



# DLNSEO DISPATCH

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## U.S. SOUTHERN COMMAND'S 2014 HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

*(U.S. Southern Command)*

Beyond the Horizon and New Horizons are U.S. Southern Command-sponsored, joint foreign military humanitarian and civic assistance exercises. During these exercises, U.S. troops work with a number of governmental, non-governmental, and private sector organizations to train in civil-military operations skill sets while providing medical and dental care and engineering support to local populations.

From April through June 2014, U.S. military personnel will be in Belize, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic to conduct these humanitarian and civic assistance exercises.

In preparation for these exercises, nearly 1,400 military reservists will take Virtual Cultural Awareness Trainers (VCATs), which have been produced by the Defense Language and National Security Education Office. The VCATs provide language and cultural trainings specific to the language, regions, cultures, and tasks required by the exercises.

In Belize, the emphasis will focus on health and education. Construction of ten new classrooms and an addition to the Western Regional Hospital in the capital city of Belmopan are planned for 2014. Easing overcrowding and the opportunity to expand the school's curriculum are two of the driving forces behind these projects.

In Guatemala, a school project will be completed

that includes the construction of three new classrooms for Colonia Municipal Los Limones in Zacapa, where overcrowding has forced the teachers to hold classes outside. The Escuela Oficial Rural Mixta Colonia Conavisa is scheduled to receive two new classrooms. In addition, the only clinic in the area, Central Puesto De Salud (Las Carretas Gualan), will benefit from a two-room addition.

Finally for Guatemala, the Escuela Oficial Rural Mixta El Roble Conacaste in Chiquimula is programmed to receive a new two-room school building and the construction of a five stall restroom.

In the Dominican Republic, there are five planned engineering projects (two schools and three clinics) that are located in the southern province of Barahona. Faced with overcrowding, the Felix Feliz School currently serves

430 students and the Feliz Matos School serves 290 students. Each school is scheduled to receive two new classrooms.

Once completed, the Clinic Invicea Villa will serve 1,600 families who currently do not have access to an adequate medical care facility. The Clinic Vicente Noble and Clinic Palo Alto are programmed to each receive a new two room clinic facility and two stall restroom. As with all Beyond the Horizon & New Horizons engineering projects, each new facility is built to serve as hurricane shelters for the local communities.



A U.S. Marine distributes donated school supplies during a previous year's New Horizon exercise.

## NAVY TO INCREASE FOREIGN AREA OFFICERS TO 400 BY 2019

*(Seapower Magazine)...Richard R. Burgess*

The Navy's top Foreign Area Officer (FAO) says the FAO community will reach full operational capability by 2019 when its strength reaches approximately 400 officers.

FAOs play key roles in the formulation and execution of national security strategy. They serve as Senior Defense Officials, military attachés, security cooperation officers, political-military planners or analysts in combatant commands and defense agencies, arms control treaty inspectors, and liaison officers to host nations or allies.

FAOs currently serve in more than 130 countries across nine regions: Latin America, Europe, South Asia, Eurasia, China, Middle East and North Africa, Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa.

RADM Douglas J. Venlet, director for international engagement in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, said the FAO community, which currently stands at approximately 300 officers — who collectively are proficient in some 30 languages — was approved last month for growth to 400 billets.

The FAO community was established in 2006. Officers may apply for the FAO track after earning a warfare specialty. To become fully qualified, they must earn a master's degree, preferably with a regional specialty, and reach a Level 2/2 proficiency



RADM Douglas J. Venlet, director for international engagement in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations

— Level 2 in speaking and listening — but preferably a level of 3/3.

FAOs serve as experts in foreign cultures in various capacities as advisors to fleet and combatant commanders, in security assistance positions, and as naval and defense attaches in embassies.

## INITIATIVE PROMOTES LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

*(Bayonet & Saber)...Nick Duke*

For Soldiers interested in brushing up on a second language or learning a new language, the Maneuver Center of Excellence's Language, Regional Expertise and Culture (LREC) initiative has several efforts to promote language proficiency.

Jenny Meier, an instruction system specialist with the Directorate of Training and Doctrine and the lead for the LREC team, said it is important for any Soldier with a language proficiency to maintain that proficiency while at Fort Benning.

"Language proficiency is a fleeting ability," Meier said. "If it's not maintained through intermittent review and refreshment, it will die. It would be very unfortunate for someone to have reached a certain level and then go back down while they're here at Fort Benning. Because we are an institutional

environment, we want to support the whole Soldier, so in addition to teaching combatives and leadership, we think that maintaining that language proficiency is just as important."

"We're supporting the Soldiers in their solo efforts to acquire languages and sustain any language ability that they may have acquired during their career," Meier said. "We're offering language tables with the hope that native speakers and language learners alike will join us and be able to help one another."

The LREC team has also launched a Facebook page, which can be found at [www.facebook.com/MCOELREC](http://www.facebook.com/MCOELREC). The page will be updated weekly and provide the force with cultural-related news and events happening on post and in the community.

## **MARINES GRADUATE FROM DLI FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER**

*(dvids)...Staff Sgt. Vitaliy Rusavskiy*

Two marines from Marine Corps Security Cooperation Group are among other graduates from the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center's initial acquisition course at the Norfolk/Virginia Beach Language Training Detachment.

Gunnery Sgt. Jacob S. Godfrey stated, "This course will enable me to communicate more effectively with French speaking African partner nation leaders as well as coordinating logistics on an everyday basis, even navigating in an airport that doesn't have a lot of English speakers. The immediate immersion will absolutely help build better rapport when I am trying to communicate with them in their native language."

"You are such leaders that know how to work together, provide constructive criticism while helping one another, and you helped me become a better teacher," said Geist, an assistant professor of French, when addressing the students. "It was a very unique opportunity and I hope I gave you something nobody can take away, the knowledge of French."

The 3-month course consisted of formal training on speaking, reading and listening in French. It included one-on-one sessions with the professor, tailoring instruction based on an individual's level of language knowledge and their ability to understand a foreign language.

The Defense Language Institute's Foreign

Language Centers provide culturally-based language education to military language professionals, while simultaneously supporting the general purpose force with pre-deployment materials in more than 40 languages.

"It is important that not only our command, but commands adjacent, to send people to this school because it is invaluable, and the kind of training it can provide for us here on the east

coast," said Godfrey.

The Norfolk/Virginia Beach Language Training Detachment is one of 34 centers nationwide that provide education, training, evaluation and language sustainment for Department of Defense personnel in order to ensure the success of the Defense Language Program.



*(left to right) Gunnery Sgt. Ethan F. Irons, Chief Petty Officer Dan Luna, Marni Geist, Lt. Cmdr. Christopher L. Wallace, Sgt. Jacob S. Godfrey receive their certificates of completion.*

## **MARINES GATHER CULTURAL INFORMATION AT ANCIENT CAPITAL**

*(dvids)...1st Lt. Luke Kuper*

Ancient spires dating back 700 years rise from the ground, as if puncturing up through the Earth's crust and not built by hand. Elsewhere, ornate statues, earthen pots and rudimentary kilns are preserved as testaments to the artistry and craftsmanship of the early civilization which inhabited the Sukhothai province, Kingdom of Thailand.

Marines with civil affairs detachment executed a civil reconnaissance of the Ramkhamhaeng National Museum Feb. 1 in Sukhothai province, Kingdom of Thailand, during Exercise Cobra Gold 2014.

The purpose of the site visit was to discuss and assess disaster preparedness with key leaders, strengthen relationships with the local community and build a better cultural understanding of the region.

The sprawling grounds made up the heart of the ancient capital and were the economic, religious and cultural epicenter for the province, according to Sirawee, the cultural officer for the museum.

"The area held great cultural significance," said Sirawee. "(The artifacts date) as far back as the prehistoric age in northern Thailand."

Cobra Gold is a Thai-U.S. co-sponsored multinational, joint theater security cooperation exercise conducted annually in Thailand.

This year's exercise is designed to improve the capability to plan and conduct combined-joint operations, build relationships between partner nations, and improve interoperability across the range of military operations.

## COURSES LIKENED TO LANGUAGE 'FIRE HOSE'

*(The Gazette)...Tom Roeder*

The troops, in the post's 4th Brigade Combat Team, are working through tongue-twisting pronunciations of a language deemed one of the most difficult for Americans to grasp and trying to discern cultural cues and remember table manners.

When they get to Afghanistan in a few weeks, the training in Pashto will help them talk about their families and their background. And it could save their lives.

"In that part of the world, it's all about relationships," explained Kyle Swanson, who is running the Defense Language Institute program for the brigade, which is set to be one of the last American combat units to fight in the Afghanistan war.

The language work is the final step in a year of training for the brigade's troops. Most of the training focused on combat skills, but leaders say language and culture training are key to the brigade's success.

The mission, this time, is to prepare Afghan military leaders to carry the full load of security in their country.

Every member of the 3,500-soldier brigade will get some training. For most, that includes a few online classes focused on rudimentary language and culture. For about three dozen troops, more intensive training that began this month will help them share their life stories in Pashto, the language of the tribal Pashtun people of western Afghanistan, who prize discussions of family.

"Biographical data is a big part," Swanson said. Pashto is spoken by an estimated 40 million people

worldwide.

While a primary language of Afghanistan, Pashto is one of two of that nation's languages and is known for its 17 dialects.

In Kandahar province, where the brigade will take over the American role in the coming weeks, Pashto is the most common form of speech.

The instruction for Carson soldiers includes lectures from a native Pashto speaker and a high-tech twist: "Students get issued iPods loaded with curriculum," Swanson said.

A few weeks of training at Fort Carson won't make soldiers experts in the language, but it is expected to help them work with the Afghan counterparts and interpreters who will assist on their missions. "We're covering the critical aspects," Swanson said. "We're trying to give them the nuts and bolts."

As the soldiers learn language for a war that's set to end, Swanson and others are figuring out what's next for Army language training.

The service plans to assign units to vast geographic areas of responsibility under a regional alignment plan.

Those units, in theory, would have intense training in the languages of their assigned region.

While the languages taught will change, the pace of instruction won't.

"It really is a fire hose," Swanson said.



Defense Language Institute  
Foreign Language Center Logo



### CALENDAR

Defense Language Action Panel	Mar 18
Defense Language Steering Committee	Apr 17

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