

# JLATF WEST

N E W S   Q U A R T E R L Y

Counternarcotics Program News in the Indo-Asia-Pacific



## Counternarcotics Training in Bangladesh

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# JLATF WEST

N E W S   Q U A R T E R L Y

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## **Director**

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## **Deputy Director**

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CAPT Andrew St. John, USN

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LtCol Duncan Buchanan, USMC

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Ms. Lee-Ann McClain

LCDR Stephen Bower, USN

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## **Article Contributors**

LCDR Aja Kirksey, USCG; Capt Paul Trower, USMC; CW4 Andrew Siemens, USA; LTC Stephen Peters, USA; CPT James Self, USA; LCDR Michael Hosey, USCG; LT Franz Federschmidt, USN; Ms. Véronique Dillon; Mr. Kurtis Derell; Mr. Chih Woo; Mr. Sesh Munipalli; LCDR Luis Prada, USN; Mr. Shawn Parrish; Mr. Lance McInnis; Mr. James Griego; Mr. Scott Hawman

## **Foreign Disclosure Officers**

Mr. Kenneth Ayers

Mr. Terrence Honay

## **Public Affairs Support - USPACOM**

LCDR Denver Applehans, USN

MCC Jerel Jones, USN – SOCPAC

This e-Newsletter was produced by  
Joint Interagency Task Force West  
J5 Strategic Communications.

For questions, comments, or story ideas, please contact

Mr. Shawn Parrish

Ph 808-477-9758

Email [shawn.parrish.ctr@jiatfw.pacom.mil](mailto:shawn.parrish.ctr@jiatfw.pacom.mil)

JLATF West ATTN: J5

BOX 64033, CAMP H.M. SMITH, HI 96861-4033

Phone 808-477-9708 Email [info@jiatfw.pacom.mil](mailto:info@jiatfw.pacom.mil)

Web <http://www.pacom.mil/organization/staff-directorates/jiatf-west/index.shtml>

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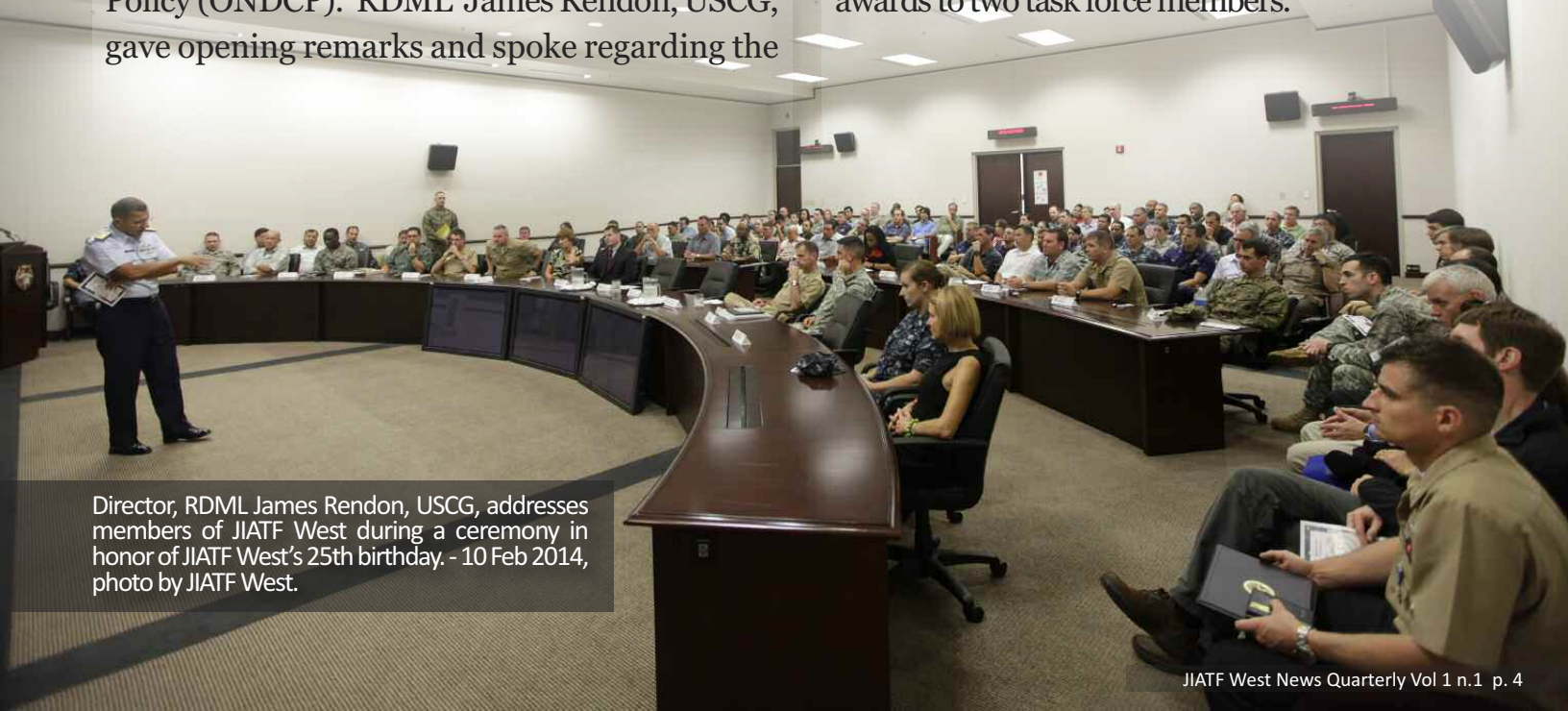
**Cover Photo** Capt Paul Trower, USMC, JIATF West Training Liaison Officer, photographed the cover photo while supervising the Marksmanship Training Course in Bangladesh. In this photo, a military instructor from the Army National Guard checks the proper shooting stance for the supported prone position during training in Satkania, Bangladesh. - 17 March 2014



# J IATF West Celebrates 25 Years of Service

On the 10th of February, 2014, over one hundred members of Joint Interagency Task Force West gathered for a ceremony honoring the task force's 25 years of service to the Department of Defense as U. S. Pacific Command's (USPACOM) executive agent for counternarcotics programs in the Asia-Pacific. Deputy Commander, USPACOM, Lieutenant General Thomas L. Conant, USMC, was the Guest of Honor during the ceremony. Another special guest attending was Mr. Michael K. Gottlieb, National High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program Director at the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). RDML James Rendon, USCG, gave opening remarks and spoke regarding the

historical achievements of the task force since its inception back in 1989 at Coast Guard Island in Alameda, California. Afterwards, guest of honor, LtGen Conant addressed the task force. During his remarks, LtGen Conant recognized the importance of JIATF West's work. "The work of JIATF West is essential to fulfilling the mission of USPACOM," LtGen Conant said. After his comments, LtGen Conant presented the United States Interdiction Coordinator award to Director JIATF West, RDML Rendon on behalf of the U. S. Interdiction Coordinator, Ms. Marilyn Quagliotti, who was not able to attend. Prior to departing, LtGen Conant also had the opportunity to present awards to two task force members.



Director, RDML James Rendon, USCG, addresses members of JIATF West during a ceremony in honor of JIATF West's 25th birthday. - 10 Feb 2014, photo by JIATF West.





On February 10th 2014, an anniversary ceremony was held in honor of Joint Interagency Task Force West's 25 years of service as U. S. Pacific Command's executive agent for counterdrug efforts in the Asia-Pacific. Director, RDML James Rendon, USCG and staff gathered in the Flag Mess of the Nimitz-MacArthur Pacific Command Center at Camp H. M. Smith for a cake cutting ceremony. Civilian of the Year, Ms. Lee-Ann McClain and Enlisted Person of the Year, CTT2 Brandon Sneyd, USN, were chosen to help cut the first slice of cake. Right, Ms. Alicia Finley, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Director. - 10 Feb 2014, photo by JIATF West.





During the ceremony, Deputy Commander, U.S. Pacific Command, Lieutenant General Thomas Conant presented the United States Interdiction Coordinator award to Director JIATF West, Rear Admiral James Rendon, USCG on behalf of the U.S. Interdiction Coordinator, Marilyn Quagliotti.

The JIATF West Civilian of the Year Award was presented to Ms. Lee-Ann McClain for her work as the Task Force Policy Officer, and CTT2 Brandon Sneyd, USN was presented with the JIATF West Enlisted Person of the Year Award.

The remarks and presentation of awards by LtGen Conant was followed by a special ten minute video presentation prepared by the Plans and Policy Directorate. The video, entitled “JIATF West Then and Now,” was created to celebrate the past 25 years of achievement. Communications Strategist, Mr. Shawn Parrish teamed up with Integrated Maritime Skills Officer in Charge, LCDR Stephen Bower, USN, to produce it . The video contained excerpts from a previously produced video by JIATF West in 1997. The footage was originally filmed in Alameda by JIATF West staff with the help of a local production company. The video was made for distribution on VHS tape to stakeholders in the late ‘90s.





**Michael K. Gottlieb, National High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program Director at the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) attending the JIATF West 25th Anniversary Ceremony. - 10 February 2014.**

After the video presentation, special guest, Mr. Mike Gottlieb, presented JIATF West with the “Director’s Award for Sustained Distinguished Service” signed by ONDCP Director, Mr. R. Gil Kerlikowske. The award reads, “...In recognition of extraordinary dedication and unparalleled accomplishments during twenty-five years of operation as Joint Task Force Five, and Joint Interagency Task Force West. The interagency and international personnel who comprise the Task Force have left an indelible mark and played a pivotal role in the international effort to eliminate the threat to our national security, regional stability, and world posed by illicit trafficking...”

Mr. Gottlieb’s presentation was followed by closing remarks from RDML Rendon who invited everyone to gather in the Flag Mess for a cake cutting ceremony. □



**Mr. Michael Gottlieb presents the Director’s Award for Sustained Distinguished Service to JIATF West Director, RDML James Rendon. From left to right, CAPT Howard Hart, USN; Mr. Christopher Isham; CDR Jeffrey Scudder, USN; RDML James Rendon, USCG; Mr. Gottlieb, Mr. Michael Ryan, Capt Jermaine Coleman, USAF; and Ms. Kathleen Barnes. - 10 February 2014.**

# J IATF West Historical Reflections

The following is an excerpt from a historical summary read by Director RDML James Rendon at the JIATF West 25th Anniversary Ceremony. The first 22 employees walked in the door of Joint Task Force Five, (JTF-5) led by RDML Leahy on February 10, 1989, on Coast Guard Island, Alameda, California.

The Department of Defense had established two other task forces that year with JTF-4 in Key West and JTF 6 in Miami in response to Congress assigning detection and monitoring responsibilities to DoD under Title 10 of the United States Code, Section 124.

JTF-5's first budget was \$1,215,000 and covered the months from February to September of 1989.

In 1994 JTF-5 was renamed Joint Interagency Task Force West.

Also in 1994, JTF-4 became JIATF East and JTF-6 became JIATF South. In 1999, JIATF East and JIATF South merged.

JIATF West's first drug bust was the ship "Lucky Star" on July 11, 1991 with over 70 metric tons (MT) of hashish.

The largest bust was of 12 MT of cocaine on the "Svesda Maru" on May 9, 2001, and the second largest was 9.7 MT of cocaine from the "Xoloescuintle" on Aug 13, 1999.



With over ten tons of cocaine well hidden deep inside the fuel hold, the capture of the Belize-Flagged fishing vessel, the "Svesda Maru" made history in May of 2001 as the largest cocaine bust at sea. - 2 May 2001, Photo by U. S. Coast Guard



# JIATF West Historical Reflections

There were two other large cocaine busts in 2001; 9 MT off the "Forever My Friend" on Jan 26, and 9.3 MT off the "Macel" on Dec 21.

The drug traffickers changed their tactics the following year by deploying a larger number of smaller boats called pangas carrying smaller amounts of drugs.

JIATF West drug seizures from 1991- 2003 included 240.5 MT of cocaine, 11 MT of marijuana, and 7.5 MT of hashish.

During 2004, JIATF West moved from Coast Guard Island, Alameda, California to Camp Smith, Hawaii. Less than 50 percent of the personnel moved with the Task Force. 11 of 30 civilians, 19 of 45 active duty, 5 of 10 reservists, and 3 of 11 contractors moved.

13 of the people who came over from Alameda are still with JIATF West today. These people have been with JIATF West for over a decade.

In 1994 we added partner nation counterdrug law enforcement support and capacity building to our priorities.

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## Joint Interagency Task Force West USCINCPAC





# JIATF West Historical Reflections

The first training mission was Baker Torch 94-1 in 1994. During fiscal years 1994-2013, there were 388 missions training over 17,754 students in 19 countries.

The first host nation facility construction project was the Interagency Intelligence Fusion Center in Chiang Mai, Thailand for \$197,000 in 2002. Since then, JIATF West supported the construction of a total of 75 host nation facilities in eight countries worth a total of \$41 million.

As methamphetamine abuse reaches epidemic proportion, JIATF West has supported law enforcement agencies in the seizure of 1,696 MTs of meth precursors with a possible yield of 587 MTs of finished meth.

The Consolidated Counterdrug Database (CCDB) Amphetamine-Type Substances (ATS) & Precursors Module became operational on October 1, 2011. The Interdiction Committee (TIC) approved the addition in October 2010 after a nine year effort by JIATF West to add the ATS module. □

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# NT Projects in Cox's Bazar & Teknaf- Upazila, Bangladesh

Walking along a sandy road surrounded by dense tropical vegetation, members of Joint Interagency Task Force West and the U. S. Embassy in Dhaka, walk with officers of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) along a remote border road. Led by BGB's 42nd Battalion Commander, Lt Col Abujar Al Jahid, the group treks through the low lying mountains of Bangladesh's southern district known as Cox's Bazar. The group is headed toward a remote border outpost where elephant crossing signs are common as wild elephants often roam the region's forests and unpaved roads. Upon arrival to the outpost, rows of photo voltaic solar panels remind everybody that the outpost is completely off the grid.

It is the 18th of January, 2014, and JIATF West's Future Operations Officers CW4 Andrews Siemens, USA, and CPT James Self, USA, along with Task Force Representative, LCDR Michael Hosey, USCG, are conducting a concept of operations assessment to support BGB counter-narcotics efforts.

Bordering both India and Burma, the southeast district of Cox's Bazar is a porous border fraught with security challenges. Seeking ways to improve security and stability in the southeast region, Bangladesh's oldest uniformed force, the BGB, worked with the US Department of Justice's International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) and the U. S. Embassy's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs to obtain the help of JIATF West.



Members of JIATF West and the Border Guard Bangladesh trek through a remote forest in the Southern Teknaf region during a base assessment as part of plans to improve security in the region. - 18 January 2014, photo by LCDR Michael Hosey, USCG.



# CNT Projects in Cox's Bazar & Teknaf

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The infrastructure projects and proposed counternarcotics training events require a lot of planning. To assist with that planning, JIATF West first sends Future Operations Officers or *FUOPs* such as CW4 Siemens and CPT James Self, USA, who were there to offer their professional expertise in conducting ground level assessments. Their work involves documenting existing capabilities and the identification of deficiencies and gaps in support of partner nation law enforcement and defense forces. Conducted in three parts throughout the month of January, the first part took place between the 11th and 17th in the capital city of Dhaka. There, LCDR Hosey, CPT Self, and CW4 Siemens met with Pacific Command Augmentation Team (PAT) Security Forces Manager, SFC Misipati Bird, USA, for meetings in the U. S. Embassy. The JIATF West team and members of the Embassy then travelled to the division of Chittagong, Bangladesh's southernmost division to visit BGB outposts in the cities of Cox's Bazar and Teknaf.





# CNT Projects in Cox's Bazar & Teknaf

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Before going on any further, an explanation on Bangladesh's political regions is in order. Similar to how the United States' political boundaries are divided up as states, counties, cities and townships; Bangladesh's internal political boundaries are made up of divisions (a group of states), districts or "zila" (Bangladesh's equivalent of a State), and sub-districts or towns referred to as "upazila" (a city or borough). Districts are named after the largest city within its boundaries. Therefore, "Cox's Bazar" is the name of both a city and county in the southeastern region of the country. Teknaf is a township in the southern most point of Bangladesh.

The Cox's Bazar and Teknaf Upazila are significant to the BGB since they have various border stations and outposts along the India and Burmese borders. Teknaf is the southern-most city in Bangladesh and is considered a remote frontier town. Despite the remoteness of Teknaf, it is a hot spot for tourists travelling on their way to the idyllic St. Martin's Island, a coral island that is one of Bangladesh's most popular tourist spots. Along with the steady flow of tourists, there is also a flow of drug smugglers. The Teknaf region is a popular smuggling ground for drug dealers trafficking Yaba from the many meth factories in Burma near the Bangladesh border.

## The Districts or "Zila" of Bangladesh

## Divisions of Bangladesh



Low tide in Teknaf, Bangladesh. Officers of the Border Guard Bangladesh have to walk several hundred yards of beach to reach the shore. The Bangladesh shoreline has some of the world's greatest tidal changes. - 18 January 2014, photo by LCDR Michael Hosey, USCG.



# CNT Projects in Cox's Bazar & Teknaf

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According to an article published by Narinjara News in 2012, "There are three Yaba factories on the Burmese side very close to Bangladesh. Yaba tablets are now being smuggled from those factories into Bangladesh and have been ruining the lives of Bangladeshi youths" (Narinjara, 2012).

After the site assessments were completed in Cox's Bazar and Teknaf, the Embassy and JIATF West team headed back to Dhaka for a second round of meetings with U. S. Embassy representatives, the Pacific Command Augmentation Team (PAT), JIATF West, and Mr. Karl Clark from ICITAP. Heading back to Dhaka gave FOUP officers from JIATF West a chance to meet up with Base Development Manager, Mr. Scott Hawman. Scott was preparing for a different site survey with Naval Facilities Engineering Command in the cities of

Chittagong and Satkania to initiate facility development projects. In addition to the arrival of Mr. Hawman, Training Liaison Officer, Capt. Paul Trower, USMC, also met the FUOP team. Capt. Trower travelled to Bangladesh with a group of U. S. Army instructors to lay the groundwork for the first joint CNT training with BGB later in March.

These joint collaborative efforts couldn't have come at a better time as the southern region of Bangladesh has recently been experiencing a spike in methamphetamine smuggling. Evidence of this is brought to light by recent reports of interdictions by the BGB. On May 2, 2014, the Dhaka Tribune reported the seizure of a fishing trawler from Burma carrying 61,000 Yaba tablets. An April 30 article indicated that six of Bangladesh's most wanted Yaba traders were killed while fighting with police.



At a remote border outpost in BGB 17th Battalion area of operations, COL Fharid , Commander BGB Cox's Bazar, discuss security concerns with PACOM Augmentation Team; SFC Misipati Bird, USA, Assistant Security Forces Manager (center). Right, JIATF West Future Operations Officers, CPT James Self, USA, and CW4 Andrew Siemens, USA. - 18 January 2014, photo by LCDR Michael Hosey, USCG.



According to the Tribune article, the BGB is doing everything it can to improve security. "We have 23 camps in border areas and 15 new camps are being set up." "Construction is proceeding fast as we have directives from the top administration to show zero tolerance for drugs," said, Cox's Bazar BGB Sector Commander, Colonel Khandaker Farid Hassan.

The frequent drug related events in the Cox's Bazar district are indicative of the challenges faced by the BGB. JIATF West is pleased to support the BGB's counterdrug efforts with facility development and counternarcotics training (CNT). The assessment performed in January was one step forward in developing plans to support the BGB. Unlike a previous assessment performed in October of 2013, this was specifically for the southern area of BGB operations.

Planned projects for the BCG and BGB are the first ever host nation infrastructure projects supported by JIATF West in Bangladesh.

Although this is the first facility project in which JIATF West has augmented Bangladesh's counternarcotics efforts, JIATF West is no stranger to Bangladesh. JIATF West has been helping with counterdrug efforts in Bangladesh since 2005 with over a dozen CNT events with the BCG. However, this is the first time working with the BGB. It is also the BGB's first ever joint effort with the U. S. In addition to the facility development improvements, JIATF West has a total of 12 counternarcotics training events planned with the BCG and BGB between 2014 and 2016. □



Water Buffalo! – A local villager walks his water buffalo in search of grass for grazing, a common sight in Southern Bangladesh. - 18 January 2014, photo by LCDR Michael Hosey, USCG.



# Coordination Talks in Bangladesh

By LCDR Michael Hosey, USCG & Mr. Shawn Parrish

In early February, 2014, Director of Joint Interagency Task Force West, RDML James E. Rendon, USCG, and a small staff traveled to Bangladesh to participate in senior level meetings with U. S. Country Team Dhaka, Bangladesh Coast Guard (BCG), and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB). The trip was designed to strengthen and further develop U. S. and Bangladesh partnerships. The meetings not only supported the U. S. Embassy's Country Team in Dhaka, but also the goals and objectives of United States Pacific Command and Special

Operations Command Pacific. This friendly interaction between our Bangladesh partners and U. S. Embassy helped provide Flag level oversight of several proposed multi-year training & infrastructure initiatives. Throughout the various meetings, RDML Rendon focused on applying a whole of government approach, economy of efforts, performance measurement, and sustainability in support of mutually shared interests across the Department of Defense, State, and Justice.



Meeting at Border Guard Bangladesh Headquarters in Dhaka. Clockwise, LTC Lance Jacobson, USA, Defense Attaché Officer; Mr. Earl Hampton, JIATF West Deputy Director; RDML James Rendon, USCG, JIATF West Director; Major General Aziz Ahmed, Director General of the BGB; BGB Operations Officer; CPT Alex Chung, USA, PACOM Augmentation Team; SFC Misipati Bird, USA, Assistant Security Forces Manager. -4 February 2014, photo by LCDR Michael Hosey, USCG





RDML Rendon, center, and Mr. Earl Hampton, right, are given a tour of a memorial by an officer of the Border Guard Bangladesh in Dhaka. - 4 February 2014, photo by LCDR Michael Hosey, USCG.



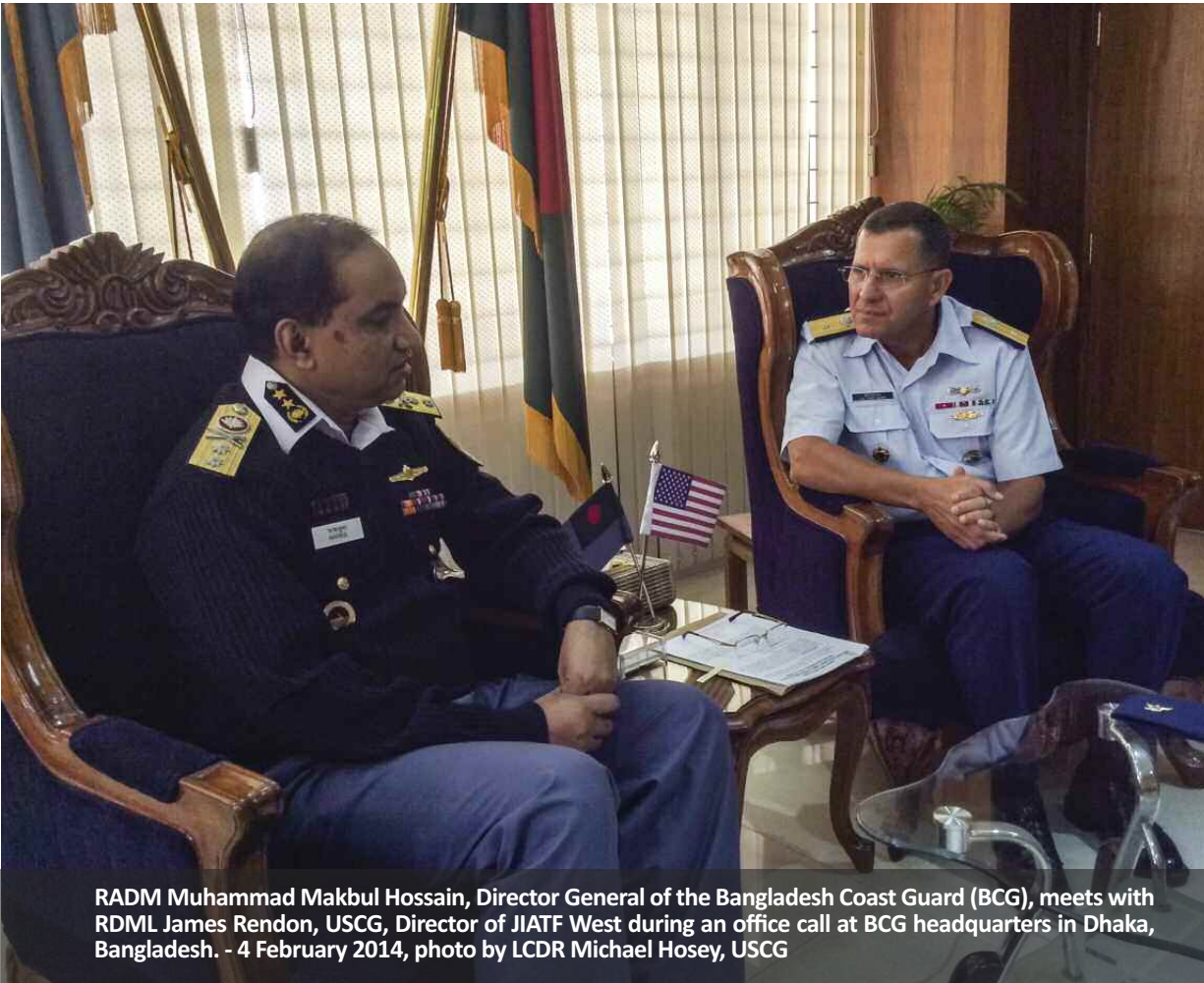
Lines of effort proposed in JIATF West's 2013 Strategic Business Plan call for task force planners to seek opportunities for JIATF West to apply its unique counternarcotics authorities to support regional security of partner nations. JIATF West hopes to do just that with its efforts to improve the capabilities of both the BCG and BGB in strategic locations and ultimately help Bangladesh mitigate its border security threats.

The desired outcome of supporting regional security efforts of partner nations such as Bangladesh is to disrupt transnational criminal organizations (TCOs). For now Bangladesh defense forces will team up with JIATF West to enhance BCG and BGB efforts in the southeast region of the country. The southeast region is an area of favored paths of traffickers working with TCOs.

RDML James Rendon, USCG, presents a memento from JIATF West to Major General Aziz Ahmed, Director General of the BGB. - 4 February 2014, photo by LCDR Michael Hosey, USCG







**RADM Muhammad Makbul Hossain, Director General of the Bangladesh Coast Guard (BCG), meets with RDML James Rendon, USCG, Director of JIATF West during an office call at BCG headquarters in Dhaka, Bangladesh. - 4 February 2014, photo by LCDR Michael Hosey, USCG**

After meeting with MG Aziz and RADM Hossain in Dhaka, the JIATF West team travelled southward to the port city of Chittagong, home of the BCG's Eastern Zonal Command. There RDML Rendon met the Base Commander, CAPT Shaidul Islam, who gave everyone a tour of the base.

Accompanying RDML Rendon were JIATF West Deputy Director, Mr. Earl Hampton, Task Force Representative, LCDR Michael Hosey, USCG, and PACOM Augmentation Team Bangladesh member, CPT Alex Chung, USA. The first round of meetings took place inside the U. S. Embassy in Dhaka where RDML Rendon met with the Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. Jon Danilowicz (previous Counselor for Political and Economic Affairs in Dhaka), the Defense Attaché Office (DAO), and the Embassy's Law Enforcement Working Group (LEWG).

While in Dhaka, RDML Rendon conducted courtesy calls with the Director General of the BGB, Major General Aziz Ahmed, and BCG Director General, Rear Admiral Kazi Sarwar Hossain (RADM K. S. Hossain is a two star Admiral and is the equivalent to the U. S. Coast Guard Commandant).

Some topics of interest discussed included ways to improve the readiness of Border Guard and Coast Guard personnel as well as what maritime and land assets would best assist in Bangladesh's drug interdiction efforts.

JIATF West members and BCG Base Chittagong senior staff shared operational briefs during round table discussions. While in Chittagong, RDML Rendon was given an on-site tour of an ongoing Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC) project, the "Coastal Crisis Management Center" (CCMC), started in 2010 to help first responders from the BCG and the Ministry of Home Affairs conduct humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.





**CAPT Shahidul Islam, BCG, and RDML James Rendon, USCG, at BCG Base Chittagong. - 5 February 2014, photo by LCDR Michael Hosey, USCG**

From BCG Base Chittagong, RDML Rendon and JIATF West members went on to meet with the BGB Southeast Regional Commander, General Ahmed. Discussions between RDML Rendon and General Ahmed centered around border management, logistics, conditions of outposts, and ways that JIATF West and the BGB could work together to improve the capabilities of the BGB in the Cox's Bazar and Teknaf region.

After productive meetings with both General Ahmed and CAPT Shaidul Islam in the Chittagong division, RDML Rendon and team members headed back to the capital city of Dhaka to meet with Ambassador Dan Mozena.

AMB Mozena extended his appreciation for JIATF West's continued support in Bangladesh and pledged continued U. S. Embassy support of the Country Team Dhaka partnership.

For JIATF West Deputy Director, Mr. Earl Hampton, this trip was his first to Bangladesh. He was impressed with both the BGB and BCG and their receptiveness to work with JIATF West to improve their capabilities and capacity. "I feel JIATF West can make a significant impact on improving maritime and land security capacities of Bangladesh", said Mr. Hampton.



# Coordination Talks in Bangladesh

RDML Rendon looks forward to collaborating with Major General Aziz and Admiral Hossain and views the future endeavors between Bangladesh and JIATF West as a step in the right direction.

According to AMB Mozena, “Through a collaborative approach with US Country Team Dhaka and Special Operations Command Pacific, JIATF West’s efforts are truly whole of government.” □



CAPT Shahidul Islam, BCG, presents a cap to RDML James Rendon, USCG. - 5 February 2014, photo by LCDR Michael Hosey, USCG



# Marksmanship Instructor Training with the BGB

**B**order Guard Bangladesh members recently participated in their first ever JIATF West organized Marksmanship Instructor Training Course as part of counternarcotics training (CNT). Thirty two members of the BGB attended training at the Border Guard Training Center & School in Satkania, Bangladesh participated in the four-week course from 16 March to 10 April, 2014. The goal of the training was to increase the BGB's capabilities and interoperability with U. S. Forces. The CNT focused marksmanship training was provided by

military instructors from the Rhode Island Army National Guard. The group of military instructors selected the best BGB participants to act as instructors, helping their fellow officers receive additional help, which in turn gave many of them some early experience on being an instructor. The Commandant for the Border Guard Training Center and School, Director Ashraf, observed the training on the first day and was very pleased.



US Military instructors conduct marksmanship training at the Border Guard Bangladesh's Training Center & School in Satkania to support counternarcotics efforts.  
- 23 March 2014, photo by Capt Paul Trower, USMC



Border Guard Bangladesh members begin gathering in formation at a range demonstration at the Border Guard Training Center & School in Satikania, Bangladesh.  
- 17 March 2014, photo by Capt Paul Trower, USMC





# Marksmanship Instructor Training with the BGB



Members of the Bangladesh Border Guard held an opening ceremony for the month long “Marksmanship Instructor Training Course” at the Border Guard Training Center & School in Satkania, Bangladesh. Lower right, Commandant of the Border Guard Training Center & School, Director Ashraf, greets an Army National Guard Member on the shooting range – 15 March 2014, photos by Capt Paul Trower, USMC

Capt Paul Trower, USMC, a JIATF West Training Liaison Officer, commented on their success. “I have been very impressed so far by the host nation soldier’s professionalism, positive attitude, and focus on safety,” said Trower.

During the second week, a shooting competition was held involving various timed shooting events based on the training of that day. The winner received a small award. This also helped build rapport between the U. S. and BGB members.

By week three the BGB members in training were practicing various combat scenarios and shooting behind various types of barriers. U. S. Military instructors were pleased with the attention to safety and muzzle awareness exercised by the BGB.





# Marksmanship Instructor Training with the BGB

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Above, A row of AK-47 Battle Rifles lay to the left of Border Guard Bangladesh members as Army National Guard instructors present techniques on sight alignment, - 17 March 2014. Below, BGB members with US Military instructors on their last day of range training, - 9 April 2014. Photos by Capt Paul Trower, USMC





# Marksmanship Instructor Training with the BGB

On the last training day the U. S. Instructors set up a competitive stress shoot event which incorporated everything that the BGB soldiers had learned during the Marksmanship Instructor Course. BGB soldiers were able to showcase what they learned and retained to the school's Commandant, Director Ashraf, who attended the stress shoot. All of the BGB soldiers showed remarkable improvement in comparison to the first day of training.

Through rapport building, constant communication and the joint resolution of issues, the military instructors were able to create a solid foundation of friendship, understanding, and trust with the BGB, making this first JIATF West and BGB event a success on which future trainers can continue to build. □



A US Military instructor reviews the results of a timed shooting with a member of the Border Guard Bangladesh during marksmanship training. - 23 March 2014, photo by Capt Paul Trower, USMC



# DASD Visits JIATF West and Southeast Asia

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Counternarcotics and Global Threats (DASD CN/GT), Ms. Caryn Hollis, paid a visit to JIATF West's headquarters at Camp H. M. Smith on the 3rd of March, 2014. Her visit was one stop prior to a ten-day visit to Southeast Asia to meet with Embassy officials and foreign law enforcement in Vietnam, Philippines, and Thailand. JIATF West Director, RDML James Rendon, USCG, was also part of the delegation traveling to Southeast Asia. Several meetings were held with Ms. Hollis immediately

prior to her departure for Southeast Asia, including those with RDML Rendon and Deputy Director, Mr. Earl Hampton for office calls. Members of JIATF West also presented Ms. Hollis with pre-travel briefs and presentations on the Consolidated Counterdrug Database. The day concluded with a short reception in honor of Ms. Hollis at RDML and Mrs. Rendon's residence. In attendance were Commander, U. S. Pacific Fleet, ADM Harry B. Harris, USN, and RADM Cari B. Thomas, USCG, Commander, 14th Coast Guard District.



RDML James Rendon, USCG, Director of Joint Interagency Task Force West meets with Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Counternarcotics and Global Threats (DASD CN/GT), Ms. Caryn Hollis, during her visit to JIATF West's headquarters at Camp H. M. Smith. - 3 March 2014 photo by JIATF West.



10 March 2014 - Members of the Philippine National Police Maritime Group board two Rigid Hulled Inflatable Boat (RHIB) patrol craft in Puerto Princesa, Philippines, in preparation for a demonstration of maritime law enforcement skills to Ms. Caryn Hollis and RDML James Rendon, USCG.





# DASD Visits JIATF West and Southeast Asia

As the Department of Defense's lead for global counternarcotics and global threats threat policies and operations, Ms. Hollis' traveled to Southeast Asia to review current and future engagements with U. S. Embassy Country Teams and host nation officials. The trip also gave Ms. Hollis an opportunity to visit some of JIATF West's project sites and training activities. The delegation started the tour off in Vietnam visiting the U. S. Embassy in Vietnam's capital city, Hanoi, and the U. S. Consulate General Ho Chi Minh City, located in the south. In Hanoi, meetings were held with Embassy stakeholders to discuss priorities in maritime security, efforts to maintain host nation confidence, and illicit trafficking concerns.

The following day, the delegation travelled south to Vietnam's most populous city, Ho Chi Minh City (formerly named Saigon) to hold meetings with the Consul General, Ms. Rena Bitter. The meetings were also attended by the Political Officer (POL), Economic Officer (ECON), and an officer from Homeland Security Investigations (HSI).

From Vietnam, the delegation travelled to the Philippines for three days of meetings with several Embassy stakeholders, and site visits in Manila and Puerto Princesa. The agencies attending meetings with Ms. Hollis included the DEA, JUSMAG, FBI, NCIS, JSOTF-P, HSI, FBI, and the Philippine DEA (PDEA).



U. S. Military Instructors give Ms. Caryn Hollis and RDM1 James Rendon, USCG, a tour of the JIATF West built Law Enforcement Training Center (LETC) in Puerto Princesa. — 10 March 2014, photo by LT Franz Federschmidt, USN.



# DASD Visits JIATF West and Southeast Asia

The first round of meetings were with POL Section Rule of Law Chief, Tom Carnegie; DEA Regional Director, Joe Reagan; and DEA Country Attaché, Rob Cash. In addition to a variety of maritime security (MARSEC) topics, Ms. Hollis spoke about the support given to the National Coast Watch System by the U. S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA).

While meeting with the Embassy's Law Enforcement Working Group (LEWG), Ms. Hollis and RDML Rendon expressed appreciation for Country Team partnerships and interest in sustained engagement. In the LEWG meetings the Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Brian Goldbeck, and Ms. Hollis expressed their mutual interest in helping the Philippines be more prominent in matters with the

Association of Southeast Asian Nations. After the meetings in Manila, the delegation travelled south to the port city of Puerto Princesa to meet with members of the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP). In Puerto Princesa, Ms. Hollis and RDML Rendon were given tours of the JIATF West-built Philippine Law Enforcement Training Center (LETC) and were impressed by an exhibition of the Philippine National Police Special Boat Unit (SBU).

PNP officials meeting with the delegation included Acting Chief of PNP Maritime Group, Police Chief Superintendent Noel Vargas, and Chief of SBU, Police Superintendent Osmundo Salibo. At the time of the visit to Puerto Princesa, the counter-narcotics training event, "Baker Piston 14-2" was underway, giving Ms. Hollis and RDML Rendon a chance to meet with the U. S. military instructors.



RDML James Rendon, USCG, and Ms. Caryn Hollis meet members of the PNP-MG during a month long counter narcotics training event in Puerto Princeas. – 10 March 2014, photo by LT Franz Federschmidt, USN.



# DASD Visits JIATF West and Southeast Asia

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After meetings with PNP leadership concluded, the delegation was treated to a demonstration of boat handling tactics to support enforcement operations. The Special Boat Unit conducted a simulated take down of suspects in a vessel-to-shore operation.

From the Philippines, the delegation travelled to Bangkok for Embassy meetings and a site visit to the Sikhiu Checkpoint in the Province of Nakhon Ratchasima with the Royal Thai Police. Attendees at the Embassy meeting in Bangkok included the following interagency partners, Chargé d’Affaires, RSO, POL, ECON, HSI, FBI, INL, DEA, and JUSMAG. The Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. Patrick Murphy, described the support provided by JIATF West as a key piece to law enforcement capacity building efforts of the United States. After the Embassy meetings concluded, the delegation headed northeast to the province of Nakhon Ratchasima (Korat) to meet with Royal Thai Police Deputy Commissioner, General Watcharapol. The delegation was given a tour of the Sikhiu Checkpoint and presented briefs on several checkpoint successes. □

RDML James Rendon, USCG, right, observes a class of PNP-MG members receive law enforcement training in Puerto Princesa. — 10 March 2014, photo by LT Franz Federschmidt, USN.



# JIATF WEST INTERDICTION NUMBERS FY 2013

— By Mr. James Griego

## Fiscal Year Totals:

- Cocaine Seizures: 1.014 MT\*
- Heroin Seizures: 3 kg\*
- Meth Precursors: 16.25 MT
- Converted Totals: 3.4 MT
- Crystal Meth: 20 kg

## Calendar Year Totals:

- Cocaine Seizures: 750 kg
- Heroin Seizures: 3 kg
- Meth Precursors: 16.25 MT
- Converted Totals: 3.4 MT
- Crystal Meth: 20 kg

\*Units of Measure  
MT: 1Metric Ton (US) = 2000 lb  
kg: 1 kilogram = 2.2 lb

During the past year, the Illicit Tracking Cell identified and reported on 97 cased drug-related Maritime Domain Awareness events. The commodities of these trafficking events ranged from methamphetamine precursor chemicals, finished product methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin. The efforts resulted in the break-out totals displayed here in both calendar and fiscal year.

During Nov 2012, JIATF West provided tipping and cueing to law enforcement agencies on a target that yielded the seizure of 204 kg of cocaine worth approximately 45 million (USD) bound for Australia. In Aug 2013, JIATF West provided drug-related Maritime Domain Awareness support to U. S. law enforcement on a target that yielded 750 kg of cocaine bound for Australia and valued at approximately 165 million (USD). This interdiction ranks as the second largest seizure ever of cocaine destined for Australia.

The overall command drug-related Maritime Domain Awareness efforts initially drove traffickers to alter their modus operandi. During 2013, JIATF West continues to evolve its air and maritime domain awareness capabilities to counter the increasing sophistication of trafficking operations.



# The Quadrilateral Defence\* Coordination Group

– By LCDR Aja Kirksey

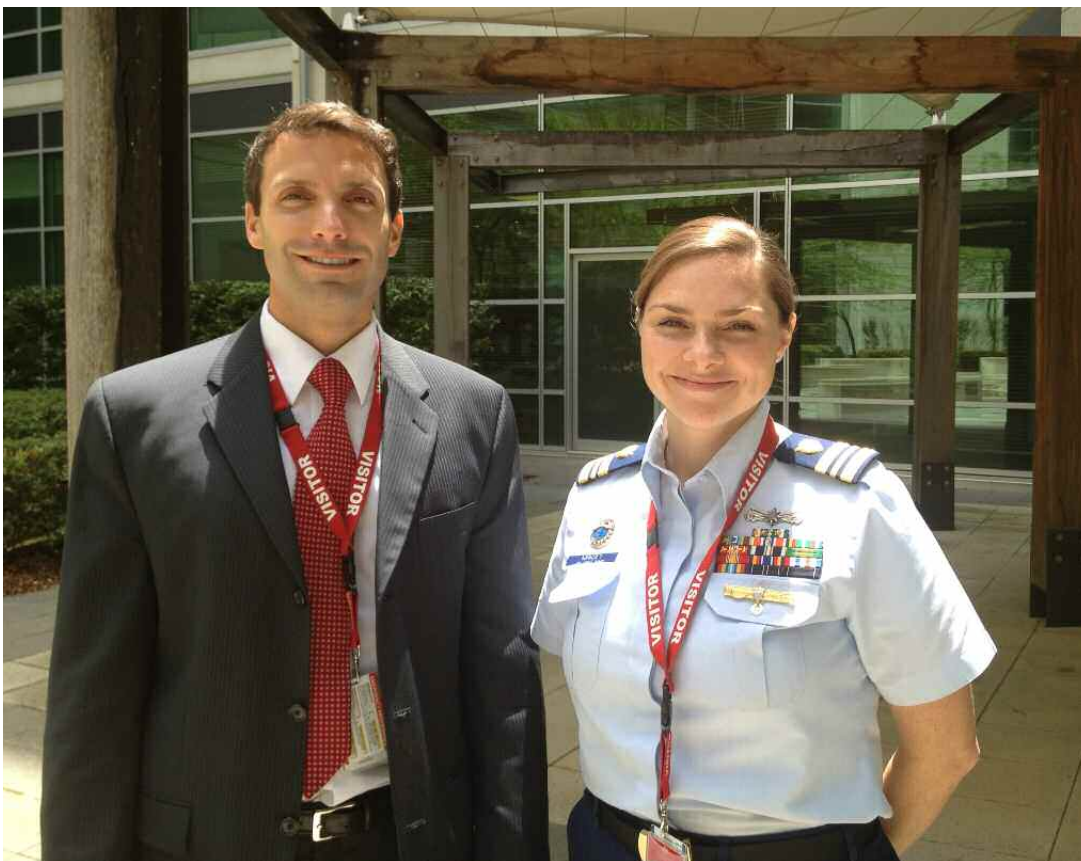


\* Defence and defense are different spellings of the same word. Defense is preferred in American English, and defence is preferred in all other main varieties of English, including Australian, British, and Canadian English.

Warning – Kangaroo Crossing! A common sight in Australia. - 3 December, 2013, photo by LCDR Aja Kirksey, USCG



# The Quadrilateral Defence Coordination Group



JIATF West participants Mr. Chris Nagelvoort, Plans and Programs Manager and LCDR Aja Kirksey, USCG, Task Force Representative to Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Island countries, at the Quadrilateral Defence Coordination Group. - 5 Dec 2013

The Quadrilateral Defence Coordination Group (QUAD) welcomed JIATF West representatives LCDR Aja Kirksey, J51 Regional Plans Division, and Chris Nagelvoort, J25 Plans and Programs Division, to their annual QUAD Principal's Talks and Operational Working Group meeting in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, 4-6 December 2013.

The QUAD was created to bring together defense and security agencies from Australia, France, New Zealand and the United States of America to develop multilateral approaches to promote regional stability and enhance maritime security in the South Pacific through unilateral, bilateral, and multilateral engagement that builds Pacific Island countries' capacities and capabilities. The Quadrilateral Defence forum meets regularly

for talks at two levels: the strategic level that meets annually as the QUAD Principals' Talks, and the operational level that meets biannually as the Quadrilateral Defence Coordination Operational Working Group.

Primary representatives were from Australia Defence Force (ADF); New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF); French Armed Forces of New Caledonia (FANC), Armed Forces in French Polynesia (FAPF\*), and U. S. Coast Guard (USCG). The four QUAD Principals were Rear Admiral Cari Thomas, USCG; Air Commodore John McGarry, ADF; Air Commodore Tony Davies, NZDF, and Brigadier Luc de Revel, FANC.

A key theme of the meeting was the task of enhancing cooperation with other government agencies with related responsibilities in the fisheries space. The meeting program included operational summaries from each defence member organization, a range of briefs from other government agencies including

\*Forces Armées en Polynésie Française



# The Quadrilateral Defence Coordination Group

JIATF West, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, the Australian Federal Police, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and a tour of the Australian Border Protection Command.

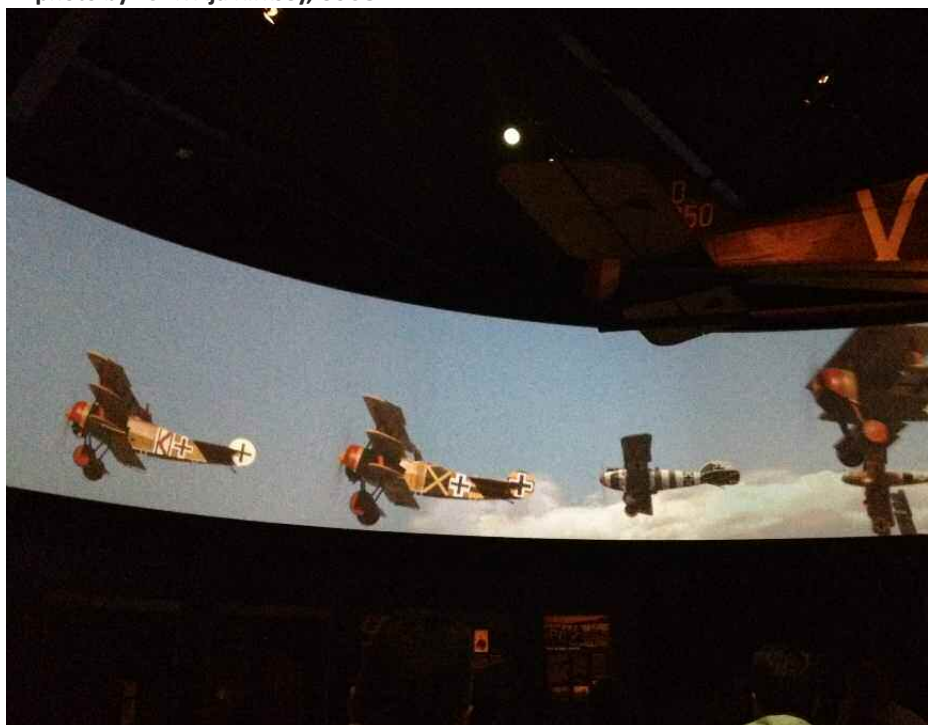
JIATF West presented a command brief and an overview of the trans-pacific drug trade. Although the focus of the talks was fisheries, the various organizations present recognized that countering drugs is also important to the stability of Oceania. In doing so, JIATF West garnered an understanding of partner nation security challenges in the region. The forum served as a venue to grow working relationships for greater collaboration on common interests in Oceania.

Following the close of the coordination meetings, a private dinner was held for all participants at the Australian National War Memorial; Australia's national memorial to the members of all its armed forces and supported organizations who have died or participated in the wars of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Each year the meeting location and all associated secretariat responsibilities rotate between the four member countries. In 2014 secretariat responsibilities will transition from Australia to New Zealand, with the next Quadrilateral Defence Coordination Operational Working Group meeting in Honiara, Solomon Islands, and the next Principles' Talks in Wellington, New Zealand. □



QUAD Principals' Talks December 4, 2013 at the Australian Defence Force Defence Conference Centre, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory. - 5 December, 2013, photo by LCDR Aja Kirksey, USCG



Meeting participants viewing "Over the Front: The Great War in the Air" at the Australian War Memorial December 5, 2013. Australians played a part in aviation's remarkable advancement during the First World War. In the clear skies over the Western Front in France and in the Middle East, young men fought in flimsy machines of wood, canvas, and wire. This exhibition brought history to life with a range of extraordinary and original aircraft and an exciting visual depiction of military flight. - 5 December, 2013, photo by LCDR Aja Kirksey, USCG

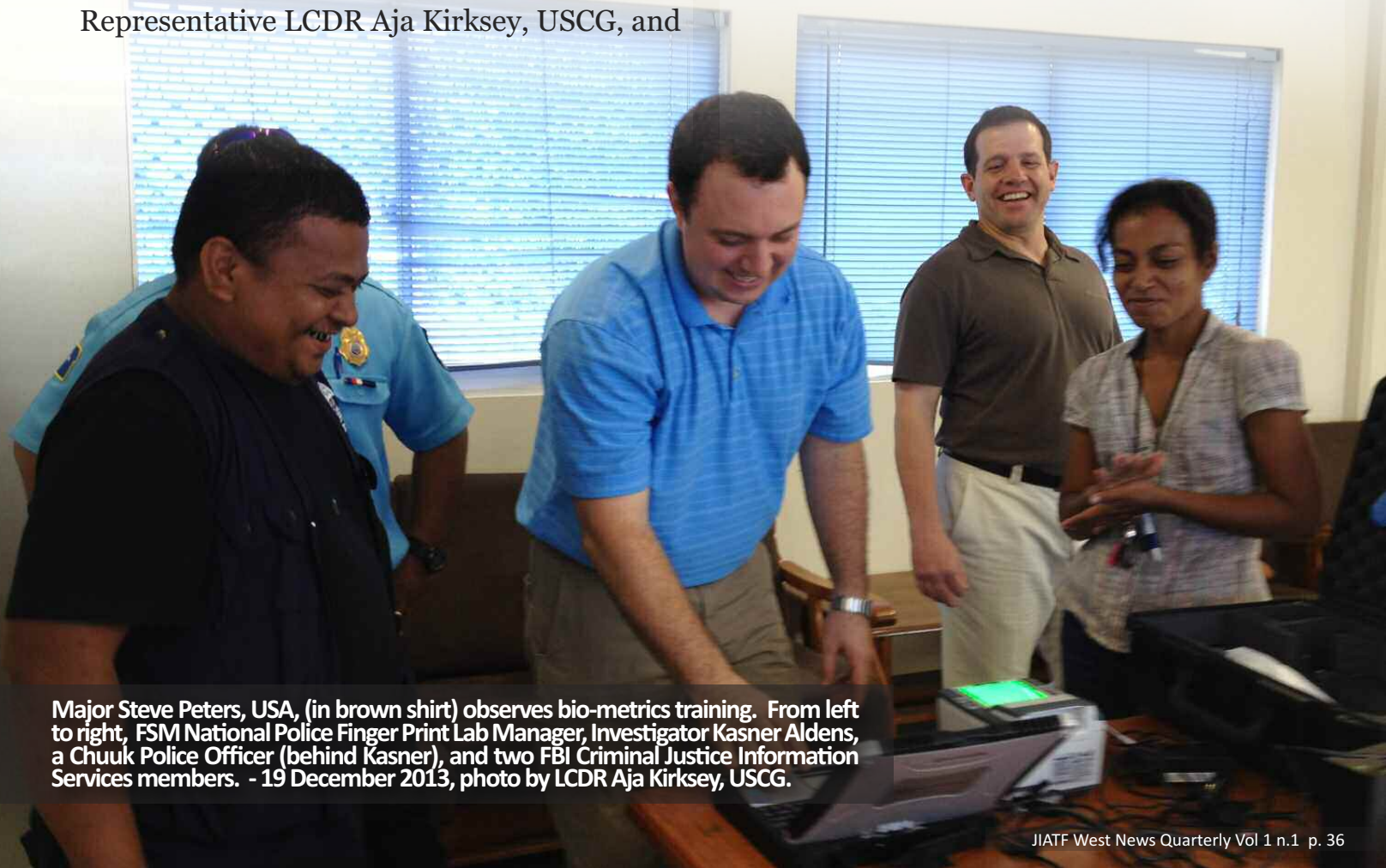


# Supporting Biometric Operations in the Federated States of Micronesia

An interagency team from JIATF West, Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Criminal Justice Information Services, and the U.S. Army Biometrics Identity Management Agency traveled to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to conduct an assessment in support of the government of FSM. The assessment considered existing biometric collection capabilities in Chuuk State and Pohnpei State in order to provide recommendations to assist FSM in creating a national biometrics system. The assessment was supported by Task Force Representative LCDR Aja Kirksey, USCG, and

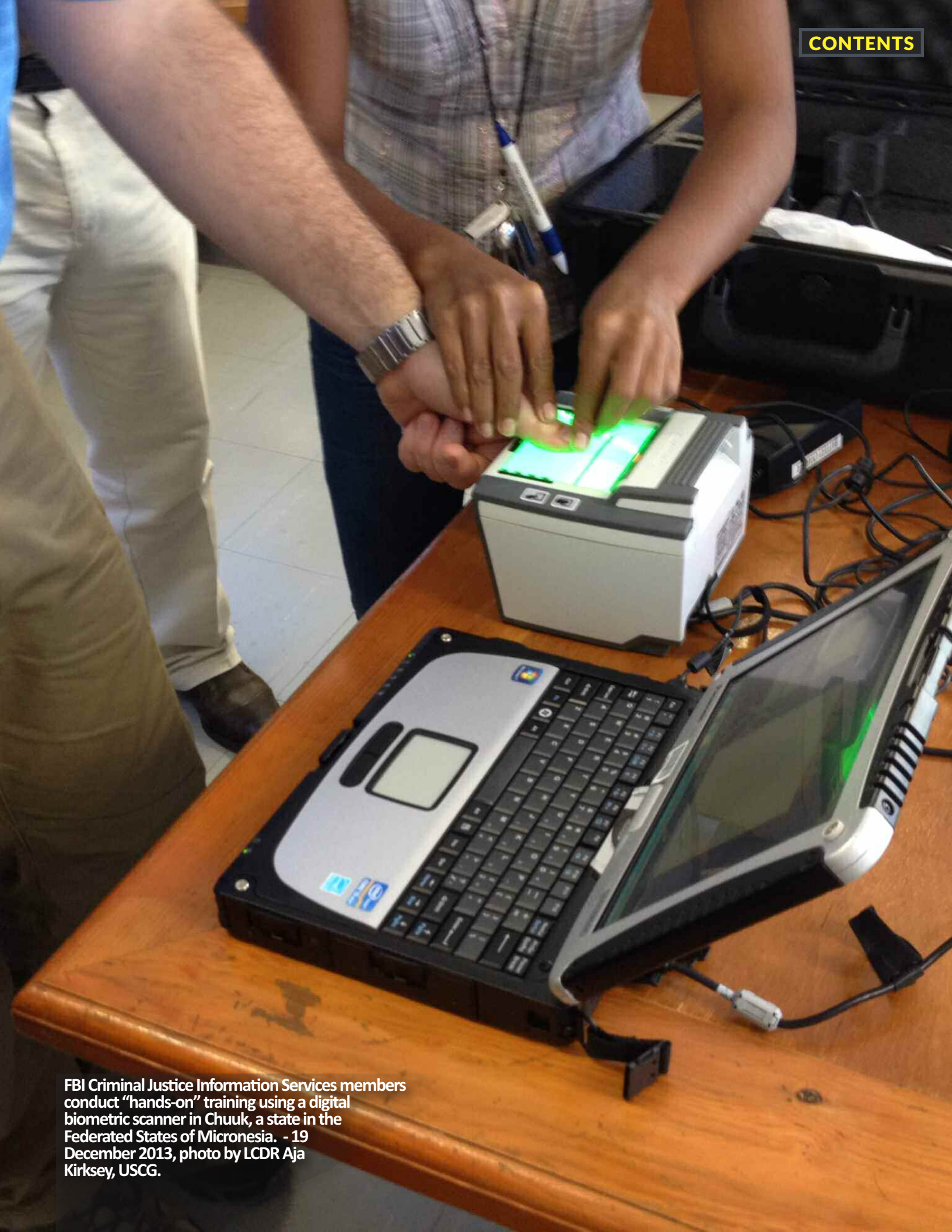
Major Steve Peters, USA. The assessment took place between 14-17 December, in Chuuk State, and in Pohnpei State 18-20 December.

In Chuuk, team members met with Director Rizal, the head of Chuuk State Public Safety. While working with Chuuk State Police, team members were able to print and enroll prisoners in the Chuuk State jail. The criminal biometric files collected will help FSM establish a baseline for their state and national biometrics enrollments.



Major Steve Peters, USA, (in brown shirt) observes bio-metrics training. From left to right, FSM National Police Finger Print Lab Manager, Investigator Kasner Aldens, a Chuuk Police Officer (behind Kasner), and two FBI Criminal Justice Information Services members. - 19 December 2013, photo by LCDR Aja Kirksey, USCG.





FBI Criminal Justice Information Services members conduct "hands-on" training using a digital biometric scanner in Chuuk, a state in the Federated States of Micronesia. - 19 December 2013, photo by LCDR Aja Kirksey, USCG.



# Supporting Biometric Operations in the Federated States of Micronesia

The Joint team also traveled to Pohnpei State, where they converted current paper criminal fingerprint cards to electronic fingerprint files. The team then met with FSM Ambassador Doria Rosen, Deputy Chief of Mission Miguel Ordonez, FSM Secretary of Justice April Skilling, Pohnpei National Police Chief Johnny Santos, and Investigator Kasner Aldens, the National Police Finger Print Lab Manager. In partnering with the United States, FSM will be able to collect and share their criminal

enrollments, while establishing a criminal history for repeat offenders. This assessment will not only assist FSM in determining the scale of their desired biometric program, but by sharing biometrics data between FSM and U. S. government biometric databases, FSM and U. S. security interests at home and abroad will be protected. The existence of robust, sharable biometrics programs helps to make the entire region less permissive to drug-related criminal activity – which benefits everyone. □



LCDR Aja Kirksey, USCG, with members of the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services and U. S. Army Biometrics Identity Management Agency, in the Chuuk National Fingerprint Lab.  
- 19 December 2013, photo by LCDR Aja Kirksey, USCG



# J IATF West Members Leverage CLREC to Learn Foreign Languages

J IATF West members who are required to work in a foreign language leverage the resources of CLREC to help them prepare. CLREC is the Center for Language Expertise and Culture founded by the US Navy in March of 2006. It is a major department of the Center for Information Dominance (CID) at Corry Station, Pensacola, Florida. Here are the stories of four members of JIATF West and the languages they studied.

**Véronique Dillon (Spanish)** I was assigned to the Intelligence Analysis Center (IAC) in Mexico City from January – July 2013. There was a language prerequisite associated with the assignment – a solid reading, writing, speaking capability in Spanish was a must. Frequent meetings with Mexican officials for presentations requiring active participation and daily emails were all conducted in Spanish.



Ms. Véronique Dillon, center, on assignment in the Philippines. - 24 Feb 2010.



# JIATF West Members Leverage CLREC to Learn Foreign Languages

In preparation for this temporary duty, the CLREC staff provided a very qualified professor of Spanish (originally from Spain) from the University of Hawaii who was hired as a private tutor to elevate my speaking skills to a more advanced level. I had 50 hours of one-on-one instruction and was able to progress rather quickly. I relearned some of the more intricate tenses, became a more fluid conversationalist, and reviewed some of the more colloquial expressions I had forgotten through the years of not speaking Spanish. In the end, I felt much more prepared and confident to take part of the routine professional discussions with our Mexican counterparts.

This served me very well throughout my 6 months in Mexico. Subsequent to my assignment, I continued this same method of instruction (30 hours) with another Spanish professor (from Peru) from the University of Hawaii. This type of instruction has been invaluable for me. The CLREC is by far the best source of training I have received while at JIATF West – language or otherwise.

**Kurtis Derell (Indonesian)** Since May 2013 I have received approximately 130 hours of intermediate language training from a local language school located in Honolulu (contracted through CLREC).

The instructor's knowledge of the Indonesian language and various dialects (Javanese, regional Chinese dialects, Malaysian) have consistently added to the effectiveness of the class. Additionally, the instructor's expertise and understanding of a wide range of cultural, historical, political, and regional aspects of modern Indonesia and Southeast Asia greatly contributed to the effectiveness of the training.

The language instruction enabled me to maintain a basic language proficiency in Indonesian (1 - 2 range out of 4) and perform a wider range of duties as a Southeast Asia Transnational Crime Analyst.

Eventually I was able to review Indonesian open press articles and web-sites. This helped me immensely when I had to review in detail an Indonesian Program of Instruction for Maritime Analysis designed for three weeks of instruction (translated into Indonesian). Having taken foreign language programs throughout my life (University and DLI/DOD sponsored), and obtained proficiencies in French, Korean, and Indonesian, I strongly endorse continuing to use this program.

**Chih Woo (Mandarin)** Upon returning from my first temporary duty assignment to Beijing in 2012, I realized how critical it was to be able to speak and understand Chinese Mandarin. My limited knowledge of Mandarin was insufficient for me to survive long assignments in Beijing. I was concerned that my inability to communicate would affect my morale and negatively impact my work. The valuable Mandarin lessons provided to me by CLREC have improved my mission effectiveness and quality of life during my follow on duty assignments to Beijing. I truly appreciate folks at CLREC for their past and continued support to JIATF West analysts.

**Ms. Véronique Dillon, teaching in Cambodia. - 2 May 2010.**





# JIATF West Members Leverage CLREC to Learn Foreign Languages

**Sesh Munipalli (Thai)** I have received Thai language training on three separate occasions. Twice while working in Thailand and in Honolulu. Prior to start of the language training, I had no experience in Thai language except for some common street-level phrases.

In each training instance, the teachers provided excellent instruction on speaking and reading the Thai language. From the start, the instructors focused on being able to work in the language in normal environments and progressed to encounters with Thai government officials. The instructors were demanding but extremely helpful in ensuring I understood not only the vocabulary but also the context in which the words are used (in Thai language, there is quite a difference in spoken versus written Thai as well as certain vocabulary reserved only for royalty). What impressed me the most was that the instructors were willing to work with me so that I gained as much knowledge as possible. For example, even though the training did not focus on writing, the instructors introduced this ability when I expressed an interest in being able to write in Thai.

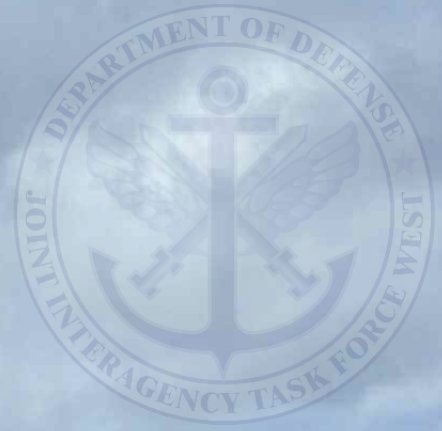
Learning the Thai language has greatly improved my performance as a counter-drug analyst. Additionally, the CLREC staff have been extremely gracious in facilitating the training and

to offer opportunities for additional training, not only in Thai but other languages aligned to assigned duties. The opportunity afforded by CLREC shouldn't be missed by anyone who wants to be better prepared when working with foreign counterparts. It is by far one of the best professional and personal development training offered by the Navy!!! □



**Mr. Sesh Munipalli on assignment in Maldives.  
- 5 July 2012.**





The main seaport of the Island of  
Chuuk, one of FSM's four island states.  
Photo by LCDR Aja Kirksey, USCG.  
-16 Dec 2013

JIATF West ATTN: J5  
Strategic Communications  
BOX 64033,  
CAMP H.M. SMITH, HI 96861-4033  
Phone 808-477-9708  
Email [info@jiatfw.pacom.mil](mailto:info@jiatfw.pacom.mil)