

# June Ministry Events

- Academy Exploration trip – Japan and China
- AMCF European Leaders Pray and Plan – U.K.
- Military Evangelism Opportunity conference – South Korea
- Staff mission trip – France
- Staff mission trip – Croatia
- Interaction-Rocky Mountain High leadership program – Colorado, USA



**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.

## GO WHERE THE SOLDIERS ARE!

### Lessons Learned at Chaplains Interaction

*“I won’t go back home the same; I want to make a difference in the lives of my soldiers,”* reported an international military Christian who attended ACCTS’ Chaplains Interaction in March and April.

Since 2007, Chaplains Interaction programs have provided professional training for military chaplains (and volunteer chaplains) to help them minister to their nations’ troops. Under the leadership of ACCTS staff member Chaplain Jim Ellis and his team, participants from India, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Cape Verde, Guyana, and Suriname discussed the universal principles of chaplaincy programs, command/chaplain relationships, ministering in a pluralistic society, the chaplain’s code of ethics, suicide prevention, next-of-kin notification, and operational stress management. Learning to “go where the soldiers are” instead of waiting for them to show up at the chaplain’s office was a major training point.

Chaplains Interaction participants also learned about the inductive Bible study method, which is particularly useful for military personnel



- International Participants:**
- Cape Verde:** Capt. Aires Semedo
  - Guyana:** Rev. Jacob Corbin
  - Guyana:** Mrs. Hester Corbin
  - Guyana:** Chaplain Patrick Doolichand
  - Guyana:** Mrs. Leila Doolichand
  - India:** Chaplain B.
  - Nigeria:** Rev. Philip Madugu
  - Suriname:** Chaplain Michel Stewart
  - Zimbabwe:** Warrant Officer 1 (Ret.) Maxwell Mupondi
  - Zimbabwe:** Mrs. Eunet Mupondi



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## GO WHERE THE SOLDIERS ARE

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because they can begin and lead Bible studies when pastors or chaplains aren't available to help them. After learning this method, one participant intends to seek out and encourage Christians on various bases in his home nation to use it to begin Bible studies for military personnel.



The participants attended a weekend marriage retreat as well, with many noting that their experience at the retreat will help them provide better marital counseling to military families. One participant shares that it was a "fantastic experience for me and my wife...it

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## Spouse Program:



ACCTS was blessed to have three international women attend Chaplains Interaction with their husbands. In addition to participating in regular training sessions, these women participated in a program uniquely geared toward their lives and ministries. The international wives also spent an inspiring time with the local PWOC (Protestant Women of the Chapel) group, exchanging information and fellowship. Pray with these international women as they continue ministering to military personnel and families in their home nations.

## ACCS PRAYER REMINDER

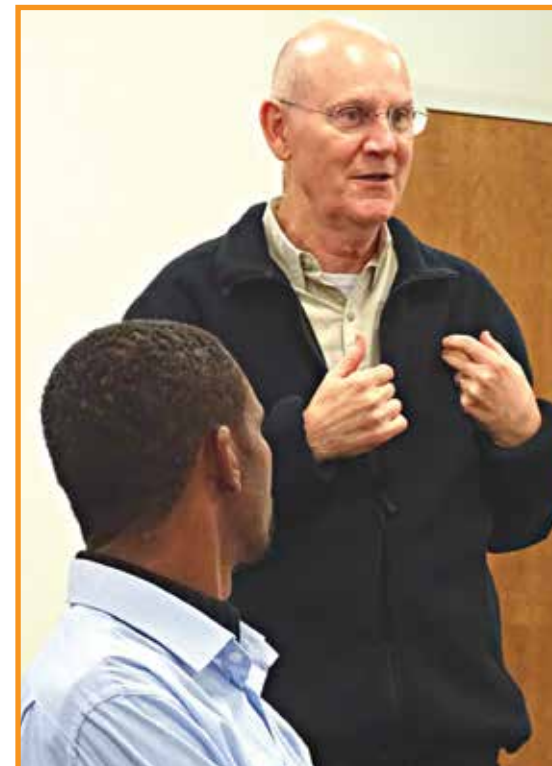
June 2017

### Week One:

Pray for ACCTS' annual Exploration trip, which takes place this week in Japan and China. Pray that the West Point cadets who are on this trip will learn more about being a military Christian and ministering to others. Pray for wisdom for staff members Carson and Wendy Tavenner and Rick Ryles as they lead this outreach. Pray for military believers throughout Asia as they serve Christ in a variety of conditions – some are blessed with full religious freedom while others are oppressed because of their faith.

### Week Two:

Pray with European military Christian fellowship leaders as they meet this week to pray and plan for future outreach. Ask God to guide and direct them and give them innovative, Spirit-filled ideas for reaching out in their nations. Pray for all military ministry in Europe, asking God to enable Christians to serve others and bring them to Him because of their lives and witnesses. Continue to uphold our sister organization MMI in UK as they seek to fill key positions.



### Week Three:

This week military Christians in South Korea host the annual Military Evangelism Opportunity (MEO) program, which ACCTS staff will be involved in. Pray for the indigenous military believers from around the world who will attend to learn how to start and grow military fellowships. Ask for wisdom for those who lead this MEO. Pray for all military believers in Asia, asking that they be memorial beacons of Christ to share His love and usher in blessings for this world.

### Week Four:

Pray for our annual Interaction-Rocky Mountain High leadership training program for young international military personnel. I-RMH runs from 25 June - 13 July. Pray that the international participants will have minds ready to learn from the Holy Spirit. Ask for wisdom for I-RMH leaders and safety for all. Pray for the ministries of all military Christians in the countries which we expect to be represented at I-RMH: Antigua, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Colombia, Haiti, Romania, and Uganda.





## USAFA CADETS IN FINLAND

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on life at the USAFA, and had time for discussions with their Finnish counterparts afterward. A visit with the U.S. military attaché in Finland was also a highlight of this trip. The attaché gave them a thorough report on his role and career.

“One of the things the cadets learned on this trip was how blessed they are to have strong Christian support groups at their academy,” Bernhard concludes. “My prayer is that these young men will stay involved in military ministry throughout their careers.”



## HEALING AND BREAKTHROUGH FOR VETERANS

***“The team had a spirit of unity and love and that peace made the retreat a time of healing and breakthrough for many.”***  
 -- USMC veteran, served in Desert Storm

ACCTS staff members Noel and Meryl Dawes helped lead a healing Welcome Home Initiative (WHI) retreat in April for sixteen female combat veterans. WHI retreats are intense, focused events for military veterans who may be suffering, in varying degrees, from trauma or post-traumatic stress.

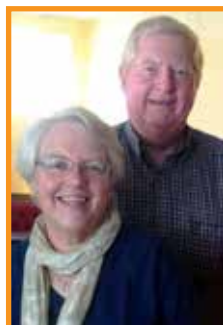
“Everyone was very open and ready to receive whatever the Holy Spirit had in store for them,” Noel reports. “The group bonded quickly and the camaraderie between everyone, regardless of where they came from, was very good... Many burdens and much baggage was given to Jesus.”

One participant “eventually plucked up courage to share a little bit of her very difficult story with us. She’d served on active duty in the Middle East but was now homeless... a team mem-

ber linked her up with an addiction resource at her church and another team member will visit her where she lives to offer more inner healing prayer...”

***“The retreat gave me time to be still and hear the voice of God.”***  
 -- USMC Veteran, Desert Storm, 1990-91

“Layers of abuse were removed and discarded as the women grasped that they could put Jesus between them and the trauma,” Noel concludes, “and that He takes the trauma onto Him, replacing it with grace, peace, mercy, blessing, and more. I believe every woman went home feeling some of His love for them in these ways.”



*Noel and Meryl Dawes*

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was one of the most divine times in the entire conference.”

Before they returned to their home nations, the international participants shared more thoughts on what they learned, and will implement when they return, including:

- “cooperate without compromise, [and] involve new converts in Bible study.”
- “For me and my wife it was a life changing experience. The discipline and commitment of the various instructors was at the highest level... instructors were full of years of experience.”
- a “biblical vision about military profession...I feel more prepared to help my country in spiritual work...”
- “I am going to discuss with my national chaplains how we could use this manual [provided by ACCTS] as a template for structuring our civil defense chaplaincy.”
- that Chaplains Interaction will help him be “more credible to do effective ministry.”

Please pray that this year’s Chaplains Interaction program will continue to encourage all who attended and help them further military ministry in their own nations.



### Thank you, WPAFB Chapel Community!

“I can’t say enough about the support of the chaplains and the chapel congregations as well,” staff member Vic Grazier shares. “It was such a blessing to have so much involvement and support from the entire WPAFB chapel community.” ACCTS is deeply grateful for the support which the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base chapel congregations gave this program. Led by CH LTC Wilson, chaplains gave of their time and talent to help teach at Chaplains Interaction, and the chapel community as a whole hosted delegates in their homes, donated funds to help sponsor the international participants, and provided the facility for Chaplains Interaction meetings. Thank you!



## USAFA CADETS IN POLAND

### Why Spring Break Trips?

ACCTS, working in partnership with Officers' Christian Fellowship groups in the U.S., hosts annual Spring Break mission trips for cadets and midshipmen at U.S. service academies to help them:

1. See their military careers as callings from God.
2. Learn to integrate their faith in their careers.
3. Develop a vision for international military ministry.
4. Start and build relationships with Christian military peers in other countries.
5. Develop a knowledge of and appreciation for the people, culture, and hopes of the nations they visit.

These visits are part of our overall goal of encouraging and building up the next generation of military believers in all nations around the world.

Four U.S. Air Force Academy cadets, led by Lt Col (USAF) Matthew and Karen Brandt, participated in an ACCTS Spring Break trip to Poland in March. ACCTS linked them up with military Christians in Poland, who arranged their in-country visits to the Polish Air Force Academy, lodging at a local seminary, and visits to other cultural and military sites in their nation. Colonel Brandt states, "Our hosts, Igor, Darek, Daniel, and Peter, have been such a blessing to us, and I've found their stories very interesting to be sure. I never thought I'd enjoy having dinner with a MIG and Sukhoi driver!! Truly men of God. And brothers in Christ!"

The group's visit to the academy chapel was a highlight, providing an opportunity for interaction with Polish cadets and students. The U.S. cadets briefed the Polish cadets on the U.S. Air Force Academy and how they live out their faith there. A very engaged question-and-answer time followed, as well as good inter-personal discussions between U.S. and Polish cadets. The cadet group was also given an escorted tour through the academy to learn about its history, and had the opportunity to use several flight simulators.

The group's trip to Auschwitz-Birkenau was a sobering experience which affected the cadets and leaders deeply. "We witnessed pure sin at its deepest root. From remnants of those who were murdered to the disturbing complicated agendas of those murdering, our team left with no appetite for lunch and a reserved discussion of simply 'why.' We may never know that answer, but as retired and future military officers, both Polish and American alike, we agreed that hate is never the answer."



## USAFA CADETS IN FINLAND

### Helping MCFs through Spring Break Trips:

ACCTS' Spring Break Trips are designed to help indigenous military Christian fellowships (MCFs) by providing:

1. Opportunities for MCF members to meet and interact with US military cadets, midshipmen, and other personnel.
2. A unique way for MCF members to minister to others outside their nation.
3. Future opportunities for ministry in their own nation.



"The three U.S. Air Force cadets who went on the ACCTS Spring Break trip to Finland showed good leadership skills and flexibility. They are all involved in military fellowship through OCF at the USAFA, and in Finland they were eager to share their faith with others," reports team leader Bernhard Kaltenbach after the March trip.

"We were able to visit two military academies in Finland, thanks to the Finnish military Christians, LtCol (Ret.) Jari Rankila and Lt Atte Sievälä, who hosted us. The MCF of Finland is small, but they were great hosts and we feel they were also encouraged by our visit. Jari is interested in promoting ministry to younger people, and this was part of his investment in younger military Christian leadership."

At both academies, the U.S. group was hosted and greeted by the commandants, who believe these visits are a good way to allow for the exchange of ideas and experiences. The three cadets presented a report

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