



DLNSEO DISPATCH...

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SPECIAL OPERATIONS OFFICIALS EMPHASIZE CAPACITY BUILDING

(Defense.gov)...Donna Miles

Building on the lessons learned in Iraq and Afghanistan, U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM) is refocusing on helping partner militaries across the geographic commands build special operations capacity, SOCOM's commander reported.

The drawdown in Afghanistan will free up more special operators to support other theaters, Navy Adm. William H. McRaven said during a July 19 panel discussion at the 2013 Aspen Security Forum in Aspen, Colo.

McRaven reported that he already has sat down with all of the geographic combatant commanders to discuss their objectives and determine how more special operations forces can support them.

Toward that goal, SOCOM is returning to its pre-9/11 concept of aligning forces to specific geographic areas and providing them cultural and language training for that region, he said.

By necessity, special operators shifted their focus to Iraq and Afghanistan over the past 12 years, McRaven said, and fluency in languages other than Arabic, Dari and Pashto suffered. To rebuild lost skill sets, the command is reinvigorating its language and cultural awareness program and aligning it to the theaters "so that the right people speak the right languages and understand the right cultures in the right regions," the admiral added.

One of the big takeaways from Afghanistan has been the effectiveness of the command structure provided through the Special Operations Joint Task Force Afghanistan, he reported. It aligns all special operations missions across Afghanistan, to make



Admiral William H. McRaven,
Commander, United States Special
Operations Command

them more coordinated and effective.

The task force has provided "effects that we hadn't seen in the previous decade," McRaven said. The challenge now, he told the forum, is to take the lessons learned and export them to other special operations missions around the world. Special operators "will always be able to do the kinetic piece...better than anyone else in the world," he said. "When somebody needs to rescue Americans or when someone needs to capture or kill the

enemy, I think we have the best force in the world and will for a long time." McRaven acknowledged, however, that "that's a small part of what we do in the special operations community."

Building partner capacity is the larger mission, he reported, and it currently involves about 3,000 special operations forces in about 84 countries outside Afghanistan.

Working in small teams, they are helping partner-nation militaries build special operations capacity so their sovereign governments can deal with their own problems without the need for U.S. forces, he said.

These are core special operations capabilities that the special operations community has been conducting "for a very, very long time," McRaven said. "So any thought that this is a new idea is not correct," he added.

What has changed is the fiscal environment, he noted. "Now, we've got to do it in a little more structured fashion," McRaven said. "We have limited resources, [so] we've got to figure out where to apply those resources."

AIR FORCE RELEASES FIRST-EVER ENLISTED LEAP BOARD RESULTS



(af.mil)...Jodi L. Jordan

The U.S. Air Force Culture and Language Center recently released the results of the first-ever Language Enabled Airman Program selection board solely for enlisted Airmen. The selection of 199 applicants nearly triples the number of enlisted Airmen in the program.

The program aims to sustain, enhance and utilize the existing foreign language skills of Airmen. As LEAP participants, these Airmen will receive language learning opportunities throughout their careers.

"The program seeks to develop cross-culturally competent leaders with working-level foreign language proficiency - leaders who can meet Air Force global mission requirements," said Zachary Hickman, AFCLC Language Division chief. "We select Airmen from jobs across the Air Force. They stay in their 'day jobs,' but they gain a level of language and culture learning that allows them to do their 'day jobs' in another language and in another country."

More than 300 applications were received, and the Airmen selected had skills in 42 different languages. Of those selected, the most common language ability was Spanish, but other languages represented were Arabic, Greek, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Punjabi, Swahili and Vietnamese. Airmen were evaluated on

not just their language skills, but also their demonstrated ability and potential to be a quality participant.

"We look at more than just the ability to speak another language," Hickman said. "We look at the whole person - their performance reports, their prior education and background, as well as endorsement comments from their supervisors. It all adds up to tell us that a person is not just able, but is also willing, to use their language skills for the Air Force."

Program administrators and selection board members chose the most qualified candidates by matching the Airmen's skills with manning guidance from the Air Staff. Additionally, applicants possessing low-density language skills were given special consideration to build the breadth and depth of LEAP resources for future contingencies.

LEAP began as a pilot program in 2009. Until recently, new candidates consisted primarily of officers and officer candidates. The next selection board for officers will be held in fall 2013. The next selection board for enlisted candidates will be held in spring 2014. Exact dates have not been set, but interested candidates are encouraged to schedule Defense Language Proficiency Tests or Oral Proficiency Interviews with their local base education offices in preparation for the application period.

CYCLONE BATTALION LEADER AND 21 CADETS HEAD FOR CULTURAL MISSIONS ABROAD

(Iowa State University News Service)

"You don't realize all the ways another culture is different until you've been immersed in it," he said. "Our future military officers and leaders need to be comfortable operating and working with personnel from other countries. They'll be doing it for the rest of their careers."

Lt. Col. Richard Smith, who is professor and chair of the Military Science and Tactics Department, said leaders of the 21st century military need to develop more cultural awareness and foreign language proficiency.

"There's no classroom that can teach the experience gained from an overseas immersion," he said. Each summer, the U.S. Army Cadet Command's Cultural

Understanding and Language Program (CULP) sends teams of cadets on summer cultural missions. Under the direction of the U.S. Department of State and at the invitation of about 40 partner nations, 1,350 cadets have been selected for CULP this summer. After a week of preparation at Fort Knox, Ky., they will spend three weeks in another country doing everything from teaching children English to rebuilding roads to training with the nation's military. The program in each country is tailored to the requests of the host nation.

CULP cadets are selected from a competitive pool of thousands of applicants on order of merit based on grades, physical fitness tests and an essay.

ARABIC PROGRAM TO RELOCATE FROM EGYPT TO MOROCCO

(Inside Higher Ed)

The Arabic Overseas Flagship Program is relocating from Alexandria, Egypt to Meknes, Morocco, having determined that restrictions in place to ensure students' safety were undermining opportunities for informal language and cultural learning.

Demonstrations against Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi have swelled in the last week; an American college student in Alexandria was fatally stabbed on Friday while observing a protest. The U.S. State Department has warned against non-essential travel to Egypt in light of the growing political and social unrest, prompting universities to reevaluate their study abroad programs there.

"In recent days, it had become clear that in order to guarantee the safety of our students in Egypt, it had become necessary to establish curfews and limitations on their movements (including escort and shuttle arrangements to and from classes at the university), [meaning that] the students were essentially having to give up many of the kinds of informal language contacts and cultural exploration that overseas immersion study is designed to provide," Dan Davidson, the president of the American Councils for International Education, which administers the program, said in an email.



Egyptians opposing Mohamed Morsi protest

"It was as much a concern for the quality of the learning experience available to our students under present conditions in Egypt, as it was immediate specific concerns about the students' immediate personal safety" that the decision was made to relocate the program to Morocco beginning July 6, Davidson said. The program's Egyptian partner institution, Alexandria University, will be transferring some of its language teachers to Morocco to continue working with students.

The yearlong Arabic Overseas Flagship Program began in early June and involves 18 students from five U.S. universities. The Flagship language programs are funded by the U.S. Department of Defense's National Security Education Program.

HIGH INTENSITY LANGUAGE TRAINING PREPARES SOLDIERS FOR DEFENSE LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY TESTING

(dvids)...Staff Sgt. Mark Miranda

The 341st Military Intelligence Battalion (Linguist) and the JBLM Foreign Language Training Center invited military linguists to High Intensity Language Training for three weeks in June to prepare them for their annual Defense Language Proficiency Test.

This HILT session offered full programs in Chinese Mandarin, Persian Farsi and Arabic; as well as refresher courses in French and Spanish.

"The program provides the opportunity for students to receive instruction in their target language for the duration of the day," said Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Cunningham, command language program manager.

"Students eat, converse and study in the language

with their teachers. In order to provide the most benefit to all participants, activities are conducted using the target language. No English is tolerated for the duration of the training."

Students were placed in either intermediate or advanced classes according to their proficiency levels, as determined by the JBLM Foreign Language Training Center. It is also based upon a student's most recent Defense Language Proficiency Test score, an annual requirement that certifies a Soldier's language skill level.

PRESIDIO BIDS FAREWELL TO AIR FORCE ASSISTANT COMMANDANT, WELCOMES NEW COMMANDER

(DLIFLC)...Natela Cutter

The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center and members of the Air Force's 517th Training Group said goodbye to one commanding officer and welcomed a new one during a formal change-of-command ceremony at the Presidio of Monterey on June 26.

The institute bid farewell to Assistant Commandant and Commander of the 517th Training Group, Air Force Col. Laura Ryan, and welcomed Air Force Col. Ginger Wallace during the event at Soldier Field.

Ryan was awarded the Legion of Merit for her outstanding service as commander of the 517th Training Group and assistant commandant of DLIFLC. The citation stated that her "work on linguist reclassification and discharge processes assured the retention of the best Airmen and saved the Air Force over \$24 million dollars."

"Colonel Laura "Cricket" Ryan has been the exact right commander ... She has superbly led over 130 permanent party staff and over 3,100 Air Force students during her two-year command, driving graduation rates 15 percent higher than the institute average," said Joos, referring to Air Force service members who either attended or served on staff at DLIFLC, attended by all four branches of the service.

In a letter sent by Congressman Sam Farr, and presented by his representative, Alec Arago, Ryan



Outgoing DLIFLC Assistant Commandant, Col. Laura Ryan, receives a gift from DLIFLC Commandant Col. Danial Pick

was praised for her work at the institute saying, "Col. Ryan has performed exemplary work in helping to improve the internal management of the Institute's faculty and staff. It's a job that goes largely unnoticed from the outside, but one that is vitally important for the future of DLI in particular, and military language training in general."

The incoming assistant commandant comes to DLIFLC from Afghanistan where she spent a year deployed as an Afghanistan/Pakistan Hand, a program that requires language and culture

training and is designed to build partnerships and strengthen ties between International Security Force members and Afghan nationals.

"Col. (Danial) Pick, Dr. (Betty) Leaver and the Defense Language Institute faculty, I look forward to being part of this incredible organization to ensure we provide the best possible academic and learning environment for the Department of Defense," said Wallace, addressing the institute commandant and provost..

As the assistant commandant, Wallace will be in charge of overseeing the institute's 24 academic foreign language programs, 31 sites worldwide, testing development and administration, and more than 2,600 faculty and staff.



CALENDAR

Defense Language Action Panel	August 13
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