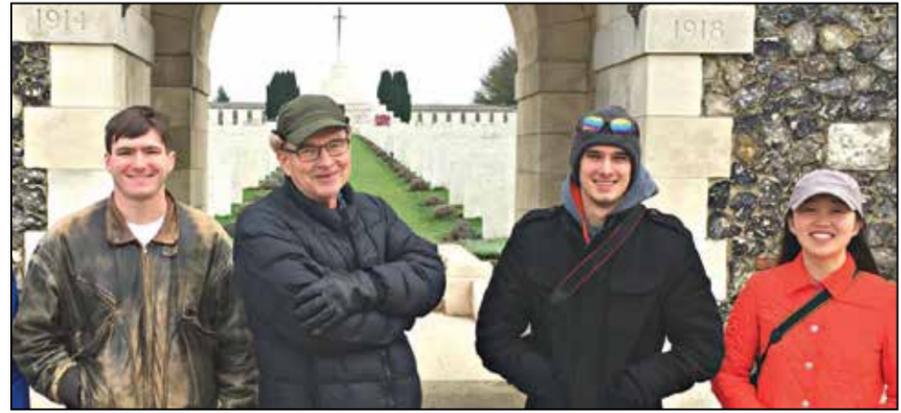
"At the Polish Air Force Academy...we experienced many wonderful flight simulators and then met with some PAFA cadets... We briefed the cadets on the US Air Force Academy and our faith here in the States," reports a U.S. Air Force Academy cadet from his ACCTS Spring Break trip to Poland. A full report of this trip and the AEP trip to Finland will be in June's newsletter.



OUR MISSION: To assist in the development of Christian leaders in the armed forces of the world and in the establishment and growth of military Christian fellowships.

COURAGE, BRAVERY, AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Cadet and Midshipmen Learn Leadership Lessons in Belgium and France

"The group prayers, such as at the airport or in the van, inspired me to think of God at any moment throughout the day. This also serves as the lesson I learned on leadership and integrating my faith into my daily life and military career. I am empowered to lead group prayer with my peers here at the Academy as well as in the future as an officer." Elizabeth L. Lee MIDN, USN



A West Point cadet and two midshipmen from the U.S. Naval Academy joined ACCTS' executive director, Phil Exner, and two other group leaders in France and Belgium to visit historic battle sites and discuss leadership as a Christian in the armed forces.

The Waterloo to World War II group visited five or six different war- or cultural-related sites each day. From the Waterloo battlefield to Normandy beaches and towns, the group also stopped at the location of the first use of tanks, poison gas, the 1914 Christmas truce, Allied and German cemeteries, trenches, and other World War I sites. They also visited 13th century castle ruins, an old monastery, and other sites. At each location, Phil provided stories, historical insights, and leadership lessons on how those lessons apply to today's military personnel.



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Courage, Bravery, and Making a Difference

continued from page 1

One of the leaders, Colonel (USMC, Ret.) Tim Cole, shares, "At all the sites we visited, we discussed courage, bravery, and how a single person can make a difference. That's applicable in both military environments and faith environments. These types of conversations happened at each stop."

The young leaders who participated spanned the spectrum of experience, from freshman to senior year at their academies – but all were eager to participate and learn.

One site that had a profound impact on all participants was Breendonk, a Nazi prison camp in Belgium. Cadet William Kemper shares, "Breendonk probably had the greatest impact on me. It may have been the darkest spot we visited, but it showed how easy it is for men to turn into monsters...Biggest lessons were probably that as a leader I may have to battle against toxic environments like that of Breendonk and that I also will have to battle against temptations."

The group had an unexpected opportunity to meet with an Albanian/British military Christian family who are stationed at NATO – Albanian LtCol Roland Shuli and his wife Elizabeth, who have been leaders in the Albanian MCF. Tim Cole explained the impact this had on the group: "I was struck by Phil's and ACCTS' extended network...meeting the Shulis was a high point. It was tangible proof of a network of military fellowship. Roland and Elizabeth shared about some of challenges of combining their faith, family, and military life. The visit also showed us that this network [of military Christians] is real, the community is real, and the love and faith is real. There was only one person in the room who

continued on page 3



Courage, Bravery, and Making a Difference

continued from page 2

knew them – Phil -- and yet we were all welcomed as family. We were humbled by that."

One of Phil Exner's goals for this trip, and others like it, is that the experiences and lessons learned about Christian leadership and ethics will have career-long, and life-long, effect: "I believe the three young participants are going to have an impact for Christ when they get out of the academy, start leading people, and apply their faith to the moral and ethical challenges they will face in their military careers."



With Christ: Jonie Snow

Former ACCTS staff member Jonie Snow went to be with the Lord on 21 March after a long illness. Jonie was instrumental in military ministry in several Asian nations, challenged and encouraged people in their faith, and was a teacher and mentor to women during ACCTS' Interaction programs. She had a sparkling, outgoing personality and was greatly loved. Please pray for her husband Don and their family.

ACCTS Prayer Reminder

May 2017

The invisible bond that unites all believers to Christ is far more tender, and lasting, and precious; and, as we come to recognize and realize that we are all dwelling in one sphere of life in Him, we learn to look on every believer as our brother..."

-- A.T. Pierson



1 Later this month, military Christian ministry leaders from AMCF, ACCTS, MSO, and MMI will meet in Sri Lanka for a Pray and Plan for the next Quinquennial -- a meeting of all of the AMCF vice presidents and other people that is held every five years. We'll be praying for leaders of these organizations in this month's prayer bulletin. Today, please pray for the president of AMCF (www.amcf-int.org), General Srilal Weerasooriya of Sri Lanka.

2 Today, pray for Brigadier David Wakaalo, AMCF's vice president for East Africa, and Colonel Daniel Alain Njoya, AMCF's vice president for French-speaking Africa.

3 Uphold in prayer Captain Peter Louwrens, acting AMCF vice president for Southern Africa, and Group Captain Sunday Igwe, vice president for West Africa.

4 Today, pray for AMCF's vice presidents: Lieutenant Colonel Nestor Ogilvie (North America), Colonel Joaquín Maldonado (Central America), and Colonel Omar Larrazabal (South America).

5 Please focus your prayers today on these three

AMCF vice presidents: Commander Saleem Mathew (South Asia), Colonel Ernesto Sacro (SE Asia), and Dr. Andrew Tzeng (East Asia).

6 Colonel Torbjorn Bostrom is AMCF's vice president for Northeast Europe, and Commander (Ret., Royal Navy) Mike Terry is the vice president for South Central Europe. Please pray for them today.

7 Pray today for AMCF's vice president for the Pacific region, Principal Chaplain Eric Burton, and Brigadier General Isam Oumeish, AMCF's vice president for the Middle East.

8 Pray with us for our partner organization in South Korea, Mission Support Organization (www.mso.or.kr), as they bring military Christians from countries with no military Christian fellowship (MCF) or MCFs that will benefit from additional training to the annual Military Evangelism Observation (MEO) program in Korea in June.

9 Pray for our sister organization Military Ministry International (MMI) in the UK as they seek God's guidance in filling key positions in their organization.

10 Praise God for the military ministry work that Bob and Billie Jean Reifsnnyder do in Latin America, and pray with MCFs in this region as they strive to follow Christ.

11 Last month ten international participants attended ACCTS' Chaplains Interaction training program. Pray for them as they now work to implement the goals which they made during Chaplains Interaction.

12 Pray with ACCTS staff members who share Christ with international military students in the U.S. Give praise, and pray for, staff and board members who reach out in the San Antonio area, including Bill and Suzanne Lumpkin, Dave and Karen Wittman, and Dave and Jan Hall.

13 Pray for Paul Neu and his wife Barbara as he plans future American English Language Training programs, which ACCTS holds in partnership with international military Christian fellowships.

14 Pray for safety for civilians and military troops in the war-stricken nation of Syria.

15 Pray for wisdom for Dave and Karen Wittman as they minister to believers in Colombia this week. They will also speak to students at Colombia's Navy and Air Force academies.

16 Pray for military Christians and their families in your nation, asking God to guide them in all they do.

17 Pray for the cadets and midshipmen from U.S. military academies and ROTC programs who are being commissioned this month. May God give them a vision for their calling as leaders of U.S. military men and women, and for the opportunities they will have for ministry among international military Christians during their careers.

18 Ask that God give wisdom and knowledge to all participants during today's pray and plan for the next Quinquennial meetings in Sri Lanka.

19 Please pray for God to raise up more people here in the USA and world-wide to receive the vision for international military ministry. Pray that God would provide new and generous supporters for ACCTS, MMI, and MSO.

20 Uphold AMCF President Srilal Weerasooriya in prayer as he continues to lead this week's Quinquennial planning meeting.

21 Pray for the ongoing preparations for Interaction Rocky Mountain High, which starts in late June - for the ACCTS staff members planning the lessons and events and for the applicants, that they may receive permission from their governments and get their U.S. visas to attend.

22 Praise God for Ed Ward's ministry in Mongolia and China, and ask that his teachings on leadership inspire many to follow Christ as their personal Leader. Pray for Ed and Sally as they minister with ACCTS.

23 Pray with Bernhard Kaltenbach, ACCTS' deputy director, and Cheryl Kaltenbach, asking that the Holy Spirit guide them daily.

24 Pray with Russ Hammerud as he works on special ministry projects from the ACCTS office and ministers in China as God provides the opportunities.

25 Pray for Pete Prindle, ACCTS' director of operations, and his wife Jacki as Pete provides planning assistance for ministry programs.

26 This weekend, Noel Dawes leads a Welcome Home Initiative for U.S. military personnel. Pray that this time will be one of healing and learning for all participants, and pray for Noel and Meryl Dawes' overall ministry.

27 Today is the 50th anniversary celebration of Chile's MCF, the MEU -- Misión Evangélica Uniformada! Praise God for this group of brothers and sisters who share Christ's redemption with others in their nations' armed forces.

28 Pray with ACCTS staff members, including Carson and Wendy Tavenner, as they prepare for next month's Academy Exploration trips to Japan and China.

29 Pray with Gina Rajah as she continues to minister to military personnel in Brazil.

30 Ask for God's provision for Eduard Rosca and his family as he ministers for ACCTS in Moldova and other European nations.

31 During the summer months ACCTS staff have heavy travel schedules. Pray for God's protection and guidance for them as well as for all internationals who attend ACCTS programs.