



The dL STAR

Supporting Training Awareness and Readiness

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Issue 3
Volume 1

Leadership Introduction

Welcome to the third edition of the dL STAR. We continue to receive a lot of positive feedback on the new format and we're glad you like the new integrated newsletter. We plan on continuing this newsletter with refinements and enhancements as necessary. Some enhancements coming out in the next couple of weeks are online information pages, informative videos, and a new Digital Passkey (DPK), so stay tuned.

There are a lot of new and exciting things happening in Army dL that are currently being developed and fielded that will significantly enhance how our Soldiers access and use dL products. In future editions of the dL STAR, we'll be talking about new deployments and fielding of the Deployed Digital Training Campus (DDTC), which continues to be one of our premiere initiatives. We'll be telling you about significant improvements to the Army Learning Management System (ALMS) which will empower trainers to bring the very latest doctrine and training to the Warfighter in near real time. We're also looking forward to being able to tell you about progress we've made in developing formal requirements for the new Army Training Information System (ATIS) and for collecting dL effectiveness metrics in near real time.

Here's what's in this edition of the dL STAR. We're introducing version three of the DPK and it's the first DPK produced since the stand up of the integrated Army dL Outreach Team. We're introducing a new online workflow process for nominating dL courses for development approval. We have an article that gives you an Army level view on how dL supports the overall training capacity. We have several other articles from our team mates in the dL arena.

As always the purpose of the dL STAR is to share information on how we can and do use dL to support the Soldier. If you or someone you know is interested in receiving the dL star, let us know so we can add them to our mailing list.

We are always looking for your comments and suggestions, not just about this publication but about everything and anything having to do with dL (systems, courseware, policies, etc); we're here to serve YOU! Email monr.armydl@monroe.army.mil with your input and inquiries.

COL James Markley
TPIO, TADLP

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6th Annual dL Workshop

ATSC conducted its 6th Annual distributed Learning (dL) Workshop, 13-15 March 2007, at the Marriott Hotel, Williamsburg, VA, with over 340 participants representing DOD Executive Services, Joint Services, Army proponent schools, Reserve Component, National Guard, dL contractors, HQ TRADOC, ATSC, and other Services. In addition, 11 individuals from 3 different remote sites participated via CollabWorx.

The Workshop focused on requirements, issues, and challenges for preparing the Army Warfighter for a Joint operational environment. The three day event included the first ATSC sponsored TRADOC-wide dL Maverick Award for innovative, out-of-the-box dL work, 16 general session presentations, 5 workgroup sessions, Blackboard training sessions, Vendor Displays, information booths, and special ad-hoc meetings. Mr. Lou Iorizzo, ATSC Executive Director, opened the workshop by welcoming the participants, and providing an overview on the scheduled presentations and sessions. Dr. Connie Wardell, Director, Individual Training Support, ATSC, presented the "dL Maverick of the Year" award to Ms. Terry Hancock, Soldier Support Institute, Fort Jackson, SC, for her outstanding work in fielding two dL finance courses.

General session presentations included keynote speakers, the Honorable Dr. David Chu, Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness); Mr. Fred Hartman, Director, Joint Assessment and Enabling Capability, OUSD; and Dr. Richard Clark, University of Southern California. Dr. Chu presented his perspective on Training Transformation (T2) and preparing for the Joint operational environment; Mr. Hartman discussed assessing Joint training to ensure readiness; and Dr. Clark provided an overview on the lessons learned from implementing Guided Experiential Learning strategies in Army training.

Special Guest Speakers addressing Joint initiatives to prepare the Warfighter included MG John P. McLaren, Vice Commander, Joint Warfighting Center, JFCOM; Mr. Joe Camacho, Joint Knowledge Development and Distribution Capability (JKDDC), JFCOM; and MAJ John M. Lozano, (Marines), Quantico, VA.

The Army's special presentations were initiated by COL James Markley, TRADOC Program Integration Officer for The Army Distributed Learning Program (TPIO-TADLP), with an update on TADLP, now and future. LTC Robert Bean, PM-DLS, presented the Army Learning Management System (ALMS) suite of tools

and future efforts for connectivity support. Additionally, CSM John Sparks, TRADOC HQs, discussed strategies for leveraging technology to educate and train NCOs.

Other outstanding speakers included, Director, Advanced Distributed Learning Co-Lab, Mr. Paul Jesukiewicz, who discussed the success and challenges associated with SCORM 2004 and Learning/Content Management Systems; Dr. Michael Shanley, RAND Corp. researcher, who provided an overview on a study being conducted this year at request of TPIO-TADLP on ways of improving dL; Ms. Sheila Ahrens, ATSC, and Mr. Michael Faughnan, TRADOC HQs, who discussed the Human Performance Improvement Center initiative and the way ahead for supporting the training

community; and Mr. Iorizzo, ATSC Executive Director, who discussed the Common Core Scenario Courseware Module, a contract being worked to allow proponent service schools to link together in a virtual-constructive simulation to practice mission exercises.

The workgroups were facilitated by subject matter experts to focus on specific issues/challenges and identified recommended courses of action for resolution. The five workgroup topics were: 1) Creating a Simulated Environment – Current and Future Requirements, Dr. Kathleen Quinkert, TRADOC; 2) Determining Best Practices for Incremental Maintenance of dL Courseware, Ms. Mary Boyd, ATSC; 3) Challenges/Issues Related to Joint Training Strategy, Mr. Michael Barnum, JKDDC; 4) Solutions and Courses of Action for the ALMS Current and Future, LTC Robert Bean, PM-DLS; and Streamlining dL Development: Validations, On-Line Review, and Productivity Tool Use, Dr. Connie Wardell, ATSC.

DL presentation materials from the general session and working group sessions are available on the distributed Learning Knowledge Network (DLKN), at the following URL: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/folder/7247022>

In addition to the dL Workshop, two other important events were conducted during the same week and location, thereby saving resources and travel time for participants who attend all three events. The Technical Change Control Board (TCCB) for the Distributed Learning Education and Training Products (dLETP) contract delivery order template was held Mon, 12 March and chaired by Mr. Jim Tripp, ATSC; and COL James Markley, TPIO-TADLP, conducted a dL Courseware Prioritization session 16 March for proponents to identify their dL course redesign requirements for FY08 and FY09.

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The Technical Change Control Board (TCCB)

What is the TCCB?

The Technical Change Control Board (TCCB) was organized in October 2002. It establishes a uniform process for management of changes to technical requirements governing the development of dL courseware. These requirements are then "published" in Performance Work Statement (PWS) templates used to award dL courseware development delivery orders (DO) under the Distributed Learning Education and Training Products (dLETP) contract. The TCCB membership is comprised of members from all facets of the dL training community to include: computer technical experts; TRADOC dL policy makers; USAR and NGB POCs; proponent school instructional technologists; contract specialists and the dLETP contractors. The TCCB process ensures dLETP DO technical requirements comply with the Army Training Information Architecture (ATIA) to ensure dL courseware plays on designated Army hardware and software systems. The TCCB also ensures that the educational and training requirements in the PWS template are in accordance with TRADOC regulatory requirements and directives from the TRADOC Program Integration Officer (TPIO) for Distributed Learning.

How the Process Works

The TCCB requests and reviews proposed changes to the PWS template that originate with new or revised technology standards and specifications, policy changes, and lessons learned from the training development community, dL contractors, and contract managers. This change analysis covers issues of quality, reliability, reusability, maintainability, security, delivery systems, and cost.

Once changes to the delivery order are approved by the board's voting members, the approved changes are forwarded to the TPIO-TADLP who has final approval of any changes that will either increase dL courseware development costs and/or result in increased courseware development times.

Recent Board Activities

The TCCB met on 12 March 2007, just prior to the 6th Annual dL Workshop held in Williamsburg, Virginia. The board's list of proposed changes covered such technical topics as: strategies for implementing the latest Advance Distributed Learning (ADL) Shareable Content Object Reference Model (SCORM) standards; potential impact on dL courseware with the pending implementation of Microsoft's Internet Explorer 7.0 and Vista operating system; and changes to the baseline home PC configuration. The TCCB also addressed educational and

training topics such as implementation of the Guided Experiential Learning (GEL) model; the use of diagnostic mastery pretests; contractor requirements for courseware quality control; and identification of ways to help learners experiencing playability issues with dL courseware. Some of the outcomes from the Mar 07 TCCB were:

- Update of the minimum baseline home computer specifications:
 - ▶ changed display resolution from 800x600 to 1024x768
 - ▶ optimized courseware for broadband delivery at 128kb/s vice a 56k modem
 - ▶ increased the minimum PC CPU speed to 1GHz
- Creation of a stand alone "GettingStarted" help file that is available before courseware is launched. This file provides the Learner instructions on contacting the Army Training Help Desk (ATHD) and gives the minimum system requirements, desktop software configuration, required browser, and required plug-ins and browser set-up requirements for playing the courseware.
- Added the GEL model to the PWS template.
- Increased quality control requirements of courseware developers to ensure likelihood of courseware passing technical acceptance testing on initial submission.
- Clarified Learning Management System delivery requirements to comply with TPIO-TADLP directives.

The TCCB work continues throughout the year in follow-on sessions as needed to keep pace with changes in technology and to keep the training community informed and involved. Please forward questions or comments to IMITech@atsc.army.mil.

Training Development

New Army Learning Model (ALM) for Professional Military Education (PME)

The Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) will require TRADOC to produce a continuous output of Soldiers to Brigad Combat Teams (BCT). As a result, TRADOC must initiate practices that maximize limited funding and manpower for the

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In late 2006 a gap in Humvee mechanic training was identified: Army 63 Bravo mechanics were missing a small step in the work instruction for a common procedure on the Humvee geared hub spindle. As a result, there was an increased risk of the wheel detaching from Humvees when driven, endangering both Soldier safety and mission success.

CW5 Jackson immediately reviewed the Humvee mechanics training curriculum and identified the need to augment the training with materials that would specifically address the training gap. Aware of the success Fort Leonard Wood's Maneuver Support Center (MANSCEN) was having using NGRAIN interactive 3D simulations in ground vehicle maintenance training at the Engineering School, Jackson had already received copies of the training materials from MANSCEN. The materials included an existing, government-owned NGRAIN 3D model of the Humvee wheel system. Using the commercial-off-the-shelf NGRAIN Producer software, Jackson had a WVMS instructor create a 3D animation of the procedure in question, using the NGRAIN software. Creation of the 3D procedural animation, including voice over audio, was completed in a matter of hours.

CW5 Jackson integrated the interactive 3D simulation into the Humvee mechanic training course with minimal expense. Within weeks of adding the 3D simulations to the training course, results of the transformation were recognized. Unit Commanders receiving WVMS graduates called Jackson to ask, "What did you change? These mechanics are better prepared than in the past!"

CW5 Jackson, through his willingness to act quickly and take risks to solve training challenges creatively, epitomizes a training maverick. By reaching out to MANSCEN and the Engineering School at Fort Leonard Wood, and using systems thinking instead of stove-pipe thinking, CW5 Jackson was able to repurpose existing government materials to solve a new training problem. Likewise, by thinking outside of the box and empowering his instructional staff to introduce new training technologies to the classroom, CW5 Jackson was able to rapidly deliver tangible training results in an exceptionally short timeframe, resulting in increased Soldier safety in the field.

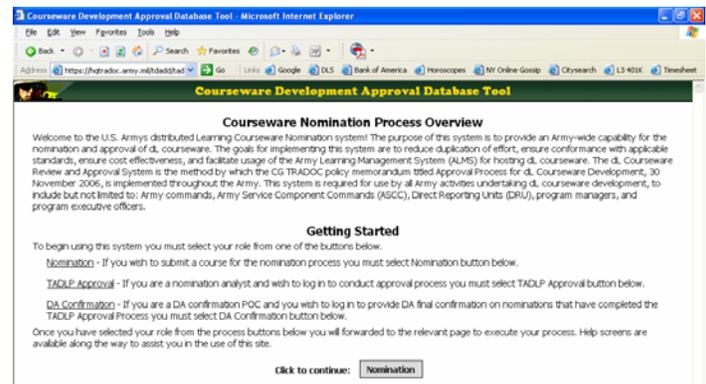
New Online Courseware Nomination System and Process Overview

The Army has introduced a new online system that provides the point of entry for all new dL courseware development projects. The purpose of the U.S. Army's new dL Courseware Nomination System is to provide an Army-wide capability for the nomination and approval of dL courseware. The goals for implementing this system are to reduce duplication of effort,

ensure conformance with applicable standards, and ensure cost effectiveness. The dL Courseware Nomination System is the method by which the CG TRADOC policy memorandum titled Approval Process for dL Courseware Development, dated 30 November 2006, will be implemented throughout the Army. This system is required for use by all Army activities undertaking dL courseware development, to include but not limited to: Army commands, Army Service Component Commands (ASCC), Direct Reporting Units (DRU), program managers, and program executive officers.

Using the system:

- Logon to: <https://hqtadoc.army.mil/tdadd/tadlp/cwapproval/default.aspx> (you must have an AKO username and password to access the system).



- Once on the welcome page click the "Nomination" button to take you to the start page.
- On the start page you will see all of the courses that have been submitted for approval. Use this as your first source for determining whether your course is already under development.
- As you proceed through your nomination process you will be given the opportunity to search other databases for courses that may already exist.
- Once you've had a chance to review the existing nominations and feel comfortable your course does not already exist on the table, you can begin your nomination activity by clicking on the "Create NEW Courseware Development Request" button.
- Help screens are available along the way to assist you in the use of the nomination processes.

In addition to being the point of entry for approval of new dL Courseware projects, this site also serves as a first step in automating the workflow process for the dL Courseware development process. Various processes included in this nomination site will prompt you to provide information that is required before you can begin actual development work on

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the project. These data elements will be collected in the online database and shared with relevant agencies at the Army Training Support Center (ATSC). This is only the first step in bringing efficiency to what has historically been a complex and sometimes overly bureaucratic process. As the system matures more efficiencies and capabilities will be added to the site. The goal is to make the courseware development process speedier while ensuring success of the project.

A special note to TADLP Courseware Proponents: all TADLP courseware is subject to the same approval process that has been outlined above. In addition, this system will serve as an enhancement to the Annual Courseware Prioritization Process. TADLP Courseware Proponents wishing to add, edit or delete courses for the upcoming Fiscal Year dL Redesign Priority List can use this system. You will be prompted early in the process to identify whether your dL course nomination is on the TADLP 1-N List. All proponents nominating TADLP courses must be prepared to provide the usual documentation provided for courseware redesign. Details of required information will be provided during the nomination process.

In addition to the policy memorandum already signed by the TRADOC Commanding General, GEN William Wallace, a similar policy memorandum will be signed and promulgated in an ALARACT by Department of the Army G3. The purpose of the DA G3 policy memorandum is to expand the scope of applicability across the entire Army. There are more and more cases of dL courseware being developed in various non-TRADOC organizations and venues. The hope is that these non-TRADOC courseware developers can be made aware of the great wealth of training material that is already under development and already fielded. The likelihood of finding existing material instead of needing to develop new material can only be achieved through the implementation of a system as described above, the policy requiring its use, and through spreading the word that this new valuable resource exists.

For questions call (757) 788-5563 or visit: <https://hqtradoc.army.mil/tdadd/tadlp/cwapproval/default.asp>

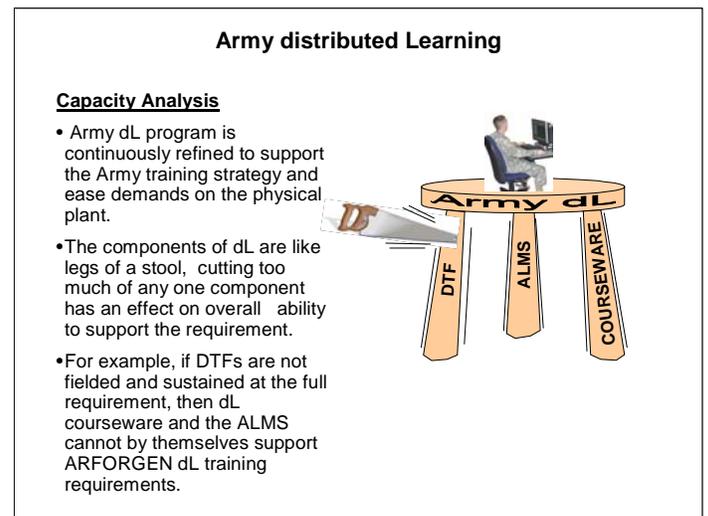
How Army dL Supports the Total Army Training Capacity (TATC)

Army dL is not just a set of tools but a fundamental means for achieving the strategic goal of fielding a trained Army that can fight and win the nation's wars and successfully complete all missions it may be called upon to meet. It is no secret, however, that today's contemporary operating environment has placed unique strains on the Army's ability to keep up with the

training demand whether the demand is in the institutional domain, the operational domain or even the self-development domain. To meet the demands of the ARFORGEN training cycle in an environment with reduced resources and high premium on manpower the Army relies on the Training and Doctrine Command to leverage innovative approaches to training that will ensure that the Army's razor-sharp lethality and competence is not dulled by the COE. Foremost amongst the demands that must be met is sustaining the capacity to train in infrastructure, manpower and resources. Here's how Army dL contributes to the Army's training capacity.

The fundamental components of Army dL are digital training facilities (DTF), the Army Learning Management System (ALMS), dL courseware and of course the requisite policy to coordinate the efficient implementation of all of the above. The DTF provide training access through technology to a geographically dispersed student population. They provide Army enterprise backbone to support Army Learning Model requirements. The DTF includes classrooms twenty-one (CRXI), ARNG DTTP classrooms, and Deployed Digital Training Campuses (DDTCs), which provide access to training for an Army at war while deployed. The ALMS is the Army's enterprise training management tool. It is key to implementing the Army Learning Model, task-based training, and tracking training progress regardless of where the training is implemented. In addition, the ALMS is the Commander's tool for conducting skills-gap analyses at the individual Soldier level. Finally, courseware redesigned for dL tailors institutional training for the operational environment and allows for flexibility in implementing innovative training strategies. Distributed Learning courseware also helps eliminate the training backlog in the NCO education system (NCOES).

Figure 1 - dL Components



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Army dL is designed to support the training capacity based on a comprehensive strategy. All components of dL must be taken in their totality and in context of the relationship to each other. Decrementing portions of specific dL components can have an effect on the ability of the other components to function as intended (see figure 1 above). For example, if DTFs are not fielded and sustained at the full requirement then the planned training using dL courseware and the ALMS may not be achievable as required to support ARFORGEN. Army dL supports ARFORGEN training cycle with standardized training when and where needed for Active Army, Army National Guard, US Army Reserve Soldiers and Units. The capacity each of these components is designed to meet is measured by unique characteristics. The DTF capacity is measured by its footprint across the AC, ARNG, & USAR and the number of DTF seat-hours available to the Army. The ALMS capacity is measured only by its functionality or more specifically the percentage of necessary functional capabilities in the actual fielded system. Courseware capacity is measured through sheer numbers of courses redesigned per fiscal year.

Figure 2 - DTF Capacity

DTF Infrastructure Capacity Calculations

- There are 231 TADLP DTFs
 - 25,872 seat hours available per day
- There are 129 CRXXI classrooms
 - 24,624 seat hours available per day
 - Proponent school validated requirement of 51,840 technology enhanced seat hours required at the resident school per day
- There are 328 DTPP classrooms (3,857 workstations)
 - 30,856 seat hours available per day
- There are 200 seat hours available per day in each DDTC (based on 10 hour operating day with 20 seats per classroom)
 - FY08= 1DDTC= 200 seat hours per day
 - FY11= 31DDTC= 6,200 seat hours per day
 - FY13= 50DDTC= 10,000 seat hours per day

The Army is able to rely heavily on its dL components based on the metrics mentioned earlier. The Army has the capacity to train students in DTFs at a rate of 91K seat hours per day. Ultimately, when its dL strategy is fully implemented, the Army will support up to 200K seat hours of training in a DTF per day. Given that these units represent Soldiers who may be deployed or still at home station, this is a significant capacity. The Army is meeting 83% of its objective requirements or capacity with the ALMS as it is today. The ALMS will probably never reach a 100% level simply because it is the nature of requirements to change and be refined on a constant basis. Finally, dL courseware is being funded at an average rate of 28 courses per year. This is off from the objective goal of 47 per year, but represents the reality of constrained resources that make capacity assessments so critical in the first place.

For more information visit the My Training section of AKO or The Army Distributed Learning Program (TADLP) at www.tradoc.army.mil/tadlp/index.htm.

Army Awards Lockheed Martin Deployed Digital Training Campus (DDTC) Contract

The U.S. Army recently announced that Lockheed Martin has been awarded a contract to create and integrate the Deployed Digital Training Campus (DDTC), which will result in a mobile equipment suite developed to deliver digital training to deployed Soldiers via satellite communications.

Lockheed Martin will create two prototype units, followed by the production of 52 additional units. The company is responsible for the engineering, integration and lifecycle



sustainment of the DDTC units. Lockheed Martin will partner with Omega Systems, Inc. and SRA International on the DDTC contract. Work is expected to take place in Northern Va., Colorado, and Newport News, Va.

The DDTC is part of the Army Distributed Learning System (DLS), and will be used primarily to train deployed Soldiers who do not have access to training facilities. Each DDTC consists of a mobile networked system of 20 notebook computers, a server, printer and equipment to transfer digital information to and from satellites. The DDTC units will also be used to meet training demands and relieve the effect of equipment shortages brought about by surge conditions on Army installations.

The DDTC is an integral component of the Department of Defense Advanced Distributed Learning (ADL) Initiative and the Strategic Plan for Transforming DoD Training, which employs a wide range of technologies to support quality education and training.

For more information on the Army's DDTC, please log on to: www.dls.army.mil.

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Army e-Learning Changes Training Thinking

The future of Army training has arrived. The Distributed Learning System (DLS), a government-funded infrastructure providing distributed learning to 1.2 million Army personnel, has taken steps toward ensuring tomorrow's Army is properly trained today. Through Army e-Learning, an online program that offers 2,600 free courses to Soldiers, civilians and cadets, DLS is providing a critical training service in the form of custom curricula. By developing custom learning paths for unit or organizations core competencies, users are receiving the training and education they require.

"When programs come to us requesting a specific custom curricula, we're able to prepare them for missions and/or deployment," said Army e-Learning Project Officer Stan Davis. "In three to five days, we can develop a custom learning path. We currently have 38 organizations operating paths and we're starting to see requests come in more frequently."

One of those requests came from the Army's Assistant G-1 for Civilian Personnel Field Operations Division (formerly known as Civilian Human Resource Agency) in 2005. In need of tactical direction, FOD requested Army e-Learning put together a custom learning path for its National Security Personnel System (NSPS) core competency training. A custom curriculum was necessary in preparing for the gradual conversion of Army civilians to NSPS, a new civilian human resources system in the Department of Defense.

"Army e-Learning made it easier for us to provide employees with specific training material that can help them before, during, and after the conversion to NSPS," said Bob Cronin, a human resources specialist in the FOD. "The program not only analyzed our competencies and recommended specific courses; they provided us with a real-time view of the progress we were making."

The significant results of Army e-Learning courses are nothing new. Since 2004, Army managers and supervisors have completed over 8,775 custom courses and employees completed more than 12,125 courses. As of February 18, 2007, roughly 16,000 Army civilians have successfully converted to NSPS, and the courses offered by Army e-Learning have helped employees and managers in the successful conversions to NSPS.

Army e-Learning offers a number of courses available in the Army's NSPS Core Competency Learning Path to include "Managing Through the Change" and "Communication Skills for Leadership" for supervisors, and "Being Prepared for Change" and "Communicate for Results" for employees.



"Army e-Learning went above and beyond working with us to develop a custom-specific training program for users. They really helped us organize a thought-out learning path," said Cronin. "Our users continue to benefit from the innovative program. I would encourage any Army organization with a training mission to look at Army e-Learning closely. It's a no-brainer."

Since its launch in 1999, Army e-Learning has given users the training tools they need to advance their careers. What's more, the program significantly reduces costs for the Army. Approximately \$86 million has been saved over the past three years; an additional \$12 million is estimated to be saved over the next three years.

Available 24 hours a day, Army e-Learning is universally accessible through the Army Knowledge Online portal. Its courses have become so popular that, since its inception, more than 426,000 users have taken an Army e-Learning course. That level of participation is no surprise to Leslie York, Army e-Learning's administrator.

"It is highly important that Soldiers and civilians train effectively to accomplish their mission. If you don't have a trained force, you can't accomplish the task or utilize the tools you need to reach key objectives," said York. "Through our custom learning paths, we provide users with the information they need whenever, wherever."

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Soldier's Corner

eOrdnanceU – Ordnance Center and Schools' Online University



The Ordnance Center and Schools established in October 2004 its Ordnance University at Aberdeen Proving Ground to be the organizational structure for delivering lifelong learning to Ordnance Commanders, Warrant Officers, NCOs, Soldiers, leaders, civilians, and units worldwide. The staff that coordinates the organization of lifelong learning for the eOrdnanceU are part of the Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School (OMMS) and the Ordnance Munitions and Electronic Maintenance School (OMEMS) Directorates of Instruction. The eOrdnanceU Lifelong Learning Center (LLC) provides training in a variety of high-tech specialties, presently hosts over 550 courses, and provides thousands of shareable documents to tens of thousands of people every year.

The LLC vision for the eOrdnanceU Portal is that the Ordnance Corps have a similar relationship as a graduate has with one's college or high school alma mater. We go back for reunions, homecomings, advanced degrees; we have a sense of community (with our alma mater). The LLC provides all Ordnance Corp Soldiers the opportunity to return to their proponent schools throughout their careers.

The idea is that the university is more than brick and mortar – it's a combination of hardware, software, facilities, connectivity, and people providing lifelong learning materials, information, and support that includes 24/7 reach back. In the case of the Ordnance Center and Schools, the eOrdnanceU becomes the Ordnance Soldiers' "home" university. The eOrdnanceU has more than 14,000 registered users and more than 300 active classes. The eOrdnanceU Portal consists of news items, on-line forums, a digital library which stores simulations and other materials, and links to various helpful research sites. This type of Knowledge Management (KM) access is vital to the Soldier in aiding mission accomplishment for whenever a need arises to recall something essential for the task at hand, eOrdnanceU will be there – all the Soldier needs is Internet access.

As students take courses through the eOrdnanceU Blackboard, the student management functions track what courses (even what modules of the course), have been taken, so that if the course content is updated, the LLC or the course instructor can notify the Soldier. The LLC reviews the content – whether it's simulations, instructional modules, or the entire course – to ensure it is educationally sound and organized into meaningful training packages that tell the learner upfront what they are to do, how to do it, why it's important, and how well they did upon completion. In that way, the eOrdnanceU Blackboard becomes not only a collection of training and educational materials but a means to standardize what you need to know and when you need to know it.

We are digitizing all the course content to make it available to students anywhere at anytime. Once the courses are digitized, Active, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers can receive the same instruction in a standardized format. Additionally, individual Soldiers can refresh their skills whenever they need to, but they do not have to go back through an entire course. In most cases, lessons are made available as unique refreshers courses.



The eOrdnanceU is one of the largest DOD on-line universities supporting 19 RTSMs, 6 TASS Battalions, 7 active training locations and various MTTs. Additionally, units in Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, Korea, and other locations have established courses supporting their individual missions. We have Soldiers conducting homework assignments, check-on-learning quizzes, participating in class discussion boards, and other online training after standard classroom hours while attending residential courses. Maximizing the training opportunity while Soldiers are in school is vital to reinforcing the lifelong learning process. These learning habits gained in school should continue throughout a Soldier's career.

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The eOrdnanceU empowers Soldiers with a web portal, which is the central home for individual needs. Soldiers around the world can instantly access Knowledge Management (KM) documents, conduct collaborative discussions via forums, share information papers via sownloads, get the latest training news, participate in online ordnance surveys to improve Soldiers training and receive online training via Blackboard (our Academic Delivery Platform) used by most major civilian colleges and universities. Reinforcement, refresher, sustainment training and continuing education are all currently available.

The eOrdnanceU provides training and knowledge management "To the Line, On-Line, On-Time. For more information on eOrdnanceU, e-mail: eOUadmin@apg.army.mil

Visit us at the: eOrdnance Portal <https://ordnanceu.army.mil/> / eOrdnanceU Blackboard <https://courses.apg.army.mil>

Minimum Personal Computer (PC) Requirements for Playing distributed Learning (dL) Courseware – "The Baseline Home Computer Configuration:

While it is probably not the question most Soldiers want answered, it may be an important one when it comes to training. What is the baseline home computer configuration and who sets the standard?

The Army's dL Program offers Soldiers and civilians the opportunity to participate in training anywhere and at anytime. An important part of this program is to develop dL courseware that will play on a typical Soldier's home PC. PC specifications like processor speed, amount of RAM, the size of the hard drive, etc., can vary significantly from Soldier to Soldier based on how old their PC is; how much they spent on it originally, and what upgrades they may have made to it. Therefore it is important to target PC requirements toward the low end in order to maximize the number of Soldiers who have a computer that meets the requirements for playing dL courseware. This is where the baseline home computer configuration comes into play.

When dL courseware is designed, the developer must consider the delivery systems that the courseware will be played on.

Detailed PC specifications are provided to dL developers and are identified right down to the smallest detail. This is to ensure the courseware plays as designed and the training experience is fulfilling. The amount of memory needed, the screen resolution, and the speed of the processor are part of the standards review done ever year to make sure these standards are up to date. The latest specifications can be found at www.atsc.army.mil/itsd/imi/StandardSpecifications.asp. All PCs in all digital training facilities (DTFs) meet this standard (or higher). Soldiers or civilians who train at home will have the best success if their systems meet or exceed the minimum standard as well. While technology has continued to evolve and systems become more and more complex, the baseline used in this standard must grow at a slower pace to keep courseware playing in computers in homes and offices all around the world.

TIP: Soldiers should refer to the Help file in the specific course they are enrolled in to ensure their PC meets the minimum requirements for playing their course. This file will also indicate what browser plug-ins and settings (e.g., Pop Up Blockers turned off) are required.

The table below lists the evolution of this baseline standard since 2001.

Year	2001	2003	2004	2006	2007
CPU	Pentium II / III or equivalent	Pentium II / III or equivalent	Pentium II / III or equivalent	Pentium II / III or equivalent	Pentium IV or equivalent
Screen Resolution	800 x 600 pixels	800 x 600 pixels	800 x 600 pixels	800 x 600 pixels	1024 x 768 pixels
RAM (memory)	64 MB	128 MB	192 MB	192 MB	192MB
Hard Drive Free Storage Area	1 GB	1GB	1GB	1GB	1GB
Portable Storage	31/2 floppy	31/2 floppy	31/2 floppy	31/2 floppy	31/2 floppy or USB storage device
Processor Speed	233 or higher Mhz speed	233 or higher Mhz speed	233 or higher Mhz speed	233 or higher Mhz speed	1GHz or higher speed
Operating system	Windows 95, 98, ME, NT, or Windows 2000	Windows 98, ME, 2000 or Windows XP	Windows 2000 or XP	Windows 2000 or XP	Windows 2000 or XP
Internet Connection	56K Modem	56K Modem	56K Modem	56K Modem	Broadband of 128kb/s

Changes in technology are on the horizon with the introduction of Microsoft VISTA and the new version of Internet Explorer (IE7). Standards will be reviewed as the Army begins to implement these upgrades with appropriate changes made to the baseline home PC configuration.

Please forward any questions or comments to IMITech@atsc.army.mil.

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Introducing the 3rd Edition of the Army dL Digital Passkey

Beginning in April 2007 the Army dL integrated outreach team will introduce and send out the third edition of the Army dL Digital Passkey (DPK). This is the first time that the DPK has been developed by the integrated outreach team. The DPK includes a number of smaller products also developed in collaboration between the various Army dL agencies. There are

videos, online DTF locations, online surveys and FAQ's, and messages from the leadership of the various Army dL agencies.

The purpose of the DPK is to provide users valuable information on what Army dL is, how they can access it, and

how they can use dL to aid in their jobs and enhance their careers. The plan is to distribute the DPK throughout the entire Army. The target audiences range from young Soldiers just starting out in their Army career to senior Army leaders. The DPK will run on standard desktop computer configurations, but does require an Internet connection and the Flash player plug-in, to experience the full extent of the content.

For more information regarding the DPK and information on how you can get a copy please visit our website at www.tradoc.army.mil/tadlp/index.htm.

The dL STAR wants to hear from you!

Email the dL STAR at monr.armydl@monroe.army.mil if you would like to be added to our distribution list, if you know someone who would be interested in receiving the dL STAR, or if you have a dL related article or link that you would like to see posted.



dL Links



www.us.army.mil ; My Training



The Army Distributed Learning Program (TADLP)
www.tradoc.army.mil/tadlp



The Distributed Learning System (DLS) www.dls.army.mil



The Army e-Learning program
www.us.army.mil ; My Education



Army Training Help Desk (ATHD)
<https://athd.army.mil>



TRADOC's Army Training Support Center (ATSC)
www.atsc.army.mil

Soldier Training Homepage
www.train.army.mil



The Army National Guard (ARNG)
www.arng.army.mil/about_us/training/dl/

VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY

<https://arrtc.mccoy.army.mil>

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