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DDTC News!

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.dls.army.mil

VBS2 is coming to YOUR DDTC!

Virtual Battle Space 2 (VBS2) is the Army's choice for PC based training simulations. Designed in the style of a First Person Shooter, VBS2 offers realistic battlefield simulations and the ability to operate land, sea, and air vehicles. Instructors may create new scenarios and then engage the simulation from multiple viewpoints. The squad-management system enables participants to issue orders to squad members.

VBS2 may be used to teach doctrine, tactics, techniques, and procedures during squad and platoon offensive, defensive, and patrolling operations. VBS2 delivers a synthetic environment for the practical exercise of the leadership and organizational behavior skills required to successfully execute unit missions.

VBS2 is suitable for training small teams in urban tactics, entire combat teams in combined arms operations or even non-military usage such as emergency response procedures in lethal and non-lethal environments or terrain visualization.

Your DDTC support team is working out the deployment details and you should look for VBS2 capabilities in the near future.

Education for Deployed Soldiers

The Army's Deployed Digital Training Campus (DDTC) developed by the Army's Distributed Learning System aims to provide deployed Soldiers with the ability to work on their military education while overseas. Each DDTC is equipped with 20 laptop workstations, Internet accessibility, video tele-training, voice over IP or VOIP, designated satellite access, access to more than 1,200 pre-loaded Army Learning Management System courses, and can be set up in less than two hours. For more information, visit the [Distributed Learning System website](http://www.dls.army.mil/lms_overview.html).

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Camp Shelby Training Success!

Last month brought a new USO training class, with a graduating class of seven.

Held at Camp Shelby, in Mississippi, the USO course gave participants a thorough understanding of DDTC features as well as the skills needed to operate and maintain them. After some ice-breaking, the group jumped right into an active role in the course, immersing themselves in hands-on training and operation. Students were able to build up quite a bit of experience in the 3 day course with set-up, tear-down, operation and troubleshooting of a DDTC suite, both from a USO point of view and from a testing point of view.

Following training, the evaluations showed that participants enjoyed the active part they had in the training, as well as a great appreciation for all of the work of the instructors.

The success of the course bodes well for our newest crop of USOs, and the Soldiers they will be facilitating through the usage of the DDTC suite.

Photos: Top – Student USO's getting hands on operational experience after setting up.

Above – TCS Satellite dish after set-up.

Right –SFC Roger Woolworth affixes the BUC assembly to the boom.

CD-RW a Permanent Storage Option

By now you have used the system enough to know that Steadystate is to new data what a MOAB is to… well… everything. So how do your users keep their data in a single place and keep it editable? Try CD-RWs. The workstations you have provide RW capability and when combined with a RW capable CD, they can function very similar to a removable hard drive. To keep the CD-RW editable tell your user NOT to "finalize" the disk. This essentially locks the disk and prevents further editing or saving of new content.

Obviously, USB based storage devices are strictly forbidden by DoD regulations. This is the next best option. Just remember to keep a sleeve or better yet a jewel case to protect the disk after you save your content to it.

Quick Tip - Watch those wires!

When plugging in the various cables, make sure that you take care when first starting to thread the adapter.

Avoid cross threading and over tightening.

Cavalry troops utilized first fully operational DDTC in the Army

Story by Sgt. Omar Estrada

Thanks to the support of the entire Greywolf Brigade and the hard work of Staff Sgt. Wesley P. Jackson, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the Deployed Digital Training Campus, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, boasted the first fully operational DDTC in the Army.

During his tenure as the Army Chief of Staff, Gen. George W. Casey told the Army Training and Doctrine Command which is located at Fort Eustis, Va., that there was a need for soldiers to be able to take classes and train while deployed, and give them the same education opportunities while deployed as they have at home.

DDTC is a portable digital network center that can be set up anywhere in the world where soldiers are deployed that has satellite and land connectivity, just like an office network.

The training campus is a completely self-contained internet system with 20 laptops, Internet and satellite accessibility.

The system can also provide video tele-training and it is designed for soldiers to conduct structured self development courses, advanced leader course phase one common core, correspondence courses, Rosetta Stone and any other program in the Army e-Learning catalog or the Army management system.

Many devoted students enrolled in military online courses are taking advantage of this free program.
"I'm taking advanced leader course phase one common core for professional development which is programmed to actually take 60 hours of class time," said Staff Sgt. Adrian Holler, assigned to A Company, 3rd Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd AAB, 1st Cavalry Division. "I'm also planning on taking structured self development courses later on this year," he said.

In addition to these benefits, soldiers can log in and attend college level courses, since it has internet capabilities.

"I got with the education centers in Fort Hood, Kuwait, and COB Adder, so now I am able to scan and email tuition assistance forms, financial aid requests, and enroll and drop memorandums," said Jackson, a native of Denton, Texas.

While in country, the facility was open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., with an average of 200 soldiers utilizing the facility a week.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III paid a visit to the DDTC during his tour of Iraq, and was pleased to know that the Greywolf Brigade had the first operational DDTC in the U.S. Army.

Col. Douglas Crissman, commander of 3rd AAB, 1st Cavalry Division, invested time and resources into this program due to its importance. It took 20 hours a day for two months to get the program fully operational, and now soldiers are reaping the benefits.

Other DDTC's from Afghanistan, Germany, Alaska and Bosnia have contacted Staff Sgt. Jackson for advice on implementing their systems. Thanks to his help, there are now operational DDTC's in Afghanistan and Germany.

"This program is really good for the deployed soldier. What soldiers are lacking is promotion points and can never get promoted. They didn't have the capabilities to take classes, but now they do." said Wesley.

Article from: Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs, August, 2011

Photo: Soldiers from 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, take the functional academic skills training at the Deployed Digital Training Center, while the brigade was deployed to Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

USO REMINDER

Remember proper power distribution. Do not plug all items into one PDU.

During system stand up, workstations must be patched and brought up to IA compliance by DLS Enterprise Management Center. Do NOT attempt to use the workstations during this period.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The 24-hour Help Desk can be contacted at these telephone numbers:

Toll Free Telephone Number:
(877) 251-0730

Regular Telephone Number:
(757) 878-4745

DSN Number (CONUS):
826-4745

DSN Number (OCONUS):
312-826-4745

Following the Help Desk voice menu DDTC Option (#2) will give you the opportunity to enter the last 4 digits of the DDTC VoIP phone number for priority placement in the queue.

Distributed Learning System (DLS)
ATTN: Chief, Operations and Sustainment Division
11846 Rock Landing Dr., Suite B
Newport News, VA 23606

Email: pd.dls@dls.army.mil

"I'm taking advanced leader course phase one common core for professional development which is programmed to actually take 60 hours of class time."

~ Staff Sgt. Adrian Holler

Digital Training Campus available for deployed Soldiers

Portable professional development classrooms that can be set up virtually anywhere are currently being used by deployed units.

The classrooms are so portable that one unit in Afghanistan reportedly created a plywood structure to house theirs.

These mini-schoolhouses are part of an initiative called the Deployed Digital Training Campus, or DDTC, developed by the Army's Distributed Learning System, aiming to provide deployed Soldiers with the ability to work on their military education while overseas.

By providing brigade-sized units with a DDTC as part of their deployment equipment, leaders can ensure their Soldiers' education doesn't fall behind, even when stationed at primitive outposts.

Each DDTC is equipped with 20 laptop workstations, internet accessibility, video tele-training, voice over IP or VOIP, designated satellite access, and can be set up in less than two hours. The DDTC also puts Soldiers in direct connection with more than 1,200 pre-loaded Army Learning Management System courses.

Glenn Maravillas, the deputy project director for DDTC, said many times Soldiers don't have access to the equipment needed to work on their professional development while deployed -- something that can delay promotions.

"It provides Soldiers and civilians who are deployed a means to access training and by completing training, gain promotion points, so they can move on in rank," Maravillas said.

Maravillas noted that some units without much dwell time also find it hard to complete professional training while at home.

"Noncommissioned officers like the concept because they can schedule time for their Soldiers to work on their schooling when they have down time," Maravillas noted.

The DDTC classrooms also have another advantage: they are classified capable if needed. Units can also use the teleconferencing feature to talk to their rear detachment at home, or their replacement unit, Maravillas said.

Brigades can request a DDTC from their higher headquarters as they are readying for deployment, and certify unit system operators with a three-day training course. Then a DDTC will be issued to the brigade on a hand-receipt and returned after the deployment like any other piece of equipment.

Maravillas noted that DDTCs fall within the Chief of Staff of the Army's Learning Concept 2015, which stresses access to technology to enable education.

The first DDTC was sent overseas last year and there are currently six campuses in deployed locations, with plans for a total of 50 to be developed by 2015. And the capability is not limited to active-duty units -- Reserve and National Guard brigades can request them as well.

*Alexandra Hammerly-Brown
Army News Service*