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FORAGE CENTER LEADERSHIP PRESENT AT 2018 INTEGRATION AND EXERCISE WORKSHOP SPONSORED BY JOINT STAFF J7

ROCKVILLE, MD – The annual Integration and Exercise Workshop hosted by the Joint Staff J7 was held in Arlington, VA January 31 through February 2, 2018. The event brings together U.S. Armed Forces trainers and exercise developers to share their work with each other as well as civilian NGOs and INGOs. A major objective of the conference was to explore collaboration between civilian and military efforts in offering training focusing on humanitarian and disaster assistance efforts.

The U.S. Armed Forces were represented by leadership from the various unified commands including USAFRICOM, USCENTCOM, USNORTHCOM, USPACOM, USCYBERCOM and USSOCOM. In addition, representatives from individual branches shared their working including the Marine Corps, Navy, and Army. Other government affiliated groups participating included the National Guard Bureau, FEMA, CDC, U.S. Department of State, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

There was a strong civilian presence at the event including presentations by the ICRC, PeaceTech Lab, InterAction, Saferworld, and World Vision. A select number of organizations - including the Forage Center - gave presentations to the larger audience of over 200 professionals.

The Forage Center shared about its work in advancing humanitarian and peacebuilding education in the U.S. among students and professionals. The Forage Center's emphasis on team building, international humanitarian principles, and conflict resolution were discussed.

"This was the ideal audience for us to work with. We have always stressed civ-mil relations in our work, and have in the past partnered with a Florida based civil affairs unit. We are looking to offer our expertise to military groups working to advance humanitarian objectives," stated Forage Board president, David J. Smith. Smith was joined at the conference by Dr. Jess Bonnan-White, the Forage Center's Director of Education and Training.

For more information on The Forage Center, visit www.foragecenter.org.

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