

Member Update: April 2018



News + information from:

Greater Kansas City Chapter of People to People International

gkcptp.org



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Message from the President

This class year is flying by! Spring break is upon us and the students are gearing up for their Washington, D.C. trips. They are well into their elective courses, so they are feeling some academic relief.



Now, after the holidays is the time to break your student away from their intense studies and share some special time with them. We're fortunate here in the Kansas City area with many sports and activity venues from which to choose. An outing to the Royals will always be memorable and fun!

Some questions you'll begin to hear include:

- *How soon should I sell my car?*
- *How many bags can I take back?*
- *How will I get all this stuff to the airport?*

All of these we've heard before. Valid questions, but except for the vehicle, IMSD will have most information at the appropriate time.

The incoming class is also a big one, with 120 officers from 93 countries the target. This time we won't have much of a "vacation" between courses. Just a few days will separate the departure of the Class of 2018 and arrival of the first of the Class of 2019! The military committee has just begun their meetings and considerations for sponsor assignments.

We hope this year of sponsorship has been as rewarding to you as it is has for the Paces! We certainly added to our international families with our wonderful officers and their families.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or any board member.

Randy Pace

President

Board of Directors

Greater Kansas City Chapter People to People International

816-810-4004 Phone

You're Invited, and so Are Your Friends.

Please join the Greater Kansas City Chapter of People to People for:

"Pakistan: Understanding Its Independence"



Presented by MAJ Haseef Obaid

Friday, May 4, 2018

7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Church of the Resurrection

13720 Roe Avenue

Room B206

Leawood, KS 66224

This political and historical view of Pakistan independence will be presented by MAJ Haseef Obaid, a distinguished Pakistani Army officer attending the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. MAJ Obaid will discuss Pakistan's history within its complex geopolitical environment that includes India, Afghanistan, Russia, China and the Kashmir Region. He will also discuss the impact of Pakistan's history on its relationship with the U.S.

Presentation will be in Room B206 with access through the Narthex on the south side of Building A. ([Download PDF map here.](#)) Greeters will guide you to the presentation room B206.

MAJ Obaid's presentation is arranged compliments of the Greater Kansas City Chapter of People to People. Our organization was started by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to promote international understanding and friendships. To request membership information click here: membership@gkcptp.org. Thanks to the Pakistan American Society of Greater Kansas City for providing Pakistani hors d'oeuvres.

Please do let us know you're coming by Wednesday May 2, including the number of people attending by clicking on this: [RSVP now](#). Please also share this e-mail with your friends who might be interested in attending by clicking on the "Forward to a friend" button below.

Calendar

Before long sponsors will receive a mailed invitation from IMSD inviting you to sponsor appreciation. Be sure to RSVP, even if you are unable to attend.

[Click here](#) to download calendar in PDF.

Date	Event	Place	Time
Apr 12 – 20	IMS Gettysburg/DC Trip Group 1	—	—
May 15	Ramadan Begins	—	—
May 17 - 25	IMS Gettysburg/DC Trip Group 2	—	—
May 28	Memorial Day holiday	—	—
May 30	Sponsor briefing	Sylvester Powell Community Center, 6200 Martway, Mission KS 66202	6:00 p.m.
Jun 1	Sponsor Appreciation	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Fort Leavenworth	7:00 p.m.
Jun 4-15	Class of 2019 officer arrivals	—	—
Jun 14	International Graduate Badge Ceremony	Eisenhower Auditorium, Lewis and Clark, Fort Leavenworth	TBA
Jun 14	Ramadan Ends		

Sponsor Assignments for the Class of 2019

The military committee has begun the process of making sponsor assignments for the incoming International Military Student (IMS) class of 2019, scheduled to arrive in early June. If you haven't yet submitted your country and family preferences to the committee, please do so right away. You can do so by replying to the committee member who made the initial request. Your preferences will help the committee meet (or come close to meeting) as many preferences as possible. We expect to finish assignments in early May. At that time, our committee members will contact each sponsor with their assignment.

Members of the military committee are:

- Tom Black
- Pat Burnett
- Marlin Cone
- Alan and Pamela Felton
- Karen Haber
- Jane Kohl and Tom Waggoner
- Terry and Pam Smitka

- Sharon Valášek

Sponsor Briefing Wednesday May 30

Please mark your calendars for the GKCPTP Sponsor Briefing. At the briefing, you'll receive sponsor instructions, as well as important tips and reminders. If you're a seasoned sponsor, please plan to attend to interact with fellow sponsors and help mentor less-seasoned sponsors.

GKCPTP Sponsor Briefing:

Wednesday, May 30 at 6:00

Sylvester Powell Community Center

6200 Martway St.

Mission, KS 66202

(Appetizers and beverages provided.)

If you know if others who you think would enjoy the program and make good sponsors, please provide contact information for the prospective sponsor(s) so we can contact them. Your assistance is greatly appreciated!

Renew Your LAC Card Now

February was GKCPTP's month to renew our Local Access Control (LAC) passes. Many of our sponsors have renewed. Thank you for that! For those that haven't yet renewed, please do so right away. Below is a summary of the reason to renew now and consequences for waiting until summer (when the new officers arrive).

Because summer renewals are an extremely busy time with officers leaving and officers coming to Fort Leavenworth, a change was necessary to alleviate the summer workload. IMSD and the Visitors Control Center (VCC) agreed to issue the majority of GKCPTP sponsor LACs in February and have them expire a year from that date. Below is a summary of changes:

Current Sponsors (class of 2018):

- All GKCPTP sponsors holding LACs were to renew them in February.
- Use the same form ([see attached blank LAC form](#)).

- Complete only the first 2 sections, stop after the Criminal History question. Do not sign or date the form.
- Send the form to [Sharon Valášek](mailto:svalasek@kc.rr.com) at svalasek@kc.rr.com or [Pat Burnett](mailto:dburnett5@gmail.com) at dburnett5@gmail.com.
- We will submit to IMSD for processing and notify each sponsor once the LAC is approved.
- We will provide instructions to each sponsor for picking up the new LAC pass. VCC hours are 7:00 to 4:00 on weekdays, 8:00 to 4:00 weekends.

Consequences and Exceptions:

- The consequences of not renewing in February is the wait will be longer and unless sponsors have a good reason it will not go to the top of our list.
- Sponsors can use their current pass to the expiration date.
- When notified the LAC pass is ready for pick up, please pick up your LAC pass within 30 days of approval date. If not picked up, the pass will be destroyed and the sponsor must re-apply.
- A new rule from the VCC states that sponsors are allowed to apply only 3 times.

New (future) Sponsors (class of 2019) and those who are/will no longer be sponsoring:

- In May of 2018 when GKCPTP has assigned sponsors for the IMS Class of 2019, IMSD will collect LACs from any sponsors from the 2018 class who are no longer sponsoring and destroy those LACs
- New sponsors must submit their applications by the 15th of June each year so IMSD has enough time to process their paperwork before the sponsor Icebreakers.

These improvements should lighten the load for all parties during the busiest time of the year when the officers arrive. Please let me ([Sharon Valášek](mailto:svalasek@kc.rr.com)) or [Pat Burnett](mailto:dburnett5@gmail.com) know if you have any questions.

Latvian Officer Speaks to U.S. Army Reserve Unit, a "Know Your World" with a Spin

To our members,

I received a note from member-sponsor Irina Pavlovic that her husband, Robert had asked current CGSC Student MAJ K. Abele of Latvia to give a presentation about his country to members of Robert's active Army Reserve Unit. This was to be held at the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, MO. I got there early and met Shae Crowley, of their group tours and event staff. We had a great talk, and I was able to clear up some of the whats and whys of IMSD, CGSC and how our chapter interweaves with the staff and international military students at Fort Leavenworth. She seemed most appreciative that the time was well-spent and was eager to learn more about our chapter.

Major Abele, a current Infantry Commanding Officer, was most thorough with many statistics and much information about his small country. I learned much! Latvia is only 1/3 the size of the State of Kansas and has a population of 1.9 million, barely more people than our greater Kansas City Metro area! Also interesting is that it borders the Baltic Sea, Lithuania, Estonia, Belarus and Russia. Its military is tasked to provide security and response to crisis on land, sea and in the air. They do this with an active duty force of only 5,350 TOTAL soldiers, sailors and air force personnel! They have active reserve personnel of just over 11,000 to augment their very small active duty force. They do this with an "all-volunteer" operation as conscription ended in 2005.

Latvia has been "on its own" since the Soviets finally recognized its try for independence in 1991, after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Latvia joined NATO and the United Nations shortly afterwards.

Robert's reserve unit, made up of both commissioned officers, NCO's and other enlisted ranks was most attentive, and questions about the country were quite frequent during the presentation.

Our thanks to IMSD and to MAJ Abele from Latvia for taking his personal time and efforts to exchange information about his country with our active reserves.

Randy Pace

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