



THIS MONTH IN LANGUAGE & CULTURE

OCTOBER 2012

AN UPDATE FROM THE NATIONAL SECURITY EDUCATION BOARD (NSEB)

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- 2 The National Security Education Board met on Wednesday, September 6, 2012. The Board advises the administration of the National Security Education Program (NSEP), which is a program within the Defense Language and National Security Education Office. The 13-member Board, comprised of representatives from seven Cabinet-level departments and six Presidentially-appointed members, serves as an interagency forum for language and culture. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Boren Fellowship Symposium, in order for Board members to interact more directly with NSEP award recipients. The Symposium, an annual event, gathers Boren Fellows who have returned from their overseas experiences to meet in Washington, DC, network, and learn more about job opportunities with the federal government. Five Board members were featured on the opening Symposium panel, each speaking about the trajectories of their careers and providing insight about pursuing national security-related, federal employment. The Board members also spoke about the impact that language and culture skills have had on their lives, both personally and professionally.

The full Board meeting, chaired by Mr. Fred Vollrath, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness and Force Management, was held directly following the opening Symposium panel. Agenda items included an external review of the Boren Awards program by the Center for Naval Analyses, NSEP policy and



Mark Gerencser, Executive Vice President, Booz Allen Hamilton

program updates, and a presentation from the Office for Personnel Management. The meeting was designed to maximize Board input and discussion, and also incorporated a highly productive strategic brainstorming session, during which NSEB members weighed in on a big-picture vision for NSEP moving into the future.

Following the Board meeting, NSEB members returned to Symposium events, concluding the day with a formal reception attended by DoD leadership, leaders in the language education field, and more than 100 Boren Scholars and Fellows.

Two Boren alumni were recognized for their outstanding national security contributions to the federal government at the

reception, receiving awards presented by Mr. Vollrath. Board member Mr. Mark Gerencser, Executive Vice President of Booz Allen Hamilton, also provided a keynote address. He focused his comments on the synergies that can exist among the government, private, and civil sectors, encouraging Boren Scholars and Fellows to seek out opportunities to build public/private linkages.

FOREIGN AREA OFFICER SYMPOSIUM

Colonel Rich Anderson, U.S. Army (retired) and Colonel Humberto Rodriguez, U.S. Army represented DLNSEO at the 2012 National Military Intelligence Association Fall Symposium on 18 and 19 September at the TASC Heritage Center in Chantilly, Virginia. This symposium was co-sponsored by the Foreign Area Officers Association and was titled "Foreign Engagement & Global Coverage under the New Defense Plan: FAOs, Security Cooperation, and the Defense Attaché System".

The symposium focused on the importance of diplomatic and mutual security cooperation, as well as global intelligence coverage, and the critical roles that FAOs play in all those missions. Rich Anderson and Colonel Rodriguez presented DLNSEO's efforts on the Joint Foreign Area Officer Course, Phases 1 and 2, Language Sustainment Training for FAOs, and hosted discussions on the future of FAO policies

and utilization. Additionally, James Howard, from the Joint Foreign Area Officer Course, Phase 2 staff gave a demonstration of FAOWeb and its multitude of language, regional, cultural, and mission-specific materials designed specifically for FAOs and higher level language professionals.

In recognition of the shortfalls identified in the Joint FAO program, DLNSEO, in coordination with the Services, implemented a number of programs such as the Joint FAO Courses and a pilot language sustainment program to enhance FAO skills by providing them much needed training and sustainment opportunities in order to improve both their language and regional expertise skills. The Joint FAO Course, Phase 1 conducted

for the first time in June 2012, provides new FAOs from all Services an introduction to FAO missions and working in the interagency and with foreign militaries.

The next Joint Foreign Area Officer Course, Phase 1 FAO course offering will be in 14-18 January 2013, and at least five Phase 2 Courses will be conducted as well. Language sustainment programs will continue in 2013, with opportunities for all FAOs to apply for immersion, tutoring, or local university training. Finally, DLNSEO will be a leading a revision of FAO Policy – DoDI 1315.20 and plan to have a new instruction, with more specific FAO training requirements published by late 2013. These policies will be geared at achieving higher levels of language proficiency across the entire FAO corps.

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RUSSIAN LINGUISTS SUPPORT NAVAL EXERCISE

(dvids)...Sgt 1st Class Rebecca Doucette

Treyger, and three other graduates of the DTRA - Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center's Russian program, interpreted between Russian and U.S. service members during RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific) 2012, the largest international maritime warfare

exercise.

This was Russia's first time participating in the five-week biennial event and they sent two support ships and a destroyer, the Russian Federation Ship Panteleyev. The exercise took place in the waters off Hawaii and included 20 other foreign

navies.

While DTRA linguists spend the majority of their time maintaining their language skills and translating and interpreting, opportunities to conduct missions occur about once a year.



Russian linguist Tech. Sgt. Gennadiy Treyger

BOREN HOWARD BAKER, JR. & SOL LINOWITZ 2012 AWARDS

At the September 2012 Boren Symposium, the National Security Education Program (NSEP) announced its 6th Annual NSEP Boren Alumni Award winners.

The *Howard Baker, Jr. Award* was named in honor of Senator Howard Baker, former Senate Majority Leader, former White House Chief of Staff for President Reagan, and Ambassador to Japan under President George W. Bush.

This year's winner, Ensign Michael Chahinian, United States Navy, was awarded a Boren Scholarship in 2002 to study Mandarin in China while an undergraduate student at Cornell University. Michael is both the Electronic Warfare Officer, Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure Officer (VBSSO) as an active-duty Naval Officer. Michael is responsible for leading the Electronic Warfare Division in protecting the USS Stockdale from incoming missiles as well as gathering intelligence, and in his duties as a VBSSO, Michael ensures compliance with international laws by boarding foreign vessels for inspection. Prior to joining the Navy, Michael worked as a Capitol Hill Staffer specializing in trade in military issues while he pursued a graduate degree at the U.S. Naval War College.



Frederick Vollrath presents Ensign Michael Chahinian, USN the Howard Baker, Jr. Award



Frederick Vollrath presents Hilary Wehr the Sol Linowitz Award

The *Sol Linowitz Award* was named in honor of Ambassador Sol Linowitz, who served as the General Counsel, and later Chairman of the Board of the Xerox Corporation. Mr. Linowitz also served as Ambassador to the Organization of American States in 1966, and later served as President Carter's personal representative to the Middle East Peace Negotiations.

This year's winner, Hilary Wehr, was awarded a Boren Fellowship in 2008 to study Arabic in Syria. She earned a Master's degree at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies in 2010. As an intelligence analyst in the Middle East North Africa Office of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Hilary produces all-source intelligence analysis for the department of Defense. Hilary has made significant contributions to the Presidential Daily Briefs and represents the DIA as a Middle East subject matter expert in intelligence community conferences and settings. Hilary began her position at DIA the day before the Arab uprising in Syria and was promptly assigned to the high profile Syria Crisis Cell within the Directorate of Intelligence.

Mr. Frederick Vollrath, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness and Force Management, presented Michael and Hilary with their awards at Boren Fellowship Symposium Reception on Thursday, September 6th, 2012. Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.

ARMY AIMS TO USE WORDS, NOT WEAPONS, WITH AFGHANS

(NPR)...Blake Farmer

This year, key installations have added several hundred speakers of Pashto and Dari to their ranks, more than doubling the number of soldiers trained in the Afghan languages.

But it's not just the country's languages that are foreign to U.S. soldiers — it's the culture, as well.

And as training the Afghan troops has become an important component of the U.S. exit strategy, training Afghan forces — and the cultural understanding that requires — has become the job of 19-year-old privates as well, says Maj. Gen. James McConville of the 101st Airborne Division.

McConville himself has been learning Dari, the language of Afghan government.

"This will be my second time going back to Afghanistan," he says. "You start to realize, I would have been much more effective if I understood the language and understood the culture, and maybe some of the things that may offend them that may lead to some situations that are not in the best interest of either of our forces."

Last month, 12 U.S. troops were killed by forces dressed in Afghan uniform. The Pentagon believes the bloodshed is often a result of personal grievances and what it calls "social difficulties." Language training is hardly a direct response to the killings, but McConville acknowledges that it may help.

In the photo, Afghan instructors demonstrate how to play a game called "egg jousting" for U.S. soldiers at Fort Campbell, Ky.



Photo by Blake Farmer

UW-MADISON JOINS INITIATIVE TO PROVIDE LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION FOR ROTC CADETS

(University of Wisconsin—Madison)...Kerry Hill

The University of Wisconsin, Madison (UW-Madison) recently was awarded nearly \$490,000 through Aug. 31, 2013 for Project GO (Global Officers), an initiative to help cadets and midshipmen in Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) learn critical languages and study abroad. Project GO is sponsored by the Defense Language and National Security Education Office, an organization within the [Department of Defense](#).

UW-Madison also is among the few U.S. universities that host [Army](#), [Navy](#) and [Air Force](#) ROTC programs, which offer students opportunities to earn a commission as an officer in any of the three armed services.

The Project GO funding provides fellowships for ROTC cadets from all branches of service to enroll this academic year and next summer in domestic and study abroad programs in Arabic, Hindi-Urdu, Turkish, and Russian. The university offers each of these languages during the summer as an [intensive course](#).



UW-Madison ROTC cadets in an Advanced Military Tactics class practicing planning for a patrol exercise

AMERICA’S FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEFICIT

(Forbes)...David Skorton and Glenn Altschuler

More and more students and their parents understand the need to communicate with friends and foes in other countries, and not just on our terms. Demand for and enrollment in foreign language courses is at its highest level since 1968. At public K-12 schools, course enrollment in 2007-2008 reached 8.9 million individuals, about 18.5 percent of all students; between 1995 and 2009, it increased 47.8 percent at colleges and universities.

At the same time, however, schools at every level are balancing their budgets and offsetting reductions in government allocations by cutting their offerings and/or eliminating foreign language requirements.

Consider this:

The percentage of public and private elementary schools offering foreign language instruction decreased from 31 to 25 percent from 1997 to 2008. Instruction in public elementary schools dropped from 24 percent to 15 percent, with rural districts hit the hardest.

The percentage of all middle schools offering foreign language instruction decreased from 75 to 58 percent.

The percentage of high schools offering some foreign language courses remained about the same, at 91 percent.

About 25 percent of elementary schools and 30 percent of middle schools report a shortage of qualified foreign language teachers.

In 2009-2010, only 50.7 percent of higher education institutions required foreign language study for a baccalaureate, down from 67.5 percent in 1994-1995. And many colleges and universities, including Cornell, have reduced or eliminated instructional offerings in “less popular” languages.

We are on the web!

http://prhome.defense.gov/RFM/READINESS/DLNSEO/media_updates.aspx

CALENDAR

Defense Language Steering Committee	Oct 18
DLIFLC Anniversary Ball	Nov 3
Defense Language Action Panel	Nov 6



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