



FAOA

Foreign Area Officers Association ♦ Board of Governors

FAOA Board of Governors: Reaching Out to FAOs in Asia

Members of your FAO Association Board of Governors are committed to expanding contacts with members – and potential members – who live outside the Beltway (sometimes FAR outside). Your BOG members frequently travel on business or on personal trips to the regions in which they are ‘experts’, and take advantage of the opportunities such travel provides to interact with FAOs and potential FAOs stationed in embassies, defense attaché offices (DAO), and security assistance organizations, as well as at major command headquarters.

In January 2010 BOG member John Haseman traveled to Thailand, Laos, and Indonesia on one of his 2-3 times a year trips to Southeast Asia. In Vientiane he met with Defense Attaché LTC Jamie McAden, the first U.S. military attaché in Laos since the end of the Vietnam War.



LTC McAden opened the DAO in 2009. Jamie is a Southeast Asia FAO with prior assignments including the Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC) in Jakarta and as Deputy Political Advisor at Pacific Command headquarters.

John next went to Jakarta, where he previously served on three separate assignments from 1978 to 1994. While in Jakarta to gather information to update a book he co-authored in 2009 about the US-Indonesia security relationship, he spent time with personnel in both the ODC and the DAO. The Defense Attaché, COL Kevin Richards, and the Chief of the ODC, LTC(P) James Robinson, are superb FAOs working together to improve the military-to-military relationship that was

virtually moribund in 1999. It's an exciting time for the "FAO business" in Indonesia. The mil-to-mil relationship has been almost

fully restored and is beautifully managed by the DAO/SAO team.

John's final stop was in Bangkok, where both the DAO and JUSMAGTHAI were deeply involved in planning for the annual COBRA GOLD exercise. At each stop John dropped off copies of the most recent edition of the FAO Association *Journal*, chatted with those he met about the Association, and urged non-members to join up and all of them to consider writing an article for the *FAOA Journal* about their experiences as a FAO or about important security aspects and events in their respective countries of assignment.



Presidential Security Unit Anniversary Parade - Jakarta



Laos - Thak Baht