



DLNSEO DISPATCH... THIS MONTH IN LANGUAGE & CULTURE

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BOREN CONVOCATION 2013

(DLNSEO)...Katie Davis

On Monday, June 17th and Tuesday, June 18th the Defense Language and National Security Education Office welcomed over 130 newly awarded Boren Scholarship recipients to Washington, DC for a celebratory convocation and orientation.

Boren Scholarships are awarded to outstanding undergraduate students and Boren Fellowships to outstanding graduate students who are U.S. citizens studying languages, cultures, and regions of the world critical to national security, including Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East. The Institute of International Education administers the Boren Scholarships and Fellowships program for the National Security Education Program (NSEP), a program under DLNSEO, through a cooperative agreement.

NSEP, in conjunction with our partners at the Institute of International Education (IIE), led students through a series of informational sessions and discussions designed to acquaint the students with their Boren Scholarship and to reinforce safety and security while overseas.

There were several highlights from the two-day event, including a National Security Education Board (NSEB) Panel, Boren Alumni Panel, and Congressional meetings on Capitol Hill.

The Convocation was held in conjunction with the NSEB meeting. The NSEB was formed as a result of the David L. Boren National Security Education Act of 1991, advises NSEP and provides the Department of Defense the unique opportunity to work in collaboration with colleagues from the broader national security and academic community. The Board is chaired by Assistant Secretary of Defense Mr. Vollrath and comprised of representatives from Cabinet-level departments and Presidentially-appointed members.

The NSEB meeting discussed the government's strategic need for high-level language skills for its professional workforce and how NSEP programs, such as the Language Flagship, are meeting these challenges.

Mr. David Shedd, Defense Intelligence Agency Deputy Director, led a discussion regarding strategic language needs. Other Board topics consisted of programmatic updates, including NSEP successes and challenges.

Members of the NSEB, to include Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Meghann Curtis, U.S Ambassador (ret) Michael Guest, Major General (USAF, ret) Don Loranger, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of

Education Clay Pell, participated in a panel discussion, moderated by DLNSEO Director Michael Nugent. Board members highlighted the importance of having well-rounded experiences overseas and encouraged students to focus on developing skill-sets that will help them find positions in the federal government after graduation.

Several Boren alumni currently working for the federal government spoke about their experiences as Boren Scholars and Fellows while overseas and during their searches for federal positions. Alumni panelists working at the Department of Defense, U.S. Agency for International Development, Department of the Treasury, and Department of Homeland Security answered questions about their careers in public service.

The Scholars visited Capitol Hill to meet with their elected officials. Over 350 meetings took place with Senators, Representatives, and members of their staffs. Students discussed their upcoming overseas experience and their commitment to public service.

REGIONAL EXPERTISE MORE IMPORTANT IN NEW ARMY CONSTRUCT

(divids)...Natela Cutter

The director of Strategy, Plans and Policy Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7, Army Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Snow, told a group of Foreign Area Officers that their future roles as regional language and culture experts will become even more important with the implementation of new concept called Regionally Aligned Forces that will organize military missions into five geographic regions over the next year.

"You will be the individual who will be translating ideas between the support command, theater objectives and building partnership capacity," he told a group of some 80 FAOs from all services attending the four-day long FAO Conference at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in Monterey June 10-13.

FAOs in the Army and other services are an elite group of officers who have a special set of skills that come from a training program that involves formal study of a language, a period of in-country training in their Area of Responsibility, and attaining a master's degree in a field compatible with their focus. Because of their expertise, FAOs normally serve in U.S. Embassies around the world either as security assistance

officers or as military attachés.

"You are lucky to be here and train at DLI. The Chief is committed to leader development" said Snow, speaking about the Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Raymond Odierno.

As a part of the Regionally Aligned Forces, units will now serve in direct support of the regional combatant commanders and are expected to participate in hundreds of missions that include joint exercises, partnership training, quick reaction forces, and humanitarian assistance.

Much of the initial coordination of these types of activities goes through U.S. Embassies abroad where military attaches serve as critical liaisons back to the Pentagon.

"Make no mistake, we are a great Army, respected by everyone ... and all eyes are on us to see how we are going to respond," to certain political or economic situations in the world, explained Snow. "This is the beginning of your transition to the operational strategic level," he said.



Director of Strategy, Plans and Policy Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7, Army Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Snow, speaks at the Foreign Area Officer Conference on June 10

Conference attendees were also addressed by Lt. Gen. Mary Legere, deputy chief of staff, G-2, of the Pentagon.

AIRMAN EXCELS THROUGH MILITARY ACCESSIONS PROGRAM

(Military.com)...Staff Sgt. Melanie Holochwost

Senior Airman Seung-Jae Oh, a U.S. Air Force Special Operations School cultural advisor, was one of seven Airmen selected for the Air Force MAVNI pilot program.

The MAVNI pilot program allowed the Defense Department to recruit up to 1,000 non-citizens who had been in the U.S. legally for at least two years. The recruits needed to possess critical skills the military needed like medical, foreign

language, and/or cultural expertise. Oh has deployed to Korea twice in support of training exercises and proved MAVNIs can be very useful in enhancing mission effectiveness. He's also trying to extend his enlistment to fill a 365-day deployment by summer's end. Oh was a very motivated team player, according to his Army supervisor on his latest deployment.

"He sought out every training opportunity possible during

(exercise) Balance-Knife, including a six-hour night movement over rough terrain," said U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Chadd Kuhn, with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group Airborne.

During the exercise, Oh translated and interpreted conversations between roughly 100 U.S. and South Korean special operations forces personnel. "Oh is the brightest and most dedicated Airman I have ever had the pleasure of serving with," said Master Sgt. VanBelkum.

REAR ADMIRAL TELLS OFFICERS THEY NEED TO BE 'ELITE'

(dvids)...Natela Cutter

The Navy's senior foreign area officer and director of International Engagement, Rear Admiral Douglas J. Venlet, told a group of more than 80 officers at a Foreign Area Officer Conference that their job is to use their unique language and culture skills in order to build and maintain international relationships and partnerships throughout their careers.

"We live in a globalized world. If we are not connected linguistically, we are out of the picture," Venlet said, at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in Monterey, Calif. "You need to be elite ... Focus on the language you are studying now and get to that 3/3 level," he said, referring to a high level of foreign language proficiency. "Study, study, study."

Don't settle for anything less than full capability," he advised.

Foreign Area Officers are a specialized group of officers from all branches of the service who possess a set of skills that come from a training program that involves formal study of a language, a period of in-country training in their Area of Responsibility, and attaining a master's degree in a field compatible with their focus. Because of their expertise, FAOs normally serve in U.S. Embassies around the world

either as security assistance officers or as military attachés.

Venlet, a key note speaker during the four-day conference organized by the FAO office at the Institute, graduated from the Russian language program in 1974. Venlet told students that his FAO background led him on an interesting career path, which aside from "driving ships," also allowed him to work at the White House as the deputy executive secretary of the National Security Council in the executive office of the President.

"I was in charge of fielding more than 180 calls between George W. Bush and (Russian President Vladimir) Putin. I worked for (Secretary of State Condoleezza) Rice and found out that she understands Russian very well, probably better than me," he recounted with a chuckle. Venlet's career led him to being a senior military attaché, at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow between 2010 and 2012.

"Since it had been a while since I graduated from DLI, I took a refresher course in 2009," he said, explaining that the course was



Rear Admiral Douglas J. Venlet, Director, International Engagement, center, visits with students and staff at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center

facilitated through the DLI Washington office.

"I would like to emphasize to the FAO spouses that this career path is a family affair and that you are a part of the team," Venlet told spouses present. "My wife played an important role in establishing and maintaining bonds between families," he added, explaining that many relationships were formed with staff from other embassies of foreign nations, also stationed in Moscow. "Her ability to speak Spanish and Russian was invaluable."

Venlet also had an opportunity to receive a DLIFLC command brief, detailing the various programs of the Institute, visit a Russian classroom, and have lunch with service members.

TRYING TO THINK FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HILL

(Military Review)...William Greenberg

The following passage reflects Ulysses S. Grant's feelings during his first Civil War engagement.

"As we approached the brow of the hill from which it was expected we could see Harris' camp, and possibly find his men ready formed to meet us, my heart kept getting higher and higher until it felt to me as though it was in my throat. I would have given anything then to have been back in Illinois, but I had not the moral cour-

age to halt and consider what to do; I kept right on. When we reached a point from which the valley below was in full view, I halted. The place where Harris had been encamped a few days before was still there and the marks of a recent encampment were plainly visible, but the troops were gone. My heart resumed its place. It occurred to me at once that Harris had been as much afraid of me as I had been of him. This was a view of the question I had never taken

before; but it was one I never forgot afterwards. From that event to the close of the war, I never experienced trepidation upon confronting an enemy, though I always felt more or less anxiety. I never forgot that he had as much reason to fear my forces as I had his. The lesson was valuable."

Most people are barely conscious of the cultural factors and biases that control their own actions. Culture is an overwhelming force that forms mental models that ultimately guide most of our actions.

MARINE CULTURE PROGRAM TO INCLUDE RESERVES

(Military.com)...Lance Cpl. Tiffany Edwards

The Marine Corps has expanded the Regional, Culture and Language Familiarization (RCLF) program to include the Reserve component. The program originally began in 2012 to navigate the culturally-complex global operating environments in support of Marine Corps missions, according to Marine Corps administrative order 196/13.

Eligible Marines are automatically and randomly assigned a region of study during The Basic School for officers or upon promotion to sergeant for enlisted, according to Marine Forces Reserve Command Language Coordinator Isley Lundgren. There are 17 cultural regions of study, which include areas such as South America, North Africa, the Balkans and the Caucasus. Each region generally contains more than one country, but will have only one or two languages, considered “core” and “secondary” languages within that region, that are part of the required curriculum.

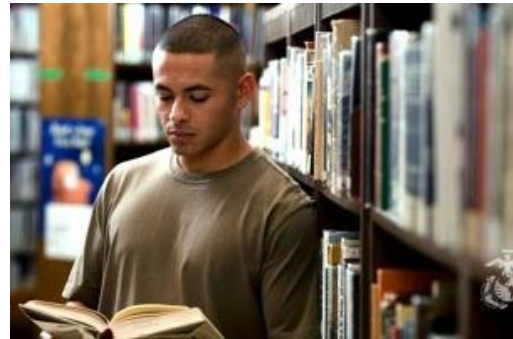
The program focuses on three areas of study: culture general, culture specific and tactical language, to develop officers’ and non-commissioned officers’ foreign

knowledge and capabilities. This will allow Marines a better chance of managing their operational responsibilities in different cultures.

“While language training is required, it is not the main focus of the programs,” said Lundgren. “For enlisted Marines there is approximately 80 hours of language training to be completed within two ranks of receiving the region assignment.”

The program has a comprehensive language portion, but the cultural training portion is more in-depth. Marines learn the fundamental cultural aspects of a region, such as history, politics, economics, art and international relations between countries in that region, said Lundgren.

The RCLF program is required for officers commissioned on or after April 1, 2009, warrant officers commissioned on or after Feb. 1, 2011 and active-component sergeants with a date of rank on or after Oct. 1, 2012. Reserve sergeants with a date of rank on or after May 1, 2013 are required to participate in



the program. Active-duty Marines keep their region assignment if transferred to the reserve component.

Marines who are exempt from the program are still encouraged to study a specific RCLF region by completing the prescribed study blocks and language curriculum on MarineNet. However, Lundgren said, Marines who complete training for a specific region before they reach the rank of sergeant are not guaranteed to be assigned that region upon promotion to sergeant.

Lundgren said there is a waiver available for Marines who wish to switch their assignment to a region they are already proficient in.

However, Marines are only eligible if their regional proficiency is related to their military occupational specialty, for example, a crypto-linguist.

WE ARE ON THE WEB!

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

CALENDAR

Defense Language Action Panel

July 23



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