

DLIFLC  
**GLOBE**



Spring 2011

Presidio of Monterey, California

[www.DLIFLC.edu](http://www.DLIFLC.edu)



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**Language and Culture:  
A Strategic Imperative**



“We need to look at the  
**ENTIRE**  
educational system  
regarding language.  
This is more about  
**AMERICA** than  
the Department of Defense”

Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD P&R),  
Dr. Clifford Stanley

# Inside

## GLOBE



*Lt. Gen. Kenneth P. Keen listens to a Spanish course language student explain the use of specialized language programs which allow for more rapid foreign language acquisition. (Photo by Natela Cutter)*



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Presidio of Monterey celebrates 236th Army Birthday Ball June 4



From the .....



**Col. Danial D. Pick  
Commandant**

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Globe. In this edition we feature the strong leadership from the top as Dr. Clifford Stanley, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, clearly articulates the need for a holistic approach to growing foreign language and culture competency in the United States.

This March we were reminded once again of the need for language and cross-cultural competency for humanitarian responses when Japan suffered a catastrophic earthquake and tsunami that required immediate and large scale relief operations. Read inside about the role that DLIFLC graduates, assigned to various commands in Japan, played on the ground. You will also find the story of DLIFLC's

rapid response to produce and distribute Japanese Language Survival Kits (LSKs) within 72 hours of the disaster.

Lt. Gen. Kenneth P. Keen, Military Deputy Commander of U.S. Southern Command, emphasized the importance of language and culture competency, especially during relief operations in Haiti. Lt. Gen. Keen spoke about the vital role that one Haitian Creole speaking servicemember per platoon played during the operation. Read his comments about how his relationship with the Brazilian Commander of U.N. Forces in Haiti helped during the relief operation.

We were proud to learn that the next U.S. Defense Attaché to the People's Republic of China, U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Dave Stillwell, completed his Mandarin Chinese language training at the DLI Washington D.C. branch and that he credits his career success to his introduction to the Asian culture while studying Korean at DLIFLC at the beginning of his career.

The DLIFLC team continues to support language and culture training for the forces preparing to deploy to Afghanistan. Read about how Soldiers from the 4th Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division are learning Dari at the Language Training Detachment (LTD), at Fort Bragg, N.C., prior to deployment. Leaders from 2/4 Brigade Combat Team, at Fort Carson, Colo., are participating in a 40-hour senior leader language and culture course, which will

complement the more in-depth training received by Soldiers at the LTD at Fort Carson.

We continue to strive for excellence at DLIFLC to improve learner outcomes and reduce attrition. This year, DLIFLC received an award for Outstanding Institutional Practice in Student Learning Outcomes from the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

During his visit to DLIFLC, Lt. Gen. Robert Caslen, Commander, U.S. Army Combined Arms Center, emphasized the high quality of the students attending the Institute and called upon leaders at DLIFLC to coach and mentor them as they are among the best and brightest in uniform today.

At the end of April, the DLIFLC team hosted its annual Command Language Program Manager's Seminar where more than 300 program managers from all services and components participated. The seminar ended with awards presented to the best program and language professional of the year. See the winners inside.



**Col. Danial D. Pick  
Commandant**





HACHINOHE, Japan (Mar. 21, 2011) - Cryptologic Technician 2nd Class Gregory Allison, left-center, from Glen Burnie, Md., helps local volunteers haul a net filled with debris during relief efforts in this tsunami-battered city. More than 130 volunteers from Misawa Air Base and members of the French Army and Fire Department assisted in a cleanup effort in the northern Japanese city that was devastated by a 9.0-magnitude earthquake that triggered a devastating tsunami on Japan's eastern coastline. (U.S. Navy photo by Cryptologic Technician 2nd Class Thomas Ahern)

## DLIFLC staff produces Japanese language materials in **record time**

By Natela Cutter, Strategic Communications

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. - Just three days after the devastating March 11 Japanese earthquake and tsunami, the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) made available Japanese Language Survival Kits, small pocket sized guides with audio recordings, covering three topics: Japanese Basic, Aircrew, and Medical.

“Our technology team, basically within 100 hours, went from understanding there was a natural disaster in Japan to leveraging resources we have at the Presidio of Monterey and quickly turning (out) a product that could be used by DoD elements and aid workers alike,” said DLIFLC Commandant Col. Danial D. Pick. “By Monday morning, the Japanese materials were ready to be sent to our print plant for reproduction and also posted to DLIFLC’s Product page,” he said.

The Institute’s Technology Integration Dean, Pamela Combacau,

found out early Friday morning Pacific time about the earthquake in Japan and immediately began planning. “I waited for a few hours before waking people, but by 6 AM I called a colleague to have Japanese instructors made available for the audio recording that I knew was necessary to complete the product,” Combacau explained.

When Tatsuya Akano was awoken by his wife in the middle of the night March 11, he could hardly comprehend what she was trying to tell him. “She woke me up to tell me she had read about the earthquake on the Internet,” Akano explained. From that moment he got little sleep.

Early the next morning at work on the Presidio of Monterey, Akano could not stop reading the news about the terrible earthquake and ensuing tsunami. “I was a survivor of the Kobe earthquake so I knew what they were going through. I literally cried when I read the news,” he recounted, adding that the Kobe earthquake took place

in January of 1995. “In 20 seconds everything was gone. And there was no tsunami.”

As he was incessantly reading the news, the phone of Akano’s supervisor, Takashi Kato, rang. “Mr. Kato asked me if I wanted to go record the Japanese Language Survival Kits. I jumped. I had to do it, I wanted to help,” said Akano.

The first customers for the Japanese LSKs were Navy servicemembers aboard the USS Reagan, who preferred to download the files in order to save on time.

“We look forward to hearing back from elements operating in Japan and will take all of that feedback into account and refine our products to make them better to support future operations,” commented Pick.

Last year DLIFLC shipped 65,000 Haitian-Creole LSKs in support of U.S. Southern Command relief operations during the humanitarian crisis in Haiti as a result of the devastating earthquake that struck Jan. 11, 2010.

LSKs are available in 62 languages and are open to the public at [www.dliflc.edu](http://www.dliflc.edu)



# Navy AF/PAK Hands ready to deploy

By Lt. Cmdr. Joshua Frey

CAMP McCREADY, South Carolina - The Navy's second cohort of officers in the Afghanistan/Pakistan (AF/PAK) Hands Program completed pre-deployment training at the Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center (ECRC) at Camp McCreeady on March 25.

The AF/PAK Hands program trains military and civilian personnel from all services, mostly mid-career officers, to serve as a core cadre to build trust between the U.S. military and local populations in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Joining the program requires a 45-month commitment, including two deployments of 12 and 10 months respectively.

The Navy officers are from communities that range from Surface, Submarine, and Aviation to Medical Corps, Public Affairs, Intelligence, and Information Warfare. One of the key parts of the AF/PAK Hands Program includes extensive language training in Dari, Pashto, or Urdu.

"Learning the language and culture and getting out among the people got me interested in the program," said Lt. Cmdr. Patrick Keller, a Surface Warfare Officer and former Commanding Officer of USS Chinook (PC 9) and USS Hurricane (PC 3). "I also like the fact that we train with, and will operate with the Army on the ground. You can't get any closer to the tip of the spear than that."

Following four months of language training facilitated by the Defense Language Institute

Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC), the Navy Hands completed their additional combat skills refresher training alongside Individual Augmentees (IAs)

at the Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center (ECRC) at Camp McCreeady.

"The Army Drill Sergeants have given us a good perspective of what to expect on the ground and how to protect ourselves," said Lt. Cmdr. Brent Cassidy, a Medical Service Corps Healthcare Administrator.

ECRC directly assists sailors by ensuring they are properly uniformed and equipped while coordinating with the Army to ensure they get the proper stateside training. Training includes instruction in individual combat skills and specialized mission areas to help sailors succeed in their mission and keep them as safe as possible while deployed.

"They have been extremely professional in helping to train us

in the Navy," said Cassidy.

The main objective of the AF/PAK Hands Program is to identify, select, train, and manage a cohort of experts in order to bring greater unity and cohesion to the fight in Afghanistan.

"I'll be helping the effectiveness of those we work with because we have the additional language training," said Submarine Officer Lt. Cmdr. Kamyar Pashneh-Tala.

AF/PAK Hands will also be placed in positions of strategic influence to ensure progress towards achieving U.S. Government objectives in the Afghanistan Pakistan Region.

"These skills can help us break down communications barriers and build stronger relationships. The rapport that we build this way can leave a lasting impact," said Pashneh-Tala.

[http://www.dcmilitary.com/stories/041411/waterline\\_28226.shtml](http://www.dcmilitary.com/stories/041411/waterline_28226.shtml)  
Published April 14, 2011



*Participants of the Afghanistan Pakistan Hands program pose for a photo. The program trains military and civilian personnel from all services, mostly mid-career officers, to serve as a core cadre to build trust between the U.S. military and local populations in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Joining the program requires a 45-month commitment, including two deployments of 12 and 10 months respectively. (Photo by Lt. Cmdr. Joshua Frey)*



*DLIFLC Provost Dr. Donald Fischer presents the CHEA plaque to DLIFLC Commandant Col. Danial D. Pick upon his return from the awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Brian Lamar)*

## DLIFLC receives CHEA award for academic excellence

By Natela Cutter, Strategic Communications

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) received the 2011 “CHEA” Award for Outstanding Institutional Practice in Student Learning Outcomes from the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) on January 26, in Washington, D.C. DLIFLC was one of four postsecondary institutions to receive this honor.

DLIFLC was recognized as “the Department of Defense’s (DoD) premier foreign language instruction provider that serves all four branches of the U.S. military and select DoD agencies, teaching 23 basic course languages and providing enhancement and sustainment post-basic courses.” DLIFLC’s commitment to improving language proficiency and its rigorous standards for evaluating that proficiency were instrumental in receiving the CHEA award.

“The review committee was very

impressed with your Institute. We are grateful for the quality you produce in (foreign) language education,” said CHEA President, Judith Eaton, adding that CHEA takes its work “extremely seriously” in recognizing and awarding those educational institutions that contribute to enhancing student capacity toward achieving higher education.

“In a time of increased demand for progress and success with student learning outcomes across all sectors of U.S. higher education, I am proud that DLIFLC’s work in this area is considered as a best practice by experts in the field,” said Dr. Robert Savukinas, DLIFLC associate dean of Academic Affairs, who was present at the award ceremony.

“As we improve instructional processes, it also affects the readiness of our students and the units they belong to, thus affecting national security. This award allows us to be elevated from

simply training military personnel to educating them,” said DLIFLC Provost, Dr. Donald Fischer.

“CHEA is pleased to acknowledge the work of these institutions and programs in providing examples of institutional progress and effective approaches to the use of student learning outcomes,” said Eaton.

Established in 1996 as a nongovernmental national advocate for self-regulation of academic quality through accreditation, CHEA serves as the primary national voice for voluntary accreditation and quality assurance to the U.S. Congress and U.S. Department of Education. It is the only nongovernmental higher education organization that undertakes this scrutiny.

CHEA is governed by a 20-person board of college and university presidents, institutional representatives, and public members. The members of the board are



comprised from the 3,000 degree-granting colleges and universities that make up the association, which include a number of DoD schools and academies from all branches of service such as the Air University, Naval Postgraduate School, National Defense University, and DLIFLC. The association recognizes 60 institutional and programmatic

accrediting organizations, including the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.

The prestigious award signifies peer recognition of institutions that have been exceptional in developing and applying evidence of student learning outcomes to improve higher

education quality and accountability. A committee selected from higher education institutions, accrediting organizations, and the public judged the winners on the basis of four award criteria: 1) articulation and evidence of outcomes; 2) success with regard to outcomes; 3) information to the public about outcomes and 4) use of outcomes for educational improvement.

## SWCS deputy commanding general visits DLIFLC

By Natela Cutter, Strategic Communications



*Army Col. (P) Ferdinand Irizarry, deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (SWCS), Fort Bragg, observes a class at Middle East I school at the Presidio of Monterey March 29. Standing (L-R) Irizarry, DLIFLC Commandant Army Col. Danial D. Pick, Dean Hiam Kanbar, and Army Col. Paul Ott, director for SWCS's directorate of Regional Studies and Education. (Photo by Natela Cutter)*

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. - Army Col. (P) Ferdinand Irizarry, deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (SWCS), Fort Bragg, N.C., visited the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) on March 29 as part of an orientation and introduction to the Institute which provides language training support to SWCS.

DLIFLC has been supporting language training needs for SWCS for a number of years, providing academic specialists to

mentor SWCS-hired instructors to maintain high teaching standards. DLIFLC is also helping SWCS develop curriculum that concentrates on specific military tasks needed in the field.

"It only makes sense to work with DLI," said Irizarry, referring to the long-standing partnership between the two organizations.

"We now have 19 people there (SWCS), and over time it has turned out to be a productive relationship," said DLIFLC Field Support director, Steve Collins.

Col. Paul Ott, the new

director for the SWCS Directorate of Regional Studies and Education, accompanied Irizarry on his visit and spent time in special briefings with DLIFLC's Curriculum Development Division staff.

Discussions focused on the specific needs of SWCS students such as the length of the courses, the skills necessary to learn, and types of tests needed for examination.

"I think this (partnership with DLIFLC) is absolutely the right thing to do. We need to be smart enough to let the experts do what they know how to do best," said Ott.

# SOUTHCOM Commander speaks to students, Foreign Area Officers

By Natela Cutter  
Strategic Communications

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. - Former Portuguese language graduate of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, Lt. Gen. Kenneth P. Keen, Military Deputy Commander of U.S. Southern Command, visited the Institute Feb. 24 and took the opportunity to speak with Foreign Area Officers (FAO) and observe a Spanish and Portuguese class.

“Our military overall appreciates what this Institution provides from a cultural training aspect, obviously as well as the language aspect. I think the awareness of our military, and the Army in particular, (in terms of) what this Institute provides to our servicemen and women and our missions and what we are doing around the world, is much greater today than when I was a student in 1977,” he said.

Keen addressed a group of more than 50 FAO, who are students of DLIFLC and the Naval Postgraduate School as part of their training in the program.

“The importance of the FAO program is in cultivating relationships with people. An example of that would be the earthquake in Haiti,” Keen told the FAOs, explaining that much of what he was able to accomplish in that mission stemmed from relationships he had formed with foreign officers on assignment abroad or who attended the same military schools. In the case of Haiti, Keen, who was in charge of the U.S. forces in Haiti, was able to make the mission more successful because of his friendship with a Brazilian general in charge of peacekeeping forces.



*Lt. Gen. Kenneth P. Keen, Military Deputy Commander of U.S. Southern Command, speaks in Portuguese with students (L-R) Billie Thweatt and Lt. Col. John Vail about their studies and how they will use their language once they graduate from DLIFLC. (Photo by Natela Cutter)*

“Had we not know each other, it would have been more difficult, but we worked closely together. And it will happen to you. You will someday know a colonel or general, and you will pick up the phone. It will make a huge difference – this is the key value of our FAOs,” said Keen.

While touring the Institute, Keen visited a Portuguese and Spanish class where he engaged with students in the target language quite fluently and asked them about their studies and future plans in the target language.

“A tremendous amount has changed; the most apparent is the technology they use today. I think that it obviously enables learning quicker. The students are much smarter than I certainly was, and I think the experiences that I see, in particular with officers coming here, (knowledge) is much broader than what I had,” said Keen, commenting about his use of an audio-cassette tape recorder and flash cards when he was a student.

Remarkably, Keen was in Haiti on the day the earthquake struck

the island Jan. 12, 2010. Only days after being put in charge of the U.S. mission there, Keen realized that language was a crucial skill needed in order to facilitate relief. The general soon made arrangements for some 500 U.S. forces with Haitian-Creole language skills to be reassigned to the relief effort mission. One language-enabled servicemember was assigned per platoon, which was an “incredible benefit” and contributed to the success of the SOUTHCOM operation, said Keen.

DLIFLC provided more than 65,000 Language Survival Kits (LSK) to SOUTHCOM for servicemember use during the relief effort in Haiti. LSKs are pocket-sized booklets with useful phrases and vocabulary, accompanied by audio CDs, and cover up to 12 different topics, ranging from Civil Affairs to medical terminology. LSKs are available in more than 60 languages and are accessible at [www.dliflc.edu](http://www.dliflc.edu).





*Mohammad Rafi Sidiqi, an instructor, explains specific points of the assignment as Paratroopers follow along. The Soldiers, all from the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, are taking the 16-week course to increase their ability to interact with Afghans. (Photo by Spc. David L. Nye)*

## 4th Brigade paratroopers learn Dari

4th Brigade Combat Team,  
82nd Airborne Division  
Public Affairs Office

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Paratroopers of 4th Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., are conducting a 16-week Afghan language course, which began Jan. 22, to better prepare them for their deployment to Afghanistan.

Approximately 62 Soldiers with the 4th BCT are attending this training to learn more about the Dari language and culture. This is the first time that this course has been offered at the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, but similar courses have been taught at locations such as Fort Drum, N.Y., Fort Carson, Colo., and Fort Campbell, K.Y.

During the first week, paratroopers in this course receive

an English grammar refresher, foreign language study strategies, and an introduction to culture before learning to speak the Dari language, which helps them when they are deployed without an interpreter or translator.

“It’s definitely a good course to have,” said Traci Dunn, mobile training program manager of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center of Monterey, Calif., who teaches the English grammar refresher course. “Going to another country and not knowing their language, you are at a disadvantage.”

The course is provided through DLIFLC, which sub-contracts instructors to teach Soldiers Dari and Pashto. There are currently 15 instructors here teaching who are all native Afghans.

“Students learn to read and write Dari, but the main focus is how to speak and communicate with the locals,” said Ahmad Seyar Atmar, team leader and senior instructor, from Kabul, Afghanistan. “It’s always good for the Soldiers to know the language before they go to Afghanistan because of minor cultural differences. That way they

know what to expect. These Soldiers represent the United States.”

Once the troopers have completed the English grammar refresher portion, it is time to jump into the main course, which is learning to speak Dari. Students are broken down into smaller classes with six to seven students per instructor who begin to teach them the basics such as the alphabet, numbers, and pronunciation refinement before going further in-depth into the language.

“It’s better to learn in smaller groups if they have the numbers to support it,” said Spc. Douglas Boso, a Soldier with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th BCT and a student in the course. “It definitely helps putting one teacher with a smaller group so you get more hands on time with the instructor. It makes it easy to identify individual problems students are having with the language.”

“It would be a great opportunity for every Soldier to get an abbreviated portion of this course,” said Boso. “Dealing with the locals in Afghanistan, the language barrier has a real detrimental effect on the operations that we have over there.”

“This is a great course with skills that Soldiers can use down range, this is a rapport building tool,” said Staff Sgt. David Aschwanden, temporary language training site manager.

“It is a difficult language to learn and understand, but it all depends on the person and how open they are to learning,” said Boso.

“We believe that language training will open the door to learning about the Afghan culture,” said Col. Brian Mennes, commander of the 4th BCT. “So, in addition to gaining more interpreters we will benefit from the cultural enrichment our team will derive from working directly with the Afghan teachers for an extended period.”



# DLIFLC graduate next U.S. Defense Attaché to China

By Natela Cutter  
Strategic Communications

*Col. (P) David Stilwell with DLI-Washington D.C. office director Army Lt. Col. Robert Webster. Stilwell brushed up on his Chinese language skills via contractor support provided by DLIFLC's satellite branch. (Photo courtesy of the DLI-Washington D.C. office)*

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. – On the day Airman David Stilwell drove up a winding road on the Presidio of Monterey and saw a road sign with his last name on it, he knew he had come to the right place. The ensuing year would become one of the most memorable in his life and define his very future.

Stilwell recalled renting an apartment on David Avenue in Pacific Grove with a roommate in 1980. According to Stilwell, he “spent the rest of the time trying to figure out how [he] could make ‘David’ and ‘Stilwell’ intersect.” Unlike the two streets that carried his name, the two aspects of military and civilian life that filled his days needed to intersect for him to successfully navigate the challenges of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC).

Little did Stilwell know, his Korean language studies would cause him to embark on an incredible career path that would eventually allow him to earn a Masters of Arts in Asian Studies, learn two more Asian languages, serve as the Pacific Air Forces F-16 demonstration pilot performing throughout Asia, make Air Show commercials in Korean, give speeches in Japanese, and finally, become a U.S. Defense Attaché at the American Embassy in Beijing, China.

“The reason I am going to China

today is because I went to DLI in 1980. It wasn’t just about learning a language. We did a lot more than language; we studied Korean culture, things like when to bow or how to make kimchee; that part paid off big,” explained Stilwell, who will be promoted to the rank of Brigadier General in June.

“What is key in countries like Japan, Korea, and China, is not to impress them with fluency but to have a grasp of cultural differences and know where to tread and where to stay away. Learning a language is good, but the best part of it is learning the culture. For instance, we count heads, but in Chinese they count mouths,” said Stilwell, explaining that China has historically had to deal with food scarcity. “Even the characters reveal a lot about the culture,” he said.

When Stilwell finished a yearlong tour in Korea, he was selected to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado and began taking Chinese. “It was pretty easy because our (DLIFLC) Korean instructor, Donald Kwon, hammered us on characters, which set us up well for Chinese – I didn’t crack a book for the first few years of studying Chinese at the Academy,” Stilwell said. His academic advisor recommended he take Japanese in his fourth year to round out his regional awareness.

“One of my favorite memories from Korea involves the Kunsan Air Base

package store manager, Mr. Song. He desperately wanted to learn Chinese. So, we met twice a week, drank Bass Ale, and I taught him basic Chinese, using Korean,” he said with a chuckle, explaining that he returned to Korea in 1994 for a second tour of duty as a pilot. “I was instantly recruited by my squadron commander to be the squadron liaison to the Korean Air Force unit on base. The language really came back fast.”

His next assignment was that of an air demonstration pilot that took him all over Asia from 1995 to 1999. His familiarity with all three languages and cultures enabled Stilwell to carry out his mission without a hitch.

“On one occasion we got stuck at an air show in Malaysia, but I was able to convince a bus driver to take us back to the hotel in Chinese, we were good. Among other interesting things, I got to do a TV spot on KBS (Korean Broadcast System) in advance of the Seoul Air Show,” he explained.

“I have to say that for me Japanese is the hardest language of the three. Kudos to anybody who can speak it,” Stilwell said, who returned to Japan in 2008 as a Wing Commander at Misawa AFB. “We took Japanese lessons weekly from our tutor Kazumi... it really helped when giving speeches off base.”



# THE DLIFLC EXPERIENCE:

Airman David Stilwell diligently spent hour after hour learning the Korean alphabet with his buddy Dan Pinkston, memorizing vocabulary, studying grammar, and learning how to speak formal Korean.

“In fact, there were two urban myths in Monterey; one said that if you make it through the first two months at DLL, you will graduate; and the other was, as soon as you have a dream in the target language you will make it. We loved watching people come to the classroom in the morning with that silly ‘dream grin,’” explained Stilwell.

“Pinkston and I pushed each other

to get better (while in Monterey) and when we went to Korea the first thing we did is go down town to see if this stuff (language) really worked. We ordered lunch and were amazed that they understood us,” he explained. “From then on we traveled around Korea every chance we got. We would ride buses all over the place and meet all kinds of people.”

“Korean people would often be amazed to hear Americans speaking such formal Korean; half of the time they’d laugh at us because they had not heard the language spoken in such honorific terms. For example, we would ask ‘how many springs and falls has it been since you were born (how old are you?),’ and they would smile wide,”

said Stilwell with a chuckle.

But what Stilwell and his classmates gained from studying language was more than just how to speak Korean. “We learned how to learn a foreign language,” said Stilwell, who went on to get his Bachelor degree in history and continued on to study Chinese, Japanese, and earn a Master degree in Asian studies.

**NOTE:** Brig. Gen. David Stilwell is a distant relative of U.S. Army General Joseph “Vinegar Joe” Stilwell, who spoke fluent Chinese after three tours of duty in that country. During WWII, he was sent back to China by President Franklin Roosevelt and became Chief of Staff to Gen. Chiang Kai-Shek. In this capacity, he was in overall command of U.S. and Chinese land forces which helped push the Japanese Army out of South East Asia.

*Col. (P) David Stilwell with Misawa City Mayor Kazumasa Taneichi after taking him for a ride in a F-16. (Photo courtesy of Col. (P) David Stilwell)*



# DLIFLC graduates first non-pilot Arabic Iraqi dialect course

By 1st Lt. Scott Ghiringhelli and Natela Cutter, Strategic Communications

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. - When Seaman Kenneth Wilkerson came to the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) more than 64 weeks ago, he wasn't quite sure what was in store for him as a student of the first regular Iraqi dialect course, which included learning Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and taking multiple tests at the end of the course.

"Though I was eager to get started in the class, it wasn't entirely clear to me how we would learn, literally, two different spoken languages, one written, and then be expected to breeze through all the tests," explained Wilkerson.

The key to success in Arabic dialect training is the introduction of MSA early on in the course as the written script, while the dialect is taught from day one in the classrooms, six hours a day, five days a week, with homework and/or study hall normally lasting two to three hours per night.

"The class was challenging because we learned to speak the Iraqi dialect with our instructors, but the writing, reading and listening to state-run television and radio is all in MSA," said Wilkerson.

"We have literally changed the paradigm in the way we teach Arabic at DLI. While Modern Standard Arabic is the common thread among all the dialects, it is the language of formal and written communication and not the language spoken on the streets," said DLIFLC Provost Dr. Donald Fischer.

At the demand of end-user agencies, DLIFLC piloted three Arabic Iraqi dialect courses beginning in



DLIFLC Commandant Col. Danial D. Pick poses for a photograph with Petty Officer 3rd Class Kenneth Wilkerson upon his graduation March 17. Wilkerson earned an Associate of Arts degree in Arabic Iraqi. (Photo by Natela Cutter)

2009. "The trick is that DLI has shortened the training pipeline for the agencies who were forced to spend months and months teaching students a particular dialect after having graduated MSA at DLI," explained Fischer. "We have literally saved them eight months of training and have now begun doing the same program for Levantine."

On March 17, Wilkerson graduated at the top of his class with a 3/2+/2 in Iraqi listening, MSA reading, and Iraqi speaking on his Defense Language Proficiency Test. He received the Provost Award and also a DLIFLC Associate of Arts degree in Foreign Language, in addition to already having a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice.

But as with any difficult course of study, the key to success is diligence and good study habits, something

Wilkerson did not lack according to his Military Language Instructor in charge of teaching and mentoring students.

"Seaman Wilkerson was different... He voluntarily stayed for 7th hour to work one-on-one with an instructor. He was self-disciplined and self-motivated. He took every opportunity he could find to improve his language abilities and further his language learning," explained Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Shelton.

"I think the real message here is that young people who are motivated and bright become the best linguists. They understand that learning a foreign language does not come easy and they are willing to put in the time and sacrifice in order to get a result," said Middle East II Dean Gabriel Montaz.



“Motivation is also something that we recognize as a determining factor in the success of our students,” commented Fischer. “For this reason, DLI is conducting research and attrition reduction studies to find out what motivates or de-motivates students and what we can change to keep that motivation up.”

“As I understood it, going to class every day was essentially just a way to facilitate your language learning. The many hours spent outside the classroom was what was important to me,” said Wilkerson, explaining that

he spent much of his off-duty time in study hall and utilizing the language outside the classroom.

At graduation, Wilkerson and his classmate, Airman 1st Class Christopher Blanton, delivered a speech on stage to the graduating class and guests, half in English, half in Iraqi, while beaming instructors watched proudly from their seats.

“In the beginning we came with the desire, and it was you who gave us the capability. For the remainder of our lives we will remember the efforts of the teachers who left their country

and accepted a new mission in a new country,” they stated.

Though happy to graduate from one of the most challenging language courses at DLIFLC, Wilkerson admitted that it would be hard to leave his classmates and instructors with whom he had spent so much time.

“I made great friendships with my colleagues and my teachers, things that I will treasure for ever, so it was very sad to see all that go,” stated Wilkerson after graduation.

# First AF/PAK Navy class graduates from Dam Neck Annex

By Michael Dochterman, DLIFLC program manager

DAM NECK ANNEX, Va. - The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) graduated its first class of Afghanistan and Pakistan (AF/PAK) Hands class at the Dam Neck Annex of Naval Air Station Oceana, Va., on Feb. 11.

The AF/PAK Hands course was designed to raise language proficiency among service members by providing an intense 16 week course in which

students spend six hours a day, not to include homework, five days a week.

“Sixteen weeks of language training translates to a college semester which is 30 to 40 hours, and we go through that in one week plus the students working with their teachers during lunch just to get at where they are today,” said DLIFLC Field Support dean Steve Collins.

“We had approximately six to

eight weeks to find a location and to get ready to accept the first batch of students. It was really the great work of the Training Support Center Organization. The folks here at Dam Neck stepped up to the plate and helped us out. Thank you, we really appreciate the work and support you provided. [It] was outstanding,” said Collins.



(Back L to R) Mr. Steve Collins, SCPO Jonathan Bruce, Sgt. Michael Roeske, Col. Thomas Williams, Staff. Sgt. Matthew Battley, Mr. Issa Nazary, Mr. Abdulmehub Abdulmehud, and Mr. Neil Matteson. (Front L to R) Mr. Brian White, Army Lt. Col. Michael W. Morris, Mr. Michael J. Dochterman, Mr. Mukhtar Ziarmal, Mr. Baryalai Joyandah, Ms. Roshana Noorzai, Mr. Imran Ijaz, and Ms. Saher Adnan. (Photo courtesy of Michael Dochterman)



*Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Delosa, of the 2/4 Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Directorate, listens intently during a Dari Familiarization course at the Continuing Education Division of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in Monterey, Calif. (Photo by Brian Lamar)*

## Fort Carson commanders get a taste of language and culture

By Brian Lamar, Strategic Communications

SEASIDE, Calif. - The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center's (DLIFLC) Continuing Education Directorate is now supporting the senior leadership of the 2/4 Brigade Combat Team (BCT) out of Fort Carson, Colo., with a 40-hour Dari and Pashto familiarization course designed to prepare BCT leaders to engage with their counterparts in theater.

Leaders from the 2/4th BCT realized the importance of cul-

ture and language training when they opened a permanent Dari and Pashto schoolhouse, called a Language Training Detachment (LTD), on their base beginning February 2010 and trained hundreds of their junior leaders.

"The Familiarization Course here in Monterey compliments what our junior leaders are already learning back in Fort Carson. This course is for the senior leaders in our unit," said Col. John Kolasheski, the commander of the 2/4 BCT

in an interview Feb. 24.

Preparing for a deployment is never like it is shown in the movies, with troops walking dramatically in slow motion across a helipad with their rifles in hand, staring into the distance while a well-orchestrated musical score captures the intensity in their gaze.

In real life the "what if" factor is significant, and misconceptions and a fear of the unknown can weigh heavily on servicemembers who are planning for a deployment. Culture and language training is seen as a key component to mission success, according to Kolasheski.

One way to remove some of the fear of the unknown is through training, exposure to culture and language, and native instructors. Kolasheski believes the type of training DLIFLC can provide is a "good bet."



“Language training is an investment, and that investment shows how serious we are about this mission,” said Kolasheski. “Language goes hand-in-hand with an appreciation of culture. That appreciation will bring you closer to the people near you while on deployment,” Kolasheski explained.

The course is designed with both culture and language training in mind. Leaders leave the 40-hour course with a solid foundation of the basics of Dari and Pashto and a strong grasp on the Afghan culture within an operational context.

Students can expect to leave the course with a mastery of common greetings and pleasantries used during events like introductions, activities during meals, and key leader engagements. The students will also have a firm grasp of how to handle themselves in situations like having tea with an Afghan or

how to properly participate in a business-type meeting with locals.

“The course was designed with a focus on field realities, to equip leaders with operational language needed for successful engagement with their counterparts in Afghanistan,” said Mowafiq Al-Anazi, associate dean of Field Support.

Daily assignments, in-class projects, and homework make up for more than half of the grade for completion of the course, but the end capstone assignment is in the format of a field training exercise (FTX) where students’ progress will be assessed based on their performance during practical exercises.

The immersive-type training that is afforded with native DLI-FLC instructors is a key factor in the success of the program. According to Kolasheski, the scenario training is important. Just as mili-

tary hardware and money are tools to use in Afghanistan, so is culture and language training. The FTX allows the Soldiers to immerse themselves in a simulated situation which they may actually encounter.

“This training gives us an avenue to better understand our operating environment. It is very helpful and useful training. I believe this will help us to be closer to the local population. I believe being closer to people around you enhances security and makes us less susceptible to being attacked. Nobody wants their friend and neighbor to be killed or hurt,” said Kolasheski.

“It is a complex environment and anything we can do to give ourselves an advantage is a step in the right direction and is worth the investment. I believe that this training is the right kind of investment,” said Kolasheski.

## **5th annual Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) Culture Center Summit “A Practitioner’s Guide to Culture Education and Training”**

The U.S. Army Intelligence Center of Excellence and Fort Huachuca, Arizona sponsored the fifth culture summit this March to focus on practical methods for building cross-cultural competence in the U.S. Army and sister services.

More than 300 participants came from a wide variety of backgrounds – military leaders, scholars, academics, researchers, authors, international business representatives, non-governmental organization representatives, subject matter experts, trainers, and educators to share their experiences in order to enhance the culture training and education enterprise.

Representatives from Pakistan, Ghana, the United Kingdom, other nations, and the United Nations came to this year’s event to emphasize cultural understanding. The summit also discussed the evolution of culture training and its impact on the way the Army applies culture to current and emerging threats.

Keynote speaker Lt. Gen. Kenneth P. Keen, Deputy Commander of U.S. Southern Command, pointed out that his experience learning Portuguese at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Cen-

ter “opened the door to learning the culture.”

Abderrahim Foukara, the Al Jazeera Washington D.C. bureau chief, spoke to summit attendees about the importance of culture and language from a media perspective. “Clearly in order to understand the position and actions of others, you must understand their language. Language is the key to culture,” Foukara stated.



*(Front left) King Nana O. Otibribi III, head of a Ghanaian tribe, was a guest speaker at the TRADOC Culture Center Summit. (Photo courtesy of the TRADOC Culture Center.)*

*Mandarin Chinese students in front of Lowell High School in San Francisco.*



## DLIFLC Students Shine at 36th Mandarin Speech Contest

By 1st Lt. Scott Ghiringhelli, Strategic Communications

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. - Public Speaking can strike fear into even the most courageous among us, imposing greater dread than the prospect of disease or even death. To speak well in public is an enviable accomplishment, and to do it in a foreign language is an even loftier achievement.

Students of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center's (DLIFLC) Chinese department attended the 36th Mandarin Speech Contest put on by the Chinese Language Teachers Association of California (CLTAC). The event was held at Lowell High School in San Francisco on Saturday, April 30, 2011.

After the opening ceremony, students broke out into different classrooms divided into elementary school, middle school, high school, and college. Each classroom had Mandarin speakers to judge the speeches being given, some of whom were instructors from DLIFLC.

Each category was broken out into further divisions based on years of study

in the language. Performances ranged from nervous and reluctant to confident and dynamic, but everyone who willingly stood up and gave a speech in Mandarin Chinese had good reason to be proud.

Family and friends of the contestants were treated to traditional and contemporary cultural entertainment while waiting for students to finish giving their speeches and for the results to be tallied. Acts included music, dancing, martial arts, and a spectacular performance of a traditional Chinese folk song performed by Yun Zhang, an instructor at DLIFLC, and one of her Mandarin Chinese students, Petty Officer 2nd Class Alexander Stewart, who is in his first semester at DLIFLC. The song included language far beyond Stewart's current level of proficiency, but he was able to master the song and give a stunning performance.

The song describes a mother who sends her dutiful son off to the military, and then moves through each season reflecting on how each one reminds her of him. Zhang and Stewart sang the parts of mother and son respectfully.

Stewart, who has had little experience performing, was somewhat overwhelmed singing in front of the approximately 1,500 people who populated the auditorium, but came through it brilliantly alongside Zhang's equally impressive talent.

"It went better than I expected. I didn't totally lose it and just stand

*Mandarin Chinese student, Petty Officer 2nd Class Alexander Stewart, and his instructor, Yun Zhang, perform a traditional song at the Mandarin Speech Contest. (Photos by 1st Lt. Scott Ghiringhelli)*





there on stage,” said Stewart. Ironically, the last time Stewart performed in front of people was the last time he was at DLIFLC studying Spanish, when he sang “La Camisa Negra.”

DLIFLC students placed in nearly all levels of the college categories taking five first place trophies, six second place, six third place, and 25 honorable mentions. Among the many winners were Seaman Stephanie Concepcion, who earned an honorable mention for students in their third year of study, and Airman 1st Class Matthew Sindelar, also in his third year, who placed first.

“Learning the language is hard, but it’s fun. It’s really challenging,” Said Concepcion, who came to DLIFLC with an interest in Asian history and wanting to study an Asian language. She was surprised to find that there were many contestants who did not have Chinese heritage. “I saw a lot of different ethnicities. It shows that people want to understand Chinese culture. It [the competition] brought a lot of people together, whether they were Chinese or not.”

Sindelar was equally impressed by the competition and its positive impact on the community. “People don’t know a lot about Chinese culture or Chinese language,” said Sindelar, who went on to express the importance of these kinds of events in order to encourage cultural diversity.

This was not Sindelar’s first taste of success, however. He also took first place at the 7th Chinese Language Bridge Cup Competition, held on February 26 in San Francisco, and has been invited by the Chinese government to travel to China and participate in the next level of competition.

Sindelar originally wanted to study Russian, but now couldn’t be happier studying Chinese Mandarin. “I love it; I couldn’t imagine studying any other language.”

Though some may not have fared as well as they would have liked in the competition, each and every student contributed to the language event, reinforcing the heritage of some, introducing Mandarin culture to others, and promoting cultural diversity for all.

## Army National Guard director visits DLIFLC

By 1st Lt. Scott Ghiringhelli, Strategic Communications



*Col. Terry Bare, the assistant commandant for the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, explains the depth and scope of language training DLIFLC provides to thousands of linguists throughout the military to Maj. Gen. Raymond Carpenter during overview brief of the language institute Feb. 8. (Photo by Brian Lamar)*

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. - On Feb. 8, Maj. Gen. Raymond Carpenter, acting director of the Army National Guard, visited the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC).

While at DLIFLC, Carpenter was briefed on DLIFLC’s programs and services, and observed students studying Chinese Mandarin using the latest in-class educational technology.

Carpenter, who studied Vietnamese at DLIFLC before serving in Vietnam, expressed interest in establishing a Language Training Detachment in the Clay National Guard Center at former Naval Air Station Atlanta and sending deploying Guard units to Forts Carson, Campbell and Drum to participate in DLIFLC’s predeployment language training.

# USD P&R, Dr. Clifford Stanley, stresses need to build and enhance language, regional, and cultural capabilities

By Natela Cutter, Strategic Communications

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Dr. Clifford Stanley, is urging decision makers in industry, political, government, and academic institutions involved with language and culture policy and studies to not only “think outside of the box,” but discuss and promote bold and innovative ideas for enhancing language, regional, and cultural capabilities within the DoD and throughout the nation.

“We need to look at the entire educational system regarding language. This is more about America than the Department of Defense,” stated Stanley in his opening remarks at the DoD Language and Culture Summit: A Strategic Imperative, held Jan. 25-26 in Washington, D.C.

The event was organized by the Defense Language Office at the directive of the office of USD P&R, gathering some 300 participants who, in a variety of forums, addressed three major challenging areas: building a

capabilities- and capacity-based system; improving personnel management; and building partnerships.

“Language links people all over the world... [teaching language and culture] is so logical that not having it be a priority is staggering,” said Stanley.

“We can learn more with languages, and I think we can do much better if we are more plugged into our allies, more plugged into a world that is becoming closer and closer. Google is an example. We need to take advantage of language and culture,” stated Stanley.

Several key themes emerged throughout the summit: DoD must adopt a holistic, joint, and interagency approach to resolve language, regional, and cultural challenges; DoD must value these skills and endorse them as all other warfighter competencies; DoD must make a significant paradigm shift in the personnel management system to reflect the organizational value of language,

regional, and cultural skills.

“Culture and language have to become as important in decision-making as the measuring of the threat we face,” said key-note speaker retired Gen. Anthony Zinni, who stressed that the understanding of culture and geography of a nation was paramount in any type of encounters, whether military, diplomatic, or academic.

During the two-day summit, speakers and panelists discussed topics involving language proficiency and cultural competence within the realm of international relations, trade, cross cultural exchanges, military intelligence, university education, and pre-K through 12th grade education.

U.S. Southern Command Admiral Eric Olson spoke about the necessity of language and culture skills within the Special Forces and the need to give incentive pay to those who have and maintain language skills at lower levels of proficiency.



DLIFLC Commandant Col. Danial D. Pick moderates a “Warfighter Perspective” panel, mainly featuring servicemembers who used their language skills while deployed. (L-R) Spc. Camilio Castrillon, Gunnery Sgt. Jim Keeler, Capt. Sylvia Kim, Col. Danial D. Pick, Sgt. 1st Class Peter Menendez, and Dr. John Manza. (Photos courtesy of the Defense Language Office)



“Language skills are perishable. If we are not as good as we should be [in learning languages] then our culture needs to change,” he stated.

Gen. Keith Alexander, Director, National Security Agency, Chief, Central Security Service and Commander, U.S. Cyber Command, argued that “People who work in language need to stay in language – we spend time and money on them,” referring to the fact that many linguists are placed in jobs where they do not use their language skills, which leads to the loss of those skills over time.

DLIFLC Commandant Col. Danial D. Pick moderated a “Warfighter Perspectives” panel which featured servicemembers who used their language and/or culture skills while deployed and how this contributed to the success of their missions.

“I was struck by the common theme that our senior leaders resonated - language and culture are critical skills for our nation and national defense,” said Pick.

Many speakers addressed the need for introducing language and culture studies at the pre-K through 12 level, and the necessity for a change in how Americans value foreign language and culture. Many argued that corporate America needs to invest in foreign language and culture studies, in order to reap the benefit of having an educated young cadre of workers in the future. Several speakers stated that language and culture skills are a national security and economic imperative.

“Why is language important for DoD?” asked Stanley rhetorically in his closing remarks. “DoD’s mission is to partly carry out language education to keep us from having to go there (deploying), but understand what is going on - on the ground.”



*California Congressman Sam Farr addresses attendees of the conference on Jan. 26.*



*Gen. Keith Alexander addresses conference attendees as the keynote speaker during lunch Jan. 26.*

# DLIFLC alumni support Operation Tomodachi

Photos and story by 1st Lt. Scott Ghiringhelli, Strategic Communications



*Col. Craig J. Agena, Chief of the Bilateral Coordination Action Team's U.S. contingency at Camp Sendai, talks with a Japanese official at the Rikuzen-Ono train station, Higashi Matsushira, Japan in order to help facilitate operations set to clear wreckage and debris as part of a U.S. and Japanese combined effort to restore local transportation.*

CAMP SENDAI, JAPAN — Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) graduates put their language training to good use in support of Operation Tomodachi after the recent disaster in Japan.

The March 11, 9.0 earthquake off the northeast coast of Japan brought on an onslaught of catastrophic events. The tsunami that pummeled the coastline and a slew of nuclear crises caused by the earthquake and flooding claimed the lives of more than 14,000 people and left nearly 1,200 missing.

Marine Lt. Col. James Kendall, a Foreign Area Officer (FAO) and Japanese linguist, was called to Camp Sendai only days after the disaster struck. He was soon working alongside Japanese Soldiers and officials to provide aid to victims of the disaster in the areas hardest hit by the tsunami.

"The scene upon entering the town was shocking and beyond the expe-

rience of any American [who was] present, regardless of combat service," commented Kendall. He went on to say, "The scene was post-apocalyptic, with many wrecked vehicles, including an overturned fire truck and large piles of rubble surrounding the buildings."

FAOs - Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines - who undergo intense language and culture training to become subject matter experts for a specific country or region, came together from all over Japan to help facilitate the U.S. military's contribution to Japanese relief efforts. "I've never seen so many FAOs in one place at one time," said Kendall.

These highly trained professionals were pulled from staff positions all around Japan, including the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, commands, and institutions for military studies. They served, and continue to serve, at Camp Sendai and in the United States

Forces Japan (USFJ) Joint Operations Center (JOC) at Yokota Air Base providing support to bilateral U.S. and Japanese operations.

Operation Tomodachi, the name given to the U.S. response, literally means friend, and to the FAOs in Japan it represents the spirit of cooperation and friendship between the U.S. and Japan.

"Friends come to each other's aid," said Marine Maj. Giuseppe Stavale, a FAO who recently returned from Camp Sendai and continues to work at the USFJ Operation Center in support of Operation Tomodachi. Stavale further commented on U.S. support of the disaster relief efforts. "There's no doubt, that we took a quantum leap from a day to day type of friendship to a very close and trusted partnership. Something that I think will go beyond the veneer surface of the government officials, but really into





*The aftermath in Naruse, near Naruse Daini Junior High School, Japan.*

the population, that they'll see that we Americans, not just the U.S. armed services, but America in general, is truly a friend to Japan."

Under Operation Tomodachi, the U.S. military worked alongside Japanese Ground Self Defense Force (JGSDF) personnel providing humanitarian assistance to address the need for food, water, sanitation and hygiene, and even toys for children at Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) sites. Marine Capt. Paul Bartok was one of the first FAOs to assist at these locations.

"These people were very enthusiastic and welcomed us warmly, helping us form a line to pass supplies off the trucks from Marine to Sailor to Soldier to JGSDF to Japanese IDPs. After emptying the truck of hygiene kits and donated toys, there was a small ceremony to thank the convoy team from which they were

led out through a gauntlet of people applauding and shaking their hands," explained Bartok.

Col. Craig J. Agena, who attended DLIFLC's Japanese school as part of the FAO program from 1991 to 1992, was called to duty in support of Operation Tomodachi shortly after the disaster struck.

As chief of the Bilateral Crisis Action Team's (BCAT) U.S. contingency at Camp Sendai, Agena visited the Nobiru and Rikuzen-Ono train stations in Higashi Matsushira with other U.S. and Japanese military members, as well as city officials. He inspected the sites in order to help facilitate bilateral operations set to clear wreckage and debris as part of a joint effort to restore local transportation. He was careful to note, as were many of the FAOs, that Japan has led the disaster relief efforts, and that the U.S. has helped where needed and when requested.

"We're assisting... we have to work through the local mayors, the governors. They are the ones who direct where we go and what needs to be done," said Agena.

The U.S. military continues to assist the JGSDF based out of Camp Sendai. Troops from both countries sleep side by side on cots at night, and work side by side providing disaster relief during the day.

Master Sgt. Tomoyuki Nakada of the JGSDF, who attended DLIFLC's Language Training Detachment at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Texas to study English, conveyed his respect and appreciation for Operation Tomodachi. "Operation Tomodachi means something that [you] just cannot say in words. It represents U.S. and Japan's bilateral relationship... it really represents both countries and what we are as a partner."



# Dedication and ribbon cutting held at Presidio of Monterey

By Tonya K. Townsell, Presidio of Monterey Public Affairs

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. - Nearly 150 people turned out for the dedication of the Presidio of Monterey's new general instructional building in memory of a longtime colleague Alfie Tawfik Khalil here March 4.

In attendance at the event, hosted by Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center Commandant (DLIFLC) Col. Danial D. Pick, were U.S. Representative Sam Farr, local civic representatives, and school and garrison leaders and staff. Additionally, more than 20 members of Khalil's family traveled to Monterey for the occasion - his brother Hany Khalil came from Egypt, while other family members came from Southern California and Colorado.

Pick began the event with a welcome speech to guests in English as well as Arabic. He spoke of Khalil, who worked at DLIFLC for 27 years, 17 of which were spent as union president and left a lasting legacy that will benefit many generations to come.

Pick said that although he never had the privilege of knowing Khalil, he learned from those who knew him that Khalil was a legendary figure because of his "incredible sense of the people, his willingness to listen patiently, give advice gently, and, most of all, because of his role as union leader here for 17 years."

Farr spoke about his "wonderful friend" as an immigrant to this country who "became a major citizen of Monterey." He said that it seemed at every function he went to, "Alfie was there."

"He wasn't there just to be present because there was a civic event or social party," Farr said. "He was there because he wanted to get his message across: What an incredible installation and school this was. His heart was here."

There are many examples, Pick said, of how Khalil "carefully weighed the needs of the faculty against the



(L-R) DLIFLC Commandant Col. Danial D. Pick, Mr. Hany Khalil, and Congressman Sam Farr cut the ribbon, marking the official opening of the new instructional building known as Alfie Khalil Hall. (Photo by Steven Shepard, Presidio of Monterey Public Affairs)

importance of our vital mission."

"Alfie left a legacy of unprecedented positive relations between the union and DLI management. His contributions as union leader and his fight against the Base Realignment and Closure reviews in the 1990s and again in 2005 are well known," Pick said.

Specifically, the installation faced the very real possibility of closing and moving the institute to Fort Huachuca, Ariz. In 1993 and again in 1995, the union worked tirelessly to provide statistical information to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC).

In his speech, Farr explained that Khalil understood the importance of ensuring people outside the gates of the installation understood the important role of the institute and its faculty community.

Khalil also was instrumental in putting a face on what it meant if the DLIFLC and installation were closed or realigned, Farr said, adding that Khalil

helped demonstrate why the military couldn't replicate the excellent quality of the specialized learning center that has existed at DLIFLC for decades.

Pick said that Khalil's work with others "resulted in the BRAC Commission's decision not to move the Defense Language Institute."

Also as union president, Khalil pursued a cooperative spirit between the union and DLIFLC management, which ultimately led to the successful implementation of the Faculty Personnel System (FPS), which was in line with industry practices. The merit-based civil-service system, the FPS, allowed teachers to rank advance and get promoted in the classroom where they were best qualified, as opposed to moving up into supervisory non-teaching positions.

"He understood the significance this institution played in world understanding and in cross-cultural understanding... People knew that languages were taught here, but they



didn't know the people who taught those languages. Alfie opened that door. He did it through his union work, by upgrading the respect for teachers and making them professional in the eyes of the law and in the ability to get pay," said Farr.

While it took seven years to have the system passed into law and several more years to implement it, Pick said that Khalil was patient and spent many hours explaining to faculty the benefits of the system. Eventually, Pick said, 77 percent of the eligible faculty joined the FPS system, and he deemed it a great success.

Another of Khalil's big accomplishments as union leader was his successful fight for the implementation of San Francisco locality pay in the Monterey Bay area.

Farr said of a man he called his friend, "I don't think anybody ever worked harder to bring to the attention (of civic leaders) that living in this area was more expensive than living in other areas." Farr explained that Khalil worked with him to exclude all the federal land in Monterey County, including the national forest, to achieve the density population to qualify for a formula to make a winning case.

That brought about, according to statistics at that time, some \$40 million more per year to Monterey County for all the federal employees here, Farr said. "And I give Alfie the credit for making that happen."

Pick said that when Khalil died Nov. 18, 2006, at his home in Monterey the entire institute was saddened. More than 400 family members, friends, faculty, staff, and DLIFLC leadership bid farewell to DLIFLC and POM's union leader at his memorial service held Nov. 30, 2006.

Farr said he remembered Khalil as a person who loved music and art and was active in a lot of community organizations. "But most of all I knew him as a loyal friend. And loyalty is very rare in politics."

Farr repeated an Egyptian proverb: A house has the character of the man

who lives in it.

He said, "If that's true, then this building being dedicated today will be a house of dignity, a house of integrity, a house of friendship, a house of hard work, and a house of achievement because that was the character of Alfie Khalil."

In response to the memorializing of Khalil, his brother Hany Khalil, through the translation of Khalil's nephew Mark Khalil, said that as a representative of the family - those who attended and those who were unable to attend because of the political unrest in Egypt - he found great joy in the building dedication.

Hany said he was amazed to stand before the group for three reasons.

"First, because I speak before American heroes of whom I read about in the news and to whom today I have the pleasure of addressing face-to-face.

"Secondly, this building that we behold, while grand in appearance and advanced in its capabilities, is only a reflection of the great minds that had a vision and precise plan for it.

"Finally, I believe that this building will have a great role for America as a unique institute for foreign language teaching that teaches and trains a new generation of American heroes who

believe in responsible freedom, and who encourage justice that does not discriminate between religions and that respects gender differences, yet holds them equal."

Then, Hany shared his feelings with a couple questions "Am I in a dream or reality? Is this fantasy or real life?"

"I could have never imagined that Alfie could be honored this way. You have immortalized him as a man who loved America," he said. "I now know why Alfie Khalil loved America. Whenever we asked him about America, he described it as one describes the love of his life or a rare jewel. America continually occupied his mind, thoughts, and feelings."

Hany expressed that "He loved America, and therefore, you loved him. He was loyal to America, and so you are honoring him today."

Hany said the Khalil's family was deeply saddened by the passing of Alfie, "But by your kindness today, you have turned our pain into a palpable source of comfort and joy."

Therefore, Hany said, "I declare before you after what I've witnessed today that our family in Egypt no longer views Alfie's resting place as the Lighthouse cemetery, but we see him as living in this building that bears his name."



*Mr. Hany Khalil and guests receive an official tour of the new instructional building given by Sgt. Thomas Cagle. (L-R) Mr. Hanny Khalil, Mark Khalil, Ms. Kim McLeod, DLIFLC Commandant Col. Danial D. Pick, Congressman Sam Farr, and Sgt. Thomas Cagle. (Photo by Natela Cutter)*

# Tagalog department celebrates 30th anniversary

By 1st Lt. Scott Ghiringhelli,  
Strategic Communications

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif. -The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) is today the premier language learning institution in the United States, if not the world, but conversely comes from modest origins.

The genesis of DLIFLC dates back to 1941 and the Nisei Japanese Americans who were the first trained linguists to serve as translator-interpreters for the Military Intelligence Service during and immediately after the war.

The first class of 60 students was brought together in an abandoned airplane hangar at the Presidio of San Francisco. The school soon moved to Minnesota, but ultimately ended up at the Presidio of Monterey in 1946, where the addition of more languages and several name changes over time have made DLIFLC what it is today. This is the adaptive nature of the institute, and why it is now so highly regarded.

Similarly, DLIFLC's Tagalog program evolved from a single requirement in 1981 into an entire department through the hard work of Linda Seldow, the first, and initially only, Tagalog instructor, under the mentorship of Col. David A. McNerny, DLIFLC commandant from 1981 to 1985.

"It was a most challenging period, because there were no other instructors except for one, me. There was no typewriter or phone to prepare the lessons or communicate with my direct supervisor in



*Staff and faculty from Asian School I enjoy traditional Tagalog cuisine.  
(Photo by 1st Lt. Scott Ghiringhelli)*

those days," stated Seldow.

She went on to say how McNerny instituted a meeting with the faculty every Wednesday at the Officer's Club to get acquainted with the them and to find out what he could do to help their departments.

"These many trips to the Officer's Club was worth its weight in gold, for it was there that I vigorously campaigned about keeping Tagalog as a permanent resident course, and to extend its duration to 47 weeks."

On March 28, 2011, the Tagalog department celebrated its 30th anniversary amongst the traditional decorations and good cheer of its members, and, of course, delicious food.

The celebration began with students, staff, and faculty singing the Philippine National Anthem, after which various members of the department spoke, including Dr. Luba Grant, Dean, Asian School I; Dr. Gyseon Bae, Chair, Asian I-Tagalog Department; Ms. Linda Seldow, Instructor, Tagalog Department;

Ms. Frine Railsback, Instructor, Tagalog Department; and Mr. Thomas Bacon, Academic Specialist, Asian I; along with Col. William Bare, DLIFLC assistant commandant. At the end of the ceremony the festivities commenced with several tables providing an abundance of traditional food for all to enjoy.

The anniversary marks not only the great accomplishments of the department, but its perseverance in the face of adversity, including budget issues and Base Realignment and Closures.

"The Tagalog department has weathered the storm of changes that have occurred at DLI over the course of 30 years...but we have remained strong in graduating students who are proficient and effective in their respective agencies. We will continue to do so as long as our knowledge and talents are in demand," said Seldow.



# First group of AF/PAK Hands return from Afghanistan

By Julia Gitis, Presidential Management Fellow, Joint Staff Pakistan Afghanistan Coordination Cell



U.S. Air Force Maj. Christy Barry, a lawyer, speaks Dari with Afghan National Army officers on April 29 at the Counter Insurgency Training Academy on Camp Julien, Afghanistan.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The return of the first group of Afghanistan/Pakistan (AF/PAK) Hands from deployment April 19 marks a unique point in a program billed as a personnel priority at the Pentagon. This highly visible program trains military and civilian personnel from all services to serve as a cadre of subject matter experts in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The AF/PAK Hands are part of the military's transition strategy, building enduring relationships between U.S. services and local populations in theater. Hands develop expertise and insight into the complexities, internal dynamics, and challenges facing these countries through language, culture, and counter-insurgency training, graduate education, and experience working directly with Afghan and Pakistani officials.

AF/PAK Hands tours are approximately 45 months long and include 12-month and 10-month deployments. The first cohort of AF/PAK Hands completed language training in March 2010 and were deployed to Afghanistan on April 24.

Upon their return to the U.S. a year later, they are to be stationed in three AF/PAK Hands hubs at a variety of commands between their deployments; in Washington, D.C., Tampa, Fla., and Norfolk, Va. As a part of the program, the AF/PAK Hands will also be able to take

advantage of educational opportunities such as Master degree programs at the National Defense University. The goal is for the AF/PAK Hands to leverage their intimate knowledge of the field during the “out of theater assignments,” by bringing a fresh-from-the-field perspective to higher-level headquarters.

In Afghanistan, International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) officials utilize the AF/PAK Hands program to build long-term relationships with the Afghan and Pakistani people, governments, and militaries. AF/PAK Hands help accelerate the transition of responsibility to the country's government and security forces.

Before deploying, AF/PAK Hands complete an intensive 16-week Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center course in either Dari, Pashto, or Urdu. In addition to language, culture, and counterinsurgency training, each AF/PAK Hands service member is recruited based on expertise in topics such as governance, engineering, intelligence, finance, and force protection.

A key aspect of the program is the billet to which AF/PAK Hands

are assigned. The Hands are placed in different units throughout Afghanistan, with a few stationed in Pakistan. The intent of the program is to place the AF/PAK Hands in strategic positions down range, where they can use their specialized skills to make an impact. For example, many AF/PAK Hands are assigned as advisors to senior government and military officials.

“The language and training give you an opportunity to break the ice much more easily,” remarked Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Grant, who is part of the first cohort of AF/PAK Hands recently returned from Afghanistan. As a Navy engineer, Lt. Cmdr. Grant initiated projects by working directly with villagers and village elders. He notes, “As long as you're patient, you can break down barriers.”

Three senior leaders are primarily credited with shaping the AF/PAK Hands program: Adm. Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. David Petraeus, ISAF commander, and retired Gen. Stanley McChrystal.

Reflecting on this occasion, Mullen stated, “I am glad to see our first cohort of AF/PAK Hands returning home, and I am grateful for their hard work. I look forward to learning from them ways in which we can further strengthen and improve this important program.”

The Pentagon and the AF/PAK Hands training partners are working to identify lessons learned from the first deployment of AF/PAK Hands, and to continue to improve the experience and impact of the program.

*Edited by Strategic Communications, DLIFLC - <http://www.dodlive.mil/index.php/2011/04/first-group-of-deployed-afpak-hands-returns-from-afghanistan/>*



Maj. Gen. Greg Schumacher observes a Pashto class while visiting DLIFLC April 29.  
(Photo by Natela Cutter)

## Command Language Program Manager's Seminar: Reaching Forward to New Horizons

By Natela Cutter,  
Strategic Communications

SEASIDE, Calif., – This year's Command Language Program Manager's (CLPM) Seminar held April 26-29 featured a number of influential guest speakers from the foreign language community who presented, sat on panels, and responded to questions posed by language managers from all four branches of the service and other government agencies.

Maj. Gen. Gregory Schumacher, assistant deputy chief of staff, G2, was the keynote speaker at the event, and stressed that the worldwide economic crisis and budget cuts at home would be felt in every aspect of military operations.

"Only the best programs will remain. We must do a better job of prioritizing (programs)," said Schumacher. "You can help frame what is working well and what we can get rid of," he told Command Language Program Managers.

Other speakers and panelists included Ms. Iris Bulls from the

Defense Language Office; Ms. Cheryl Houser from the National Security Agency (NSA); Mr. Lee Johnson, the Navy Senior Language Authority (SLA); Mr. Glenn Nordin, USD (I) Human Capital Management; and Mr. Frank von Heiland II, Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Agency SLA.

Participants asked panelists a variety of questions, ranging from the utility of having lower level language capabilities in the field and the merit of giving lower level Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus pay.

"Every mission has to have a translator. If they don't have the right education level, they need to be trained because there are not enough (contract) translators for the FOBs (forward operating base) and SOTF (Special Operations Task Force). Every additional person trained (in language) is a force multiplier," said von Heiland, who had spent the past six months in Afghanistan analyzing the language needs for the Air Force. "General (David) Petraeus is pushing the language piece hard because of reconstruction... If you don't speak the language you can't work."

When asked the question about the merits of paying FLPB to professional linguists as well as

those who possess a rudimentary level of language training gained through short training courses, panelists had a variety of pro and con arguments.

While Schumacher argued that giving FLPB to those with lower levels (1/1) of proficiency represented a "disconnect" because FLPB is intended for higher levels of language proficiency, others argued in favor.

"The Navy will continue to pay at the 1/1 level, because we have determined that basic conversation is needed in Special Operations and for anyone in the Fleet Marine Forces and Navy Expeditionary Combat Commands. Because we have a focused list of nine languages, we want to encourage them and will pay the GPF (General Purpose Force) for their capability," said Johnson, the Navy's SLA.

"We created the FLPB to encourage people to identify themselves. FLPB is not paid to justify their work. The Secretary of Defense created another program for ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corps) students to pay FLPB just for taking a foreign language course," said Bulls, from the Defense Language Office.

"Resources will be less, so at the end of the day, we will have to prioritize. I support the Special Operation's Command idea to pay (1/1 proficiency pay) so we can find out if it pays off," commented Schumacher.

While at the summit, Schumacher spent several hours touring DLIFLC, visiting classrooms and speaking with students about their method of studying, the use of technology as a tool to help them learn a foreign language more rapidly, and a variety of language programs used as virtual learning tools.



Recipients of the Command Language Program of the Year Award: (L-R) Staff Sgt. Clyde Benge, Gunnery Sgt. David Korff, Staff Sgt. Chereba Just, Mr. Jack W. Kim, Staff Sgt. Judy Kang, Staff Sgt. Steve Moon, and Sgt. David Larson. (Photo by Natela Cutter)



### Winners of the 2010 Command Language Professional of the Year Award:

- Staff Sgt. Timothy J. Rice, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade at Fort Meade, M.D.,
- Cpl. James D. Morin, 3rd Radio Battalion, MCBH Kanehoe Bay, Hawaii
- Petty Officer 1st Class Shannon M. Smith, Naval Special Warfare Support Activity TWO, Virginia Beach, Va.,
- Special Agent Borislav Komarovskiy, Air Force Office of Special Investigations Detachment 624, Kadena AFB, Japan

### Winners of the 2010 Command Language Program of the Year Award:

#### 2010 U.S. Army Command Language Program of the Year

- 500 MI Military Intelligence Brigade, Schoefield Barracks, Hawaii
  - CLPM: Mr. Jack W. Kim
  - Commander: Army Col. Patricia Frost

#### 2010 Marine Corps Command Language Program of the Year

- 3rd Radio Battalion, MCBH Kanehoe Bay, Hawaii
  - CLPM: Cpl. Matthew Rich, Staff Sgt. Chereba Just, and 1st Lt. William Schick
  - Commander: Lt. Col. William P. McClane

#### 2010 U.S. Navy Command Language Program of the Year

- NIOC Hawaii, Schoefield Barracks, Hawaii
  - CLPMs: Ms. Mary L. Tyner, Petty Officer 1st Class John C. Allen, Petty Officer 1st Class Alyssa L. Chubbuck, Petty Officer 1st Class Armando Garica
  - Commander: Capt. Jeffrey S. Cole

#### 2010 U.S. Air Force Command Language Program of the Year

- 316th Training Squadron, Goodfellow AFB, Texas
  - CLPMs: Staff Sgt. Clyde Benge, Tech. Sgt. Jin Baik
  - Commander: Lt. Col. Erik J. Lawson

The Undersecretary of Defense (Intelligence) for Human Manpower Capital, Mr. Tim Clayton, visited the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) on April 21, for a full day tour and overview of the Institute. Clayton was accompanied by Mr. Glenn Nordin and Mr. BJ Sanchez. The visitors had an opportunity to learn about DLIFLC training products and state-of-the-art technology used in the classrooms such as interactive whiteboards, tablet PCs, and iPods™. "The students are incredible and the faculty is outstanding," commented Clayton, following the tour, which included classroom observations, a visit to the in-house immersion facility, and lunch with multi-service students at the cafeteria.

(L-R) Mr. Tim Clayton, DLIFLC Assistant Commandant Col. William Bare, and Command Sgt. Maj. Tracey Bellotte. (Photo by Natela Cutter)





*1st Lt. Ryan Castonia's name will be displayed alongside the other Cadet of the Year recipients on the Air Squadron Millennium Sword's display case in the Pentagon. His wife, Tirzah, and his immediate family accompanied him to the Pentagon to meet with the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, to receive the award. (U.S. Air Force photo/Scott M. Ash)*

# Air Force Lieutenant looks before he LEAPs

By 1st Lt. Scott Ghiringhelli, Strategic Communications

After completing his Reserve Officers' Training and earning a Bachelor and Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Ryan Castonia could well have gone on to a

great career as an engineer in the Air Force. That would have been a success story by anyone's standards, but he was not content to stop there.

While still a Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) cadet at

MIT, Castonia sought out different opportunities for his future. Beyond the natural career path as an engineer, he was slotted to be a pilot, and finally settled on a Combat Rescue Officer (CRO) position. He also managed to find his way to the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) as part of the Air Force's new Language Enabled Airman Program (LEAP) despite having no prior language proficiency.

"The LEAP program was created while I was still in ROTC and the announcement came out through



our Cadre.” Castonia explained. “I’ve always wanted to learn a foreign language; I just didn’t feel like I was in a good time or place to ever do it (before).”

The Air Force Culture and Language Center launched LEAP in 2010. The program is designed to identify Airmen with foreign language abilities and foster those skills throughout their careers. Though Castonia was not already proficient in a language, he applied for LEAP based on his high Defense Language Aptitude Battery (DLAB) score and 4.0 Grade Point Average, both of which indicated his likelihood for success. Success, it seems, is no stranger to Castonia.

Castonia applied for a coveted pilot trainee slot to become an Air Force pilot and was one of the select few to be accepted. But before he was to put on his gold bars, yet another opportunity caught his attention. After hearing about the Combat Rescue Officer mission, Castonia fell in love with it. He endured the mental, physical, and psychological challenges of the dual-phase selection process and was one of only 11 chosen to become a part of this relatively new Special Operations career field initiated in 2000.

“I’ve always worked really hard to try to maintain a good balance be-

tween academics and athletics..., my parents have always pushed that, and so I felt like the military was a good place, where you can maintain that balance.”

CROs parallel the Air Force’s elite pararescue career field only open to enlisted servicemembers, and provide an officer corps to lead pararescue teams and Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape (SERE) specialists.

It would seem with all these accomplishments and opportunities, that there was nothing more for this outstanding cadet to strive for. Not so.

Castonia applied for and was accepted into LEAP based on his merits. He is among the first five Air Force lieutenants to come to DLI-FLC and participate in LEAP. Once servicemembers achieve a certain level of proficiency, they receive incentive pay for their language. But LEAP requires them to maintain that proficiency in addition to the daily duties of their primary Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC). Castonia, however, sees that commitment as a privilege rather than a burden.

“I just think having the possibility of coming to DLI as a young officer is an amazing opportunity.”

After completing his language training, Castonia will start the grueling nine week indoctrination meant

to weed out those CRO trainees who are not able or willing to meet the challenge. Once completed, he will receive a myriad of training that includes, Airborne School, Combat Diver’s School, SEREs training, and Emergency Medical Technician training, among others.

What might seem daunting to some is referred to in child-like anticipation by Castonia, but he is not motivated only by his love of learning and being challenged, there is an obvious sense of duty.

“My junior year in high school I started to realize that I wanted to serve in some way, the reason being I just feel really blessed. I feel I’ve had a lot of opportunities, even at that point in my life, and wanted to give back in some way.”

Castonia’s enthusiasm and accomplishments as an AFROTC cadet did not go unnoticed. He received a multitude of military and academic awards while at MIT, and was ultimately named Air Force cadet of the year for 2009, an award sponsored by the Air Squadron of the United Kingdom. The honor is awarded to one person each year, selected from all the Air Force cadets working towards a commission in AFROTC, the Air Force Academy, and Officer Training School.

Castonia will graduate from the DLIFLC’s Arabic language program in July.

Typical of his predilection for seeking out challenge and opportunity, Arabic is classified as a category IV language, one of the most difficult for English speakers to learn. He is looking forward to a successful military career and a career-long language experience in LEAP. Where else could a young man with so much motivation and aptitude fulfill so many of his ambitions?

“There’s a lot of ways you can give back to your country and I just felt like military service was something that fit with me.”



1st Lt. Ryan Castonia (middle) studies with fellow Arabic students. (Photo by 1st Lt. Scott Ghiringhelli)



*Fort Huachuca's Command Sgt. Maj., Todd Holiday, of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center of Excellence and Military Intelligence Corps in Arizona, listens to Airman 1st Class Michael Johnson as he explains Pashto language programs used at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center to rapidly learn the target language. (Photo by Natela Cutter)*

## Fort Huachuca's CSM tours DLIFLC

By Natela Cutter, Strategic Communications

**PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY**  
– Fort Huachuca's Command Sgt. Maj., Todd Holiday, of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center of Excellence and Military Intelligence Corps in Arizona, toured the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) and Presidio of Monterey (POM) April 4 and 5.

Having returned from Afghanistan just a week prior to his visit, Holiday said he was impressed by the size of the Institute and savviness of students who use state-of-the-art technology as tools to enhance their ability to rapidly learn a target language.

"Language and culture is very important. Cultural awareness is key to

success out there (Afghanistan). If you can understand where they are coming from and can read the graffiti on the walls, you have an advantage," said Holiday.

Accompanied by DLIFLC's Command Sgt. Maj. Tracey Bellotte, Holiday observed a 64-week basic Pashto course, where a Marine captain and class leader, briefed him on the mechanics of language learning and curriculum students use. Students took turns explaining the technology and programs they use in the classroom, from Tablet PCs with an electronic stylus pen for writing non-Latin script to iPods™, issued to students for recording and listening to authentic materials.

"So, do you learn slang here in the classroom? I am sure there is vocabulary that the locals use that is not in your books," questioned Holiday, adding that the only language he was "good at...periodically," was English, causing students to laugh.

"Yes we do teach the local dialect. There is a lot of vocabulary that is generational and new. They (students) practice by listening to authentic video clips of Afghan interactions," explained Pashto instructor Dad Salim.

Holiday also met with members of the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion, during which time he toured Bravo Company, and lastly had an opportunity to speak with service senior enlisted leaders.





Lt. Gen. Robert Caslen listens to DLIFLC Commandant Col. Danial D. Pick's brief on April 19. (Photo by Natela Cutter)

## Lt. Gen. Caslen says DLIFLC and students are “national treasure”

By Natela Cutter, Strategic Communications

PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY – Lt. Gen. Robert Caslen Jr., Commanding General of the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center (CAC) at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., visited the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) for a third time April 19, spending time with service commanders and discussing issues pertaining to the training and well-being of servicemembers studying languages critical to national security.

“I am very glad that I have had a chance to meet with the service commanders ... I can't emphasize enough how important it is to take care of the next generation of servicemembers, es-

pecially these young men and women who are sharp, bright, and have high scores. They are of tremendous value,” said Caslen.

“In my opinion, DLI is a national treasure for our military in the product that they produce here and the quality of product that they produce, not only for our military, but also for our nation,” said Caslen, adding, “They (students) are the best we have, and we are very proud of them – they are our national treasure.”

“These young servicemembers need to know the left and right parameters. You need to be mentoring them... The leadership you provide them is

key,” he said, addressing Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force service commanders.

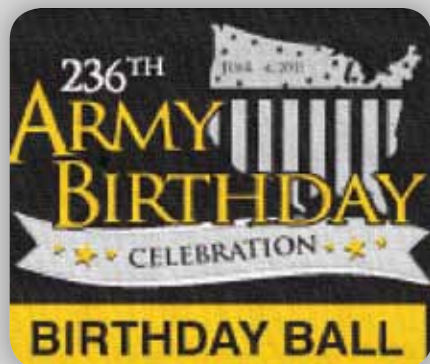
“When you stop and look at the qualifications of the students who come to DLI, as compared to the standards and requirements ... they are the brightest, they have the greatest intellect, the greatest initiatives and insights, and they are ones that compete well in this environment because they really study the cultures and new languages,” said Caslen.

The CAC commander emphasized that the high caliber of students who study at the Institute need to be well looked after and provided all the necessary infrastructure and technology needed to accomplish their mission of learning foreign language and culture.

“If you look at what is happening out there, DLI's mission is not dropping down it is increasing. There are more people in the operational environment that are looking to DLI to produce a product that really meets their needs,” stated Caslen.

“The question is going to be whether or not the Installation can support the increased demand of those [students] who will be coming here,” he said, referring to the growing number of DLIFLC's student body.

“I don't think what we are dealing with is going to diminish any time soon, either at the tactical, operational, or strategic level, which implies that DLI's mission is going to become increasingly important and that there are going to be continuous demands for DLI support,” Caslen explained.



*On June 4, the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion of DLIFLC will host the 236<sup>th</sup> celebration of the Army Birthday Ball this year at the Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel in Monterey, Calif. The festivities will begin at 6 p.m., and continue until midnight. Tickets are \$20 for E1-E4, \$40 for E5-E8, and \$60 for E9 and above and civilians. Guests of service members will be able to purchase tickets at their host's ticket price. To purchase tickets, contact your Army representative or call (831) 242-5668.*





# DLIFLC

70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY BALL

WITH COL DANIEL D. PICK, COMMANDANT, DLIFLC

## Save the date!

Nov. 5th, 2011

Join us in celebration of DLIFLC's 70th birthday on Nov. 5th, 2011. The Institute will hold its Anniversary Ball in Monterey, California at the Hyatt Regency to commemorate 70 years of excellence in teaching foreign language. Faculty, staff, alumni, and friends are invited to participate in this historic occasion. For more information e-mail: [dliflcball@gmail.com](mailto:dliflcball@gmail.com), call (831) 242-4502 or (831) 242-6989, or visit [www.dli-alumni.org](http://www.dli-alumni.org).



DLIFLC's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball is hosted by the DLI Alumni Association.



# RAPPOR

DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER

Rapport is mandatory predeployment training for Department of Defense servicemembers and civilians deploying to Afghanistan. Training prior to deployment to Iraq is mandatory for Department of Army civilians and Soldiers. Rapport is currently available in Pashto, Dari, and Iraqi and is accessible via AKO, DKO, NKO, Joint Language University, and the [www.dliflc.edu](http://www.dliflc.edu) website.

## WHAT IS THE PROGRAM?

- A mandatory six to eight-hour predeployment language training program.
- Designed to introduce basic language and culture concepts.
- Composed of two parts: Cultural Orientation and Military Survival Tasks.
- Users must receive a minimum score of 70 percent to pass.
- Users can print a certificate of completion.
- Army user scores will automatically be sent to the Army Training Requirements and Resources System, or ATRRS, if completed via AKO.

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For more information about this product and ordering, please visit [www.dliflc.edu](http://www.dliflc.edu)