

CAMPAIGN NEWS DIGEST

OCTOBER 2010

EUROPOL SEEKING ARTISTS

EUROPOL has launched an international art competition for aspiring artists. European artists have been invited to create paintings, drawings, sculptures and photographs that are representative of the mission of Europol. Europol's Art Committee and two independent artists will evaluate the art pieces and select the winners, who will each be awarded prizes of up to €1, 650.

The winners will be displayed in the new Europol headquarters which is under construction and will be handed over to Europol early next year.

The new building will be situated near The Hague, in The Netherlands, and other international organisations, such as the International Criminal Tribunal and the World Forum.

The European Union's law enforcement agency, Europol, is a support centre for law enforcement operations and expertise. The agency is also a hub for criminal information, aiming to protect the public by fighting crime and terrorism.

MACABRE INSURANCE SCAM

FINANCIAL FRAUD SCHEMES are investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) every year, but an unusual scam involving four female con artists has just been uncovered.

The con artists first purchased life insurance policies for 'John Doe', naming two beneficiaries. When 'John Doe' suddenly died, they produced a fake death certificate, complete with a forged doctor's signature. They then filed the insurance claim to the insurance company in order to collect the life insurance, but the money went right into the hands of the fraudsters.

They even staged a funeral, complete with floral arrangements and actually paid people to attend the funeral and play the parts of family members.

FBI investigators in Los Angeles became involved after two insurance companies became suspicious of the scam. Investigators were able to gather sufficient evidence including fake insurance policies, death certificates, and funeral records. The four women were charged and convicted by a federal court earlier this month.

KFOR TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY

THE KOSOVO FORCE CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY took place last month at the helipad at Camp Film City. Major General Erhard Buhler, of the German Army is the new Kosovo Force Commander. The event was attended by NATO authorities and news media representatives.

The outgoing Commander of KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, of the German Army, delivered a farewell speech highlighting the impressive progress made by the Kosovo Police and the Kosovo Security Force. These achievements have enabled KFOR to transfer many of its responsibilities to Kosovar leadership. Finally, he stated that NATO intends to reduce its presence in Kosovo in keeping with the improving security situation.

The outgoing Commander was awarded the Golden Medal for Military Service in Kosovo for his significant contributions to preserving peace and stability in Kosovo.

AFGHAN WOMEN COMMISSIONED

THE FIRST FEMALE OFFICER CANDIDATES were recently commissioned as second lieutenants into the Afghan army.

The transition from a civilian to a military environment was a challenge for the trainees, particularly physical fitness, but they completed the training despite its difficulty. Additionally, trainees learned skills such as time management, and took courses in finance and logistics.

Training females in the Afghan army is a significant step forward for Afghanistan's military development. More importantly, women rising to the status of future army officers represent an important moment in Afghanistan history.

Europol on the look-out for artists, *Europol*, September 17, 2010

<http://www.europol.europa.eu/index.asp?page=news&news=pr100917.htm>

Fake Funerals, Empty Coffins, *FBI*, September 3, 2010

http://www.fbi.gov/page2/september10/fraud_090310.htm

Keuschnig, Major Michael, KFOR Change of Command Ceremony,

NATO: KFOR Press Release, September 13, 2010,

<http://www.nato.int/kfor/docu/inside/2010/09/i100913a.htm>

Graham, Ian, Afghan Women Earn Army Commissions, *American Forces Information Service*, September 23, 2010

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/news/2010/09/mil-100923-afps01.htm>

This page has been downloaded from www.campaignmilitaryenglish.com.

It is photocopiable, but all copies must be complete pages.

© Macmillan Publishers Limited 2010

CAMPAIGN NEWS DIGEST

OCTOBER 2010

Student Worksheet

Task 1: pre-reading vocabulary

Before reading the articles, match the words on the left to the definitions on the right.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1 hub | a) leaving or retiring from office |
| 2 to hand over | b) a place for helicopters to land and take off |
| 3 to enhance | c) the most important place where an activity takes place |
| 4 con artist | d) a person who commits a fraud |
| 5 forged | e) the management of the details of a military operation |
| 6 fraudster | f) to give a rank |
| 7 to stage | g) fake |
| 8 helipad | h) someone who lies to trick other people into giving them their money |
| 9 farewell | i) to give power or control to somebody else |
| 10 outgoing | j) to plan, organise and carry out |
| 11 to commission | k) to make something better or more attractive |
| 12 logistics | l) done in order to celebrate the fact that someone is leaving |

Task 2: comprehension check

Decide if the following sentences are true (*T*) or false (*F*).

- 1 Europol is moving to a new headquarters in the near future.
- 2 Artists must submit paintings, sculptures, photographs or drawings that have been inspired by Europol's work.
- 3 Several insurance companies were victimized by John Doe.
- 4 The insurance fraud involved murdering women and tricking their beneficiaries.
- 5 NATO held a ceremonial transfer of the authority of KFOR commander between two German Generals.
- 6 If the situation in Kosovo improves, NATO will decrease the number of its troops there.
- 7 The Afghan army only allows women to become non-commissioned officers.
- 8 Afghan women are unable to successfully complete the strenuous physical fitness training.

Task 3: discussion

The first and fourth stories in this month's Campaign News Digest call attention to the importance of effective communication in a multinational and multicultural working environment. You are going to put together a list of guidelines for operating in a multinational force.

Task 4: writing

The third story in this month's Campaign News Digest talks about the outgoing KFOR Commander's military service. You are going to write a biography (of about 300 words) about your own professional background.

This page has been downloaded from www.campaignmilitaryenglish.com.

It is photocopiable, but all copies must be complete pages.

© Macmillan Publishers Limited 2010

CAMPAIGN NEWS DIGEST

OCTOBER 2010

Teacher's Notes

Task 1: pre-reading vocabulary

Before reading the articles, match the words on the left to a definition on the right. Encourage students to try to deduce the meaning of the words from the context using clues from the text.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1 hub | c) the most important place where an activity takes place |
| 2 to hand over | i) to give power or control to somebody else |
| 3 to enhance | k) to make something better or more attractive |
| 4 con artist | h) someone who lies to trick other people into giving them their money |
| 5 forged | g) fake |
| 6 fraudster | d) a person who commits a fraud |
| 7 to stage | j) to plan, organise and carry out |
| 8 helipad | b) a place for helicopters to land and take off |
| 9 farewell | l) done in order to celebrate the fact that someone is leaving |
| 10 outgoing | a) leaving or retiring from office |
| 11 to commission | f) to give a rank |
| 12 logistics | e) the management of the details of a military operation |

Task 2: comprehension check: short answer questions

Decide if the following sentences are true (*T*) or false (*F*).

- 1 True
- 2 True
- 3 False. Several insurance companies were victimized by four female con artists.
- 4 False. The insurance fraud involved collecting fake life insurance policies.
- 5 True
- 6 True
- 7 False. Women are currently being trained to become officers for the Afghan army.
- 8 False. Although it was difficult for the women, they were able to complete the physical fitness training course.

Task 3: discussion

This exercise aims to develop speaking fluency and build confidence in conversations.

As a lead-in, brainstorm different settings that involve multinational cooperation. Suggestions include: multinational training exercises, multinational operations, international organizations, international investigations and intelligence sharing professional schools, civilian and nongovernmental organizations, etc.

Ask your students if they have ever worked on a multinational force. Elicit some of the challenges for personnel operating in a multinational force, such as intercultural communication, organisational factors, technology, language barriers, cultural diversity, etc. Ask them to give specific examples of any challenges that they have faced on mission.

You might want to revise the language for giving advice before students begin the main activity.

This page has been downloaded from www.campaignmilitaryenglish.com.

It is photocopiable, but all copies must be complete pages.

© Macmillan Publishers Limited 2010

CAMPAIGN NEWS DIGEST

OCTOBER 2010

Divide your students into small groups and ask them to make a list of ten do's and don'ts of working on a multinational, multicultural operation. Monitor and take a note of common errors, without interrupting the students. When the groups have finished conduct feedback and try to compile a definitive list of advice which includes ideas from all the groups.

You could then write some of the common errors that you heard on the board and invite the students to correct them in pairs, then feedback as a class.

Task 4: writing

The purpose of this exercise is to write a biography and practice the useful expressions used to talk about professional background.

Introduce or revise the vocabulary used in describing a person's professional background. You can do this by using one of the sample biographies on these NATO websites:

http://www.nato.int/kfor/structur/whoswho/cv/bio_buhler.htm (sample biographies)

http://www.nato.int/kfor/structur/whoswho/cv/bio_neuman.htm (sample biographies)

If the Internet is not available in your classroom, you could access one of the websites before the lesson and print out a biography for your students.

Give each student a biography (alternatively, let each student choose a different biography) to use as a model for their writing. Ask the students to underline the words and expressions that are used to describe professional background. Ask the students to note the format and any conventions used to write a biography.

Ask students to write their own biography including their personal information, work experience (a short description of duties, to and from dates, unit name, and location), education (schools attended), and any other significant achievements, decorations and awards. Before students begin writing, you may want to revise narrative tenses.

If your students are interested in learning more about the ceremony, you could access the NATO website and ask the students to (orally) describe the different pictures of the ceremony. You may want to present some of the language used to describe ceremonial occasions before you ask the students to describe the pictures.

<http://www.nato.int/kfor/media/photos/2010/09/100913a/index.html>

If the Internet is not available in your classroom, you could access the websites before the lesson and print out the pictures for your students.