



DLNSEO DISPATCH... THIS MONTH IN LANGUAGE & CULTURE

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

[TIME OF LINGUISTIC REFLECTION: DLNSEO'S ANNIVERSARY](#) 2

[DLIFLC COMMANDANT AWARDED DANISH MEDAL](#) 2

[DIA DEPUTY WINS SERVICE AWARD](#) 3

[FOREIGN AREA OFFICER TOOL: FAOWEB](#) 3

[AFRICOM GENERAL SHARES EXPERIENCES WITH FAOS](#) 4

[FEDERAL NEWS RADIO INTERVIEW WITH DR. NUGENT](#) 4

[SCHOLARSHIP FOR LANGUAGE FLAGSHIP STUDENTS](#) 5

LANGUAGE CORPS MEMBERS EMPLOY SKILLS FOR NATION

(Defense.gov)...Terri Moon Cronk A man translates the deposition of a Somali pirate for the FBI.

A woman who speaks Mandarin Chinese works with the Coast Guard aboard a cutter off the African coast to monitor fishing vessels.

A federal agency requests humanitarian help following the outbreak of a disease in a small, foreign village, which quickly garners a group of volunteers who speak the language of the community.

These translators are among the 4,000-member National Language Service Corps. They volunteer their second-language skills and cultural knowledge when the need arises across the Defense Department and the federal government, said Dr. Michael Nugent, Director of the Defense Language and National Security Education Office.

Nugent said the corps' language assistance is one of the largest innovations in the federal sector. Agencies foreign and domestic that have sought the corps' capabilities include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Peace Corps, the Department of Labor, and Interpol.

The volunteer members of the corps, a DoD organization, fill needs for any one of 260 languages and cultural knowledge, he said.

"If you are a combatant commander, you cannot have on hand 260 linguists who speak all those languages. It's just too cost

prohibitive [and] it's very difficult to find those resources," Nugent said.

"We at the Department of Defense, plus the rest of the federal government, have an incredible need for language skills and these skills are enduring," he said. "The language corps provides a way to augment our federal service in times of need through [the use of] volunteers."

The volunteers in the program must be at least 18 years old. None are full-time employees but are on call to report for work, which could last anywhere from a few hours to a couple of months, Nugent said, adding that most volunteers work a week at a time. He added the corps is seeking nonfederal workers, to augment the federal sector. Volunteers receive training and are compensated for their services by becoming temporary federal employees during the time they travel and work.

Once partially a pilot program, the corps has become permanent, following President Barack Obama's Jan. 2 signing of the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act. Many volunteers have grown up in other countries or have heritage language skills spoken at home, Nugent said,



An NLSC member used her Mandarin language capability aboard this U.S. Coast Guard Cutter

noting some are retired military linguists. And with 4,000 volunteers, Nugent expects the corps to boast 15,000 members as the program is ramped up to further complement the federal sector. The volunteers' cultural knowledge of the languages they speak is crucial, Nugent said. "In these times when we are drawing down a lot of capabilities, the corps offers an opportunity to retain a lot of language capability," Nugent noted. "It's hard to create that capability in-house; it's costly. The corps gives us an opportunity to retain that capability and draw upon it in times of need. That's one of the most important aspects of the corps." Nugent said members of the corps sign up for one particular reason: "They want to volunteer and serve the nation," he said.

TIME OF LINGUISTIC REFLECTION: DLNSEO'S ANNIVERSARY

"For last year's words belong to last year's language. And next year's words await another voice," wrote T.S. Eliot. This is figuratively and literally the case for the Defense Language and National Security Education Office (DLNSEO), which celebrated its first official year as an office within the Department of Defense on February 6. The year's conclusion brings with it a sense of reflection and the promise of a new year to come.

"The Defense Language and National Security Education Office provides strategic direction on foreign language and cultural policy, planning, and programs for the Department of Defense," said the office Director, Dr. Michael Nugent. "In addition to leading DoD policy and planning in this area, our office oversees ten language and cultural initiatives designed to attract, recruit, and train a future federal workforce skilled in languages and culture to work across all agencies involved in national security."

This past year DLNSEO has augmented the Nation's and Department of Defense's language skills through a number of initiatives and products. The National Language Service Corps, a civilian corps of U.S. citizen volunteers with certified proficiency in languages important to U.S. security and welfare, grew from 2,407 to over 4,000 members speaking over 260

languages. The National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2013 transformed the National Language Service Corps from a pilot to a permanent program and also enhanced the ability of federal agencies to hire National Security Education Program awardees that possess strategic foreign language and cultural skills.

During 2012, Project Global Officer, which promotes critical language education, study abroad, and intercultural opportunities for Reserve Officer Training Corps students, expanded from 18 to 25 institutions of higher education; and Language Training Centers grew from 5 to 8 participating institutions of higher education. Of this effort, Shirley Rapues, the program manager stated, "Language Training Centers are a new effort that represents a strategic investment by the Department to leverage the hard work of institutions of higher education to train DoD personnel in language, regional, and cultural skills."

A brand new initiative for K-12 was instituted in 2012: the Strategic Foreign Language Expansion Program. This program is a partnership with the Department of Defense Education Activity to strengthen foreign language education at military-connected public schools. This year six schools were awarded grants impacting over 24,900 students.

Superintendent Valerie Truesdale, representing an awarded school district stated, "with countries and cultures more closely connected every day, it's vitally important for students to have access to quality foreign language programs at all stages of their educations."

Other significant activities include completing the Capabilities Based Review, which produces a Strategic Language List that guides the Department's financial incentives to speakers of strategic languages; winning the Serious Games Award for the Cross-Cultural Competence Trainer mobile app; creating Virtual Cultural Awareness Trainers for South America, Southeast Asia, Hispaniola, and Central America; testifying before Congress regarding the status of the Department of Defense's language, regional, and cultural capability; and launching the first Foreign Area Officer Basic Course, which provides military officers the skills to succeed as a Defense Attaché or country liaison.

Last year's activities "belong to last year's language," and the promise of 2013 lies ahead. The organization intends to focus its efforts in 2013 on culture policy and products, language assessments, development of language sustainment programs, regional alignment, and ensuring that the appropriate levels of strategic language capability are available within the Department.

DLIFLC COMMANDANT AWARDED DANISH MEDAL

(DLIFLC)...Natela Cutter

The commandant of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, Col. Danial D. Pick, was awarded the Danish Armed Forces Medal for Special Meritorious Service by the Danish Royal Army Jan 30.

The award was presented by Lt. Col. Nicolas T. Veicherts, the foreign language program director of the Royal Danish Defence College. The medal is typically awarded to

civilians or military personnel who have done meritorious service to the betterment of the Danish Defence Forces.

Veicherts visited DLIFLC with his colleague, Maj. Astrid Bjerregaard, to present the medal and tour DLIFLC facilities where four Danish soldiers are attending a 63-week Pashto language course, and seven others are attending a two-week special exchange Pashto immersion program.



The commandant of DLIFLC, Col Pick, was awarded a Danish Armed Forces Medal for Special Meritorious Service Jan 30, presented by the foreign language program director of the Royal Danish Defense College, Lt. Col. Nicolas Veicherts.

DIA DEPUTY WINS SERVICE AWARD

(DIA)

The Boren Forum, the National Security Education Program's non-profit alumni association, presented Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Deputy Director David Shedd the 2013 "Spirit of Service Award" at the Goethe Institut the evening of January 23, 2013.

The award is presented each year to a professional who has advanced the National Security Education Program's (NSEP) core mission of strengthening foreign language skills and international expertise in America's national security community.

Mr. Shedd was honored for his leadership and enthusiastic support of NSEP and the Boren Forum, including his hosting of Boren Fellows and Scholars at the Defense Intelligence Agency headquarters at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C.

NSEP was established by the David L. Boren National Security Education Act of 1991. Since implementing the program, more than 2000 award recipients have joined the federal workforce. NSEP alumni form the membership of the Boren Forum, which was established in 2003.

Dr. Michael Nugent, Director of the Defense Language and National Security Education Office, presented the "Spirit of Service" award to Shedd on behalf of the Boren Forum before a crowd of approximately 150 Boren Forum members and guests. In his brief remarks, Shedd thanked the Boren Forum and NSEP for their continued focus on fostering and sustaining foreign language skills and cultural understanding within the national security community.



Dr. Michael Nugent presents the Spirit of Service Award to DIA Deputy Director David Shedd

FOREIGN AREA OFFICER TOOL: FAOWEB

The Defense Language and National Security Education Office sponsors FAOweb: an online portal that provides distance learning and community networking to Foreign Area Officers worldwide. It maintains skill sustainment and educational resources while building a network of professionals across the Armed Services.

FAOweb is built on the distance learning software platform Sakai, an open-source courseware and collaboration management system. Designed by educators and employed at premier institutions (including MIT, Harvard University and Stanford University), Sakai not only supports teaching and learning, but also fosters community collaboration to solve common problems and share best practices. FAOweb is available to all FAOs, select civilians, and others as

warranted. Active-duty and reserve FAOs are approved automatically and retired FAOs and others may request access by contacting the program office [directly](mailto:faowebhelp@nps.edu) or email faowebhelp@nps.edu.

A screenshot of the FAOweb website. The header features the FAOweb logo and the title "JOINT FOREIGN AREA OFFICER". Below the header is a navigation menu with links: Home, Learn, FAO Tools, FAO VTC, FAO Forum, FAO Files, FAO Wiki, and Program. The main content area is titled "FAO Resources" and includes a "Region Map" section with a world map highlighting five regions: Americas (green), Africa (yellow), Eurasia (purple), Near East (blue), and Asia-Pacific (red). Below the map is a text prompt: "Click on a region to navigate to your country of interest." To the right of the map is a "Spotlight" section with three featured items: "JOINT FAO" with a "Click here to go" link, "FAOweb V" with a "Video confer" link, and "THE ECON" with a link to "The Economist and opinion on business, finan including a ses back June 199". At the bottom right is a "STRATFOR" logo with the text "STRATFOR is its global team professionals unique insight military develop".

FAOweb welcome screen

AFRICOM GENERAL SHARES EXPERIENCES WITH FAOS

(DLIFLC)...Natela Cutter

Maj. Gen. Charles W. Hooper, Director of Strategic Plans and Programs for the U.S. Africa Command, shared some of his life experiences with Foreign Area Officers stationed at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center and the Naval Postgraduate School Tuesday.

“There is no secret to success...do the best you can, take jobs that are fulfilling, don’t chase the rainbow and work as hard as you can,” said Hooper, to more than 100 officers and staff who attended the event. Hooper, who graduated from DLIFLC in May 1987 from the Chinese Mandarin Basic Course, has worked his way from an infantry second lieutenant to major general with AFRICOM, which aims to protect American interests on that continent and assist its countries in their own defense.

“You need to be agile, flexible and responsive... and have a broad skill set because you may get an offer that requires universal skills,” he said, advising FAOs to stay abreast of current events regardless of their area of assignment. “You have to stay current and connected.”

“Language is a window,” into the world of other cultures, he said. “If you can tell a joke and get them to laugh, that is success.”

In addition to studying Chinese at DLIFLC, Hooper also studied Chinese at West Point, and was stationed in Beijing from 2007 to 2009 as a Defense Department attaché.

“You have to network and be sensitive to power relationships... and keep up with the people you meet,” said Hooper explaining that people he encountered earlier in his career who were interns or upstart business entrepreneurs later in life became assistant secretaries of State, or CEOs of large companies. “Rule number 62 says ‘always be nice to interns because you may end up working for one,’” he said, referring to his own set of rules. Summing up his speech to a crowd of smiling officers, Hooper reiterated that the real recipe for success is hard work, honesty, and doing the right thing.

“When all is said and done, all that is left is the people you love,” alluding to the need of taking care of one’s family during a FAO career path.



Maj. Gen. Charles Hooper, Director of Strategic Plans and Programs for U.S. Africa Command, addresses Foreign Area Officers stationed at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center and the Naval Postgraduate School on Jan 15.

FEDERAL NEWS RADIO INTERVIEW WITH DR. NUGENT

(Federal News Radio)

Dr. Michael Nugent, Director of the Defense Language and National Security Education Office, provided an interview to Federal News Radio on January 17 regarding the National Language Service Corps.

Whether it's an FBI agent who detains a Somali pirate or a Coast Guard cutter calling out to a Chinese fisherman, federal employees stationed abroad need a little help saying hello. More and more, they're turning to a special corps of

volunteers organized by the Pentagon. It started out as a pilot program and became permanent when President Barack Obama signed the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013. Michael Nugent oversees the National Language Service Corps as part of his role as the Director of the Defense Language and National Security Education Office.

SCHOLARSHIP FOR LANGUAGE FLAGSHIP STUDENTS

(UCLA International Institute)

The Monterey Institute of International Studies and The Language Flagship have signed a scholarship agreement!

The Language Flagship, administered by DLNSEO, leads the nation in designing, supporting, and implementing a new paradigm for advanced language education.

Through an innovative partnership among the federal government, education, and business, The Language Flagship graduates students who will take their place among the next generation of global professionals, commanding a superior level of fluency in one of many languages critical to U.S.

competitiveness and security. Professor Der-lin Chao, the Director of the Chinese Flagship Center at Hunter College wrote of the Flagship program, "Based on the results gathered over the past ten years, The Language Flagship model has proven to be effective in helping American students achieve professional proficiency in the ten critical languages offered by Flagship. Today over 900 students are enrolled in the Flagship undergraduate program, and

the enrollment rate will no doubt continue to grow.

The Language Flagship programs have graduated many students over the past ten years, all of whom have achieved professional language and culture proficiency, along with year-long experiences of living and working abroad.

We believe Flagship graduates are the answer to the challenges of our globalized world."

Of the recent scholarship agreement, the Monterey Institute of International Studies stated, "We are committed to offering four \$16,000 (minimum) scholarships to Language Flagship certified students annually." Scholarship and application details available at the Monterey Institute of International Studies [website](#). The fall admission priority scholarship deadline is February 1, 2013.

Students may [apply for admissions to](#)



A Flagship student participates in activities in Qingdao, Shandong province, China.

[a Monterey Institute degree program](#) and to the [Betty and David Jones Language Scholarship](#) by that date.

WE ARE ON THE WEB!

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

CALENDAR

Defense Language Action Panel	Feb 12
Federal Holiday	Feb 18



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