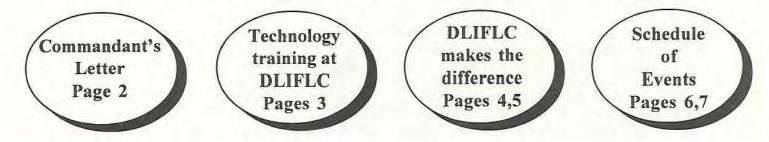


Language: The key to Communication



# DLIFLC makes the difference

### By Capt. Douglas V. Mastriano and Cpl. Neil S. Kaplan

✓ he early morning mist gradually dissipates as the sun cuts through the darkness to announce the beginning of a new day. Hidden in the shadows of the thick vegetation, a squad of American soldiers carefully advances. Their mission; to perform a forced reconnaissance of the enemy-held village of Kangyye. The village is suspected of serving as the headquarters for an enemy infantry regiment. These soldiers must penetrate the village's defenses and ascertain the strength and activity of the enemy located in the area.

The squad manages to maneuver within one kilometer of the village, undetected. The squad leader, an experienced infantryman, feels uneasy. There is an eerie stillness in the village. Suddenly, off to the left, the crack of small arms fire shatters the morning calm. An enemy patrol accidentally walked right into the U.S. squad. The squad leader takes charge and aggressively maneuvers his soldiers forward to engage the enemy. Using smoke to mask its movements, the squad bounds forward amidst the explosion of grenades and roar of machine gun fire. The Americans skillfully flank the enemy platoon, spelling the complete defeat of this force. Seeing many of their comrades killed, the surviving enemy soldiers either flee back into the village or throw down their weapons to surrender.

The squad quickly sweeps through the battle area, securing both the prisoners and the perimeter. The squad leader calls upon his linguists, who quickly interrogate the prisoners in the enemy's own language. This is when their arduous language studies at DLI pay off. Using their highly skilled linguistic abilities, the soldiers gather valuable information on the



From left: Spc. Robbins, Pvt. 2 Felmayer and Spc. Maginniss (Alpha Company) prepare to move their squad against suspected enemy positions during Operation Dragon Thunder. These soldiers had to extensively use their hard-earned language skills to accomplish the mission. This exercise proved that equipping military members with language training makes the difference. (Photo by Master Sgt. Ron Hyink)

location of enemy forces in the area. During the interrogation, military maps depicting the size and activity of the enemy in Kangyye were also discovered. The linguists quickly translate these documents into English and pass the information to higher headquarters. The interrogations and document exploitation become valuable intelligence, which is used to decisively defeat the enemy forces throughout the sector. The DL1 language training made the difference and gave the American forces the decisive edge needed to defeat the enemy forces in the area.

This scenario did not happen at a distant battlefield or foreign land, but right here at the Presidio of Monterey Annex during Operation Dragon Lightning Thunder. Operation Dragon Lightning Thunder was the Language Training Exercise (LTX) executed by Alpha Company, 229th Military Intelligence-Battalion. The exercise is the culmination of foreign language studies at the Defense Language Institute. It is designed to evaluate a soldier's ability to use both foreign language skills and military training in a simulated combat environment. Dragon Lightning Thunder evaluated soldiers from both Alpha and Bravo Companies in Korean, Arabic, Chinese-Mandarin, Japanese, Vietnamese, Filipino (Tagalog) and Thai.

During the exercise, the squads encountered assorted hazards and were confronted by enemy forces, partisans and injured civilians who spoke Arabic or various Asian languages. The enemy soldiers, partisans and civilians were played by other DLI students and language instructors (both civilian and military). In particular, the Korean School (Asian II) had many civilian and military instructors volunteer to support the exercise, providing outstanding language training. Ms Mikyong Kim, a Korean instructor at DL1, commented; "The operation was really great for the soldiers, because they used their target language in many ways. As a civilian, I had lots of fun serving as an enemy partisan; carrying a Soviet AK-47 and leading the soldiers into an ambush. It was very interesting for me to watch the soldiers use their military training during the attacks and ambushes. Operation Dragon Thunder helped me understand more about my students and how they use their language training outside of the DLI."

Staff Sergeant George Simons, Alpha Company's 3rd Platoon Sergeant, praised the amount of cooperation that there was between the school and unit, saying, "The exercise was one of the few chances where the school and units really work together. The teachers came out to provide better training." The school's assistance made the difference and made the exercise quite realistic. To further enhance language use, airmen from the 311th Training Squadron and sailors from the Naval Security Group Detachment also volunteered to provide additional foreign language support.

To add realism, the exercise was conducted with blanks, smoke grenades, training grenades, M-16s, M-60 machine guns, pneumatic 50 caliber machine guns, trip wires and MILES (Multi Integrated Laser Equipment System). MILES is worn by the soldiers and emits a high pitched beep when an individual is "killed." Using military skills was not enough to accomplish the mission. These soldiers had to aggressively use their language training to get the job done. The challenges and obstacles were relentless. Specialist Wade Walla, a Korean linguist commented that "Dragon Thunder impacted me as a soldier in two crucial areas; 1) It taught me how to integrate my language skills in a military setting, 2) It taught me how to deal with the unexpected at the squad tactical level."

The challenges included not only combating a hostile enemy force, but soldiers also had to react to indirect fire (artillery), chemical attacks, treating a score of injured foreign civilians with first aid and avoiding trip wires/booby traps. The soldiers confronted all these challenges, while relying heavily upon their ability to communicate in the target foreign language. Foreign language use included interrogating enemy prisoners, questioning foreign civilians, negotiating with partisans, exploiting (reading) foreign documents and interpreting foreign maps. Sgt Lance Frazee, Alpha Company's Training noncommissioned officer, who was behind the execution of this exercise explained, "This operation was without a doubt the most difficult to prepare, but with the help of other military posts and units, we gave these soldiers something each and

every one of them is hungry for ... realistic training!"

Dragon Lightning Thunder reminds the soldiers why they are at the Defense Language Institute. It is too easy to forget why they are learning a language, considering the amount of time spent in the classroom. Dragon Lightning Thunder puts the soldiers in situations where they must use their language training in realistic situations to successfully accomplish a tactical mission. As Specialist Cesar Ocasio, stated, "The exercise was excellent because it took language training out of the classroom and put it on the battlefield." On this theme, Private First Class Joshua Pettry explained that, "Operation Dragon Lightning Thunder was one of the most beneficial portions of my language training at DLI.

"It allowed the soldiers to use their linguistic skills in a battlefield situation, under pressure. It also gave the teachers a look at what the soldiers do outside of school. An excellent culmination of both our linguistic and CST training at DLI."

Dragon Lightning Thunder made a lasting difference with these soldiers. They were quick to learn from their mistakes and correct them as the operation continued. By the end of the exercise, it was clear that these soldiers would make the difference and overcome any challenge they encounter. The soldiers were invigorated by this experience and found invaluable the opportunity to combine their basic military skills with their language training in a simulated combat environment. Specialist Walla noted, "The exercise taught us that language-qualified soldiers are vital assets to both the unit and commander." It is training like this that ensures that soldiers are ready for the challenges they will face on that yet unknown battlefield and foreign land. Operation Dragon Lightning Thunder proves that DLI's language qualified soldiers are a true combat multiplier to our armed forces and can make the difference between victory or defeat.

GLOBE

# Language Day '97 schedule of events

Room

## Classroom Demonstrations • Bldg. 610

			0
1st Session 9:00 - 9:30		6th Session 12:45 -	1:15
Language	Room	Language	Roo
Russian	148	French	153
Russian	149	German	154
German	154	Italian	246
Italian	246	Portuguese	247
Spanish	248	Spanish	248
Serbian/Croatian	341	Spanish	249
Persian-Farsi	344	Serbian/Croatian	341
Persian-Farsi	346	Persian-Farsi	346
2nd Session 9:45 -	10:15	7th Session 1:30 - 2	2:00
Language	Room	Language	Roc
Russian	149	French	153
Russian	150	German	154
French	153	Italian	246
German	154	Portuguese	247
Italian	246	Spanish	248
Portuguese	247	Serbian/Croatian	341
Spanish	248		
Spanish	249	8th Session 2:15 - 2	2:45
Serbian/Croatian	341	Language	Roc
Persian-Farsi	344	German	154
Persian-Farsi	346	Italian	246
		Spanish	248
3rd Session 10:30 -	- 11:00	Spanish	249
Language	Room	Serbian/Croatian	341
Russian	148		2010
Russian	150	ARMED FORCE	S Tak
French	153		S AALL
German	154	118	3
Italian	246		1
Portuguese	247		
Spanish	248		T
Spanish	249		
Serbian/Croatian	341	T.	
Persian-Farsi	344	L EI	nte
Persian-Farsi	346		
		on	the
4th Session 11:15 -		1. Air Force Cho	ir
Language	Room	2. DLI Color Gu	ard De
Russian	148	3. National Anth	
French	153	St tradional / Inth	

French	153
German	154
Italian	246
Portuguese	247
Spanish	248
Spanish	249
Serbian/Croatian	341
Persian-Farsi	344
Persian-Farsi	346
5th Session noon -	- 12:30
Language	Room
French	153
German	154
Italian	246
Portuguese	247
Spanish	248
NOT	

249

341

344

French	153
German	154
Italian	246
Portuguese	247
Spanish	248
Spanish	249
Serbian/Croatian	341
Persian-Farsi	346
7th Session 1:30 - 1	2:00
Language	Room
French	153
German	154
Italian	246
Portuguese	247
Spanish	248
Serbian/Croatian	341
8th Session 2:15 - 2	2:45
Language	Room
German	154

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erman	154
alian	246
anish	248
anish	249
rbian/Croatian	341



### Technology Training Bldg. 617

Spanish Courseware Demonstration	
panish Courseware Demonstration	
Cemplate Library Demonstration	
arabic Courseware Demonstration	
rabic Courseware Demonstration	
emplate Library Demonstration	

9 - 9:40 a.m 10 - 10:40 a.m. 11:00 - 11:40 noon-12:40 p.m. 1 - 1:40 p.m. 2 - 2:40 p.m.

Visit Video Teletraining studios in Bldg. 637A where students can talk to each other via video conferencing. Visit ongoing classes from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. in Bldg 637B to participate in ongoing instruction.

The languages scheduled are subject to change. As it stands the following languages are slated: Morning -- Chinese and Arabic Afternoon -- Spanish and Russian



## Entertainment n the outdoor stage

1.	Air Force Choir	10:00 - 10:10	European/Latin A
2.	DL1 Color Guard Demonstration	10:10 - 10:20	Spanish
3.	National Anthem (SN Petrillo)	10:20 - 10:30	French
4.	Opening Ceremony	10:30 - 10:40	German
5.	Air Force Choir	10:40 - 10:50	Serbian/Croatian
6.	Marine Corps Drill Team Demonstration	10:50 - 11:00	Russian
	Chinese School Dragon Dance	11:00 - 11:15	Czech
8.	Serbian/Croatian Choir	11:15 - 11:25	
9.	Spanish Dance	11:25 - 11:35	Middle East
10.	Japanese School Dance	11:35 - 11:45	Arabic
11.	French Choir	11:45 -11:55	Hebrew
12.	. Korean Choir	11:55 -12:05	Greek
13.	Estampa de las Americas Dance Team	12:05 - 12:20	Turkish
14.	Japanese Kendo Demonstration	12:20 - 12:35	
15.	. Spanish Choir	12:35 - 12:45	Asia-Pacific
16.	Persian Dance	12:45 - 12:55	Chinese
17.	Korean Dance	12:55 - 1:05	Vietnamese
18.	Navy Drill Team Demonstration	1:05 - 1:15	Korean
19.	Russian Dance	1:15 - 1:25	Japanese
20.	Closing Ceremonies	1:25 - 1:30	Tagalog

Bldg. 621 and 623 Department Room American 133/135 141/142 154 152 157 159 242/243 254 257 252 362/360 359/357 341/339 354/352

**Cultural Displays** 

342/343

Spanish

Serbian/Croatian

Persian-Farsi

## Language Day '97 schedule of events

				5th Session 12:	20 - 12:50	F
	Cla	ssroom		Language	Room	
Demonstrations				Thai	132	
				Chinese	142	
				Japanese	143	
	PL	la 620		Korean	133	
Bldg. 620			Arabic SMA	104		
				Arabic SMB	105	
1st Session 9:00	0 - 9: 30	3rd Session 10:40 - 11:10 6th		6th Session 1:10 - 1:40		
Language	Room	Language	Room	Language	Room	14.
Thai	132	Thai	132	Thai	132	
Chinese	142	Chinese	142	Chinese	142	
Japanese	143	Japanese	143	Japanese	143	
Korean	133	Korean	133	Korean	133	
Arabic SMA	104	Arabic SMA	104	Arabic SMA	104	
Arabic SMB	105	Arabic SMB	105	Arabic SMB	105	
2nd Session 9:5	50 - 10:20	4th Session 11:	30 - Noon	7th Session 2:0	0 - 2:30	
Language	Room	Language	Room	Language	Room	
Thai	132	Thai	132	Thai	132	
Chinese	142	Chinese	142	Chinese	142	
Japanese	143	Japanese	143	Japanese	143	
Korean	133	Korean	133	Korean	133	
Arabic SMA	104	Arabic SMA	104	Arabic SMA	104	
Arabic SMB	105	Arabic SMB	105	Arabic SMB	105	

Barracks, Language Resource Center Displays See how military foreign language students live. The Naval Security Group detachment and the 311th Training Squadron invite you to see a typical barracks room and Learning Resource Center. Enter between building 629A and 629B for NSGD and Building 627A and 627B for 311th TRS.

## **DLIFLC Language Day '97: Program For Educators**

Language Resource Display 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Nakamura Hall Auditorium (619)

Mr. Jim Broz of the International Language and Culture Foundation will display the latest foreign language texts and related publications. Mr. Broz will be present to answer your questions and refreshments will be served.

### Teaching Foreign Languages For Proficiency 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Nisei Hall Auditorium (620)

Mr. Thomas Bacon, from Faculty and Staff Division, will present the latest and most current information on methods for teaching foreign language proficiency. Mr. Bacon has taught English as a Second Language/ English as a Foreign Language in the Philippines and Saudi Arabia. He has written materials for the Special Operations Forces Basic Military language Course Project. Mr. Bacon has taught Tagalog and served as teaching coordinator here at the DLIFLC. Mr. Bacon has a Master's degree in Multicultural/Multilingual Education from Florida State University. Don't miss this exciting presentation! Round-Table Discussion 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Munzer Hall Conference Room (618) (Limited Seating)

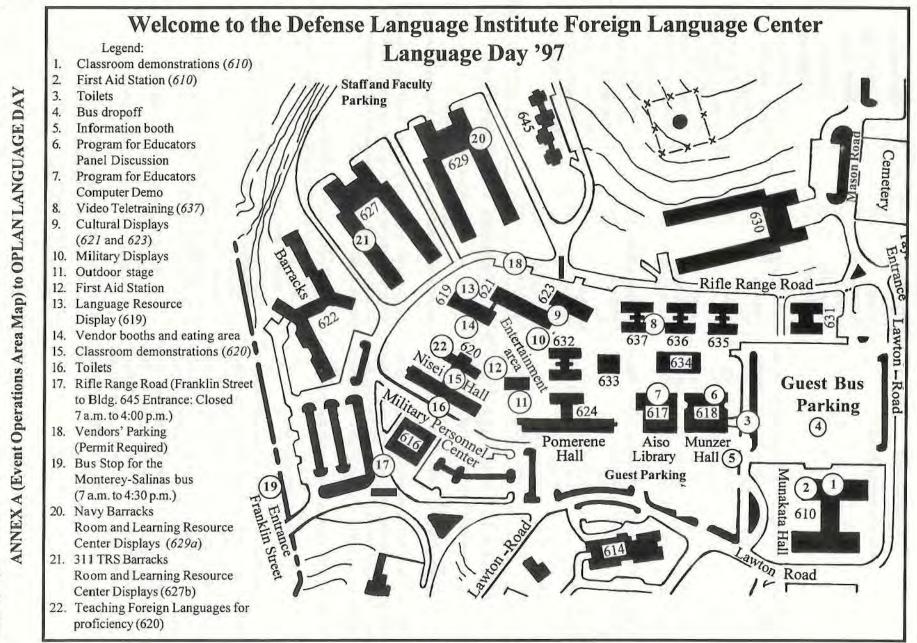
Don't miss this opportunity to attend a round-table discussion on foreign language teaching and learning. Dr. Martha Herzog will lead a distinguished panel of local educators in the discussion. Participants include:

- Olga Chandler, Carmel High School
- Richard Donovan, California State University at Monterey Bay
- Grazyna Dudney, DLIFLC
- · Allye Hobson-Robinson, Monterey Peninsula College
- Anna Scherbakova, Monterey Institute of International Studies
- · Carmen Scholis, Monterey High School
- Dr. Urioste, California State University at Monterey Bay
- Dr. Jielu Zhao, DLIFLC

World Religions: Islam and Buddhism 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Munzer Hall Conference Room (618)

Learn about the philosophies, leadership, ethics, and customs of Islam and Buddhism. Chaplain (MAJ) Kenneth Sampson will present background information, including handouts, and will hold a group discussion.





Presidio of Monterey, California

May 16, 1997

8