



DLNSEO DISPATCH... THIS MONTH IN LANGUAGE & CULTURE

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DAGGER BRIGADE

(MS&T, page 18)...Chuck Weirauch

Teams from the US Army's 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division (Dagger Brigade) deploying to various African countries and regions starting this April, will be the first units to do so in support of the US African Command (AFRICOM). They will have undergone language and cultural training specifically geared to their areas of deployment at the newly created Dagger University at the Division's home base at Fort Riley, Kansas.

This mission depends even more on language and cultural skills of US armed forces and civilian personnel than in the past, since AFRICOM is described by the Department of Defense as a major innovation, a new kind of regional military command.

"Culture and language training for our military units participating in engagements on the African continent is vital to the success of those engagements," said Major General Charles Hooper, Director of U.S. Africa Command's Strategy, Plans and Programs Directorate, and who is also the senior Foreign Area Officer in the US Army.

Some of the language and cultural tools that are being employed by AFRICOM include Virtual Cultural Awareness Trainer (VCAT) Horn of Africa and VCAT North Africa. Both of these interactive trainers have been developed by Alelo for the Defense Language and National Security Education Office

(DLNSEO) within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. The VCATs are designed to teach language and cultural skills specific to their geographic locations. They

provide scenario-driven exercises that enable students to learn the most effective ways to complete missions in that region by using culturally appropriate behaviors and key phrases. Those missions generally include civil affairs operations, security cooperation, partner forces training, and humanitarian operations, along with others. Along with the US commands' desire to provide more language and cultural skills for frontline armed forces personnel, there is also an ongoing effort to expand this across the DoD.

Marc Hill, DLNSEO's Associate Director for Culture Education and Training, explained that DLNSEO's goal is to provide a baseline level of language and cultural training for all DoD personnel.

"So in cooperation with Joint Knowledge Online (JKO) we decided to create an online trainer that would include the



As teams deploy to Africa, they do so with a new awareness of language and culture

baseline of cultural competencies that we thought that everyone in the DoD needed," Hill continued. "We brought all of the service culture centers together to determine what would be the best competencies that would work for this 3CT trainer." While the VCAT and 3CT courses are now available, DLNSEO will continue to encourage further development and implementation of language and cultural training courseware, Hill said. "What we want to do in the future is to work with all of the COCOMs to provide the same type of language and cultural training for them as well," Hill summed up. "We are going to make sure that we continue to update missions and mission support. From the top down, the DoD has placed huge importance on language and cultural training and to maintain those skills.

BOREN FELLOWSHIP HIGHLIGHT

The [Boren Fellowship](#), administered by the Defense Language and National Security Education Program, provides support to U.S. graduate students studying languages critical to our national security. Boren Fellows incur a service obligation to work for the federal government for at least one year following their overseas study. Captain Charlie Fowler received a Boren Fellowship while pursuing a Juris Doctorate at American University's Washington College of Law. By taking advantage of AU's semester exchange program and the resources provided by the Boren Fellowship, CPT Fowler had the opportunity to study law and policy at Bilgi University in Istanbul, Turkey.

CPT Fowler joined the Army after 9/11, and was chosen to attend law school on an ROTC Scholarship at the University of Oklahoma. He is currently an Operational Law attorney at US Army Special Operations Aviation Command (USASOAC), Fort Bragg, NC. USASOAC supports Army Special Operations aviation, including the 160th SOAR Night Stalkers and other aviation assets. As an operational law attorney, CPT Fowler addresses the legal aspects of mission and operations planning,

reviews training and operations, and ensures that all actions are in compliance with domestic, foreign, and international laws, regulations and policy. CPT Fowler's portfolio continues to expand. As an administrative law attorney and ethics counselor at U.S. Army Special Forces Command, a three-star command in charge of the 26,000 personnel comprising Army Special Forces – Army Rangers, Special Forces (Green Berets), the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, Civil Affairs, Military Information Support of Operations (formerly PSYOPs), and other assorted units. CPT Fowler assists the command in interpreting regulations and directives, ensures investigations are legally sufficient, and that Soldiers and Commanders follow ethics principles by interpreting guidance and providing agency ethics opinions.

CPT Fowler enjoys his job and the



Bilgi University in Istanbul, Turkey

special “perks” associated with being assigned to a Special Forces Command. “Every day is awesome. I love my job. The leadership training is excellent, everyone I work with is great, and what other law firm gets to parachute out of a Blackhawk helicopter into a lake, or shoot on a special operations training range?”

AMERICA MEETS AND GREETES THE WORLD...IN MISSISSIPPI!

(Huffington Post)...Saul Gitlin

Established by the federal government in 2002, [The Language Flagship](#) is, today, a national network of 26 intensive programs located at 22 academic institutions and 10 overseas centers that is designed to provide American students advanced training in foreign language utilizing new models of intensive language learning. The programs seek to foster education in 10 "strategic" languages - languages that are of critical importance to today's world affairs,

both in the public and commercial spheres. For several of the languages offered, programs are available across a range of colleges and universities throughout the United States to offer geographic flexibility for an individual student's program selection. Said Dr. Michael Nugent, Director of the National Security Education Program and the top administrator overseeing national operations and development for The Language Flagship, "The unique nature of the

language education that Flagship has implemented across the country corresponds to the unique competencies and profiles of the graduates who emerge from these programs. Because our programs are advanced, our students already enjoy advanced abilities to communicate professionally on the global stage, even at the very beginning of their careers."

CULTURE TRAINING: MORE THAN LEARNING A CULTURE

(Defense News)...Lauren Biron

As the U.S. military shifts its focus away from the Middle East and over to Asia, the Pacific and Africa, it faces a particular quandary: How do you give soldiers cultural awareness when they don't know which culture they will encounter?

Aptima's Culture Awareness for Military Operations trainer, or CAMO, focuses on teaching students how to recognize and assess culture more broadly rather than providing detailed instructions on how to deal with a specific populace.

"If there has been one trend, one push, it's been towards the development of these general competencies and less on the nuts and bolts of a specific culture," said Alex Walker, Aptima's program manager for the project.

Born from a classroom course for Marines and under development for the Office of Naval Research, the computer-based training is interactive, distributable and aims at higher-level thought processes. The CAMO course addresses five dimensions of culture: environment, economy, social structure, political structure and belief system. In each category, users go through three kinds of instruction aimed at helping Marines understand second- and third-order effects of their actions.

"We need to get them to learn how to

think about cultural situations, how to interact with a culture, how to pull out the information they need for their interactions, regardless of the specific context of the situation," Walker said.

It starts with something called "problem-based learning," a style often used for teaching complex cognitive skills.

First, users read through case studies describing a certain problem they might face in a new culture. They investigate the problem, make a decision on how to act, and then get feedback. By steeping Marines in a problem before giving them instruction, developers help the user start asking questions, finding common threads, and looking for core problems rather than the surface-level issue — all before the portion of direct instruction.

For example, a case study might show a town doesn't have access to clean drinking water, and the Marines

MARINE LINGUIST NAMED BEST IN DoD

(Military.com)...Christine Cabalo

Breaking past language barriers is a challenge, but it's one Sgt. Miguel Iles meets every day. He was recently named the Department of Defense's Language Professional of the Year. He is a non-native speaker of Mandarin Chinese and became proficient in Korean through DoD training. His language skills are vital to processing and analyzing collected intelligence information, said Capt. Devin Phillabaum, Alpha Company commander, 3rd Radio Bn.

Phillabaum said it was both Iles' significant contribution to intelligence and his high proficiency scores in two challenging languages that set him apart from others.

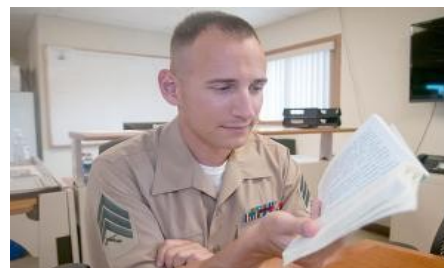
"The fact that he learned Korean in 18 months, and Chinese largely through immersion, is a testament to his work ethic," he said. "He enjoys and embraces challenge. He went out and actively sought out the hardest languages to learn." "I can read not only what the



Indiana Cultural Awareness For Military Operations trainer, provides interactive lessons in cultural awareness

choose to help build a well. But the simple solution may not take into account that an economy is established around the transport and sale of water — and there could be repercussions.

"One of the things driving the need for cultural training is the fact that Marines have to be multidimensional," Walker said. "They have to fight, they have to conduct counterinsurgency, but they also have to do things like disaster relief."



Sgt. Miguel Iles

Western media is saying, but read the original press releases from North and South Korea, as well as commentary made by China," he said.

PREVENTING WAR WITH WORDS

(Language Magazine)...Rachel Tolliver

Language and cultural barriers keep us from understanding and appreciating the world around us. What seems to us like a worthless flooded swamp is a field of cultivated rice to someone else. That feeling we get when our personal space is severely invaded isn't universal — it is how other people greet and connect. And while we would consider a belch during or after dinner as bad manners, in other countries it is a sign of appreciation for a very good meal. But more than that, it is those barriers that can keep people from achieving something as simple as a decent living, and in some areas of the world it keeps people from understanding that Americans aren't really the bad guys. Enter CULP — the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency program — and the Army ROTC cadets who are participating in this program throughout the spring and summer months. They are one of the resources used by Department of Defense (DoD) to assist less-

developed countries, exchange language and cultural experiences, and build better relationships in these areas. The program, created thanks in part to a 2005 DoD document entitled "Defense Language Transformation Roadmap," is now in its sixth year and producing the type of results that the DoD and the Army were hoping for.

While culture and language education are the overall program purposes, according to Ray Causey, the chief of the culture and language division at Cadet Command, the leadership experience cadets gain may be even more important from the standpoint of developing the Army's future leaders.

"These (contracted) cadets are ordered to active duty for training, they complete Soldier Readiness Processing here at Fort Knox and deploy on unit orders to a foreign nation," Causey explained. "They perform real-world security



cooperation missions as directed by the U.S. embassy country teams. These missions — where they practice and learn leadership skills — are often in remote areas and are with partner-nation military personnel and units., Egypt and Korea. "The cadets won't get this opportunity again until their first overseas deployments. Such overseas cadet deployments are absolutely the best 500-plus hours of real-world training experience they will get during their tours as cadets," he added. Another expectation is that through this effort the U.S. will build better relations with other nations.

WE ARE ON THE WEB!

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

CALENDAR

Defense Language Action Panel	June 11
Defense Language Steering Committee	July 25



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