



“State of the FAO” Report

November 2009

The office of the Under Secretary of Defense, Personnel and Readiness, recently issued the **DoD 2008 Annual Foreign Area Officer Report**. This report consolidates each services’ input and examines both the “production” of FAOs and the ability of all the programs to meet the demand of the “consumers” across the DoD. The report calls for the services to “take proactive steps now to meet current and future mission requirements” in this “critical capability needed by the Department to face the challenges of our present security environment.” Read the full report at www.faoa.org.

FAOA Annual Dinner – 20 May 2010

Make plans now to join us for this premier FAO event here in Washington DC at the Army Navy Club. An evening of camaraderie with FAOs from all services—active and retired—industry leaders, great food, and a presentation by our guest speaker. We are in the planning stages now and if you are in the National Capital Region and are willing to serve on our Event Committee, please contact us through our website or the [FAOA President](#).



The Emergence of the “Soldier-Diplomat”

Take a look at this working paper from the FRIDE think-tank on the role of the military in peace, humanitarian and reconstruction operations.

While many critics are horrified at the idea of the military undertaking humanitarian and reconstruction tasks normally carried out by civilians, it is difficult to consider an alternative in certain circumstances. By refusing to acknowledge that civilians are frequently incapable of performing the wide range of stability tasks we expect of them, and simultaneously not training the military to fill that void where required, we are destined to fail repeatedly. (page 16)

The full paper, *Leaving the Civilians Behind: The “Soldier-Diplomat” in Afghanistan and Iraq*, can be found on our website www.faoa.org.

Is it Time to Update your Membership?



Has your FAOA membership expired? Is your contact information up-to-date? Your new Board of Governors is busy updating the FAOA to better serve its members and strengthen its advocacy role. Can we count on you to join us? You can renew your membership on-line. If you need to find out when your membership expires or update your contact information, please email our [secretary](#).

DoD FAO Directives

Just in case you haven’t seen them, we’ve placed the DoD directives on how the FAO programs are managed across the services. You can find them on our home page.

FAOA Journal

Your new Board of Governors is turning a critical eye to the Journal and seeking ways to reshape its content and appearance. Crucial to the Journal’s success is content provided by you—past, present and future FAOs. We are always looking for your experiences, your research and your analysis of political and military issues, especially as it applies to the role of the FAO. Contact our Journal [Editor](#) with questions or content.