



International Junior Officers' Leadership Development Seminar

The International Junior Officers' Leadership Development Seminar (IJOLDS) is a week-long course organised by the US Air Force Reserve and hosted in a European Country. It combines theoretical and practical leadership training with cultural activities.

Its aim is to develop a greater understanding between officers of different NATO and PfP countries of the way each tackles leadership and personnel development and how each might benefit through best practice. Delegates are assigned to multinational syndicates and participate in lectures, discussions and command tasks.

Workshops focus on issues such as leadership theory, motivation, conflict resolution, stress management, values and critical thinking. They are interspersed with command tasks and obstacle courses, lectures on the host nation's armed forces, and visits to military heritage sites such as museums or forts as well as places of local interest.

"Having an insight into other forces' ways of working and your own prejudices prior to arriving in theatre will make integration swifter and less painful, especially if working within a multinational HQ."

Capt Matthew Trump

The programme offers reservists the opportunity to meet people from a number of countries in an informal and educational environment. It is excellent preparation for multinational operations and there are many opportunities for sharing ideas and experiences.

Any reserve officers or officer cadets of Lieutenant (RNR), Captain (RMR/TA) or Flight Lieutenant (RAuxAF) or below, who would like to attend IJOLDS 2009 should visit www.ukrfa.org for more information. A selection weekend will take place at RTMC Chilwell from 6-8 March 2009.

"IJOLDS provides an opportunity to explore the challenges of working in joint and multinational environments, such as language barriers, different personalities and a lack of understanding of how other armed forces are structured or how they approach tasks. Even in the UK the three services can approach things differently, let alone once you add an international perspective. IJOLDS really tested how quickly you could build a team from a group of individuals of different backgrounds to work towards a common goal."

Sub Lt Laura Harrison