

The

DL STAR



Distributed Learning Supporting Training Awareness and Readiness

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SECTION 1: Leadership

Welcome to Edition Fifteen of the DL STAR!



Teammates,

Since our last edition, we have all felt the sting of the furlough and are grateful to be back to work continuing our mission in support of Army training and education. We continue to thank you all for your diligent efforts and the many hours you put in to making this important program such a success.

I want to take this opportunity to make you aware of some of the exciting initiatives we have ongoing to promote the program and increase its responsiveness to our training and education community. We are very excited to inform you that we've established the TRADOC Project Office - Mobile (TPO-M), under the oversight of the TCM TADLP, to spearhead TRADOC's effort in moving Mobile Learning to the foreground. LTC Kyle P. Reichle is heading that effort. Please welcome him to the program.



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We are in the midst of conducting the Councils of Colonels leading up to the Training General Officer Steering Committee to discuss and develop solutions for various program issues and initiatives.

Some areas of focus regarding Army DL are: establishing a mobile learning capability and the way ahead; sunseting of DKO and its impact on Army proponents, and Points of Delivery way ahead.

For our proponents and COEs, to meet your requirements and concerns, we have decreased the backlog of courseware by nearly 90% and have added additional testers and addressed the testing processes in order to shorten the time it takes to test courseware for fielding. We will describe this process in a future edition of the Star.

Now on to this edition...We are excited to present two new DL enablers: the DIF and the DART. The Distributed Instruction Framework "DIF™" content development tool will allow us to create and update DL products in-house. The Diagnose Advisement Research Technical "DART" team will provide the capability to determine the source of Army DL issues and identify measures to correct them.

Also in this issue we look at ALMS 4.0 capabilities and the JKO mobile learning pilot results.

In today's ever increasing fiscally constrained environment, it's great to see how enterprise level learning technologies assists us in working through the many challenges that we continue to face regarding developing and distributing training and education to the force at the point of need.

As always, if you have any questions, opinions, or articles you'd like to share, please feel free to contact us.

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We are proud to serve and support!

Helen A. Remily
TRADOC Capability Manager
The Army Distributed Learning Program

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SECTION 2: Curriculum Development

ALMS 4.0 Release in FY14

By Megan Quick, Army eLearning Project Officer

PD DLS is developing the next major upgrade of the Army Learning Management System, ALMS 4.0. The new release will be based on updated architecture with a Linux® Red Hat® operating system, WebSphere® application server and Oracle® database. The current code base and database structure customizations will be evaluated and reprogrammed for inclusion to the new version as needed to meet specialized Army training requirements.

ALMS 4 will have a very similar learning structure and functionality as ALMS 3.0. Users familiar with ALMS 3.0 will experience no difficulty in adapting to ALMS 4.0. Functional benefits will include the ability to better manipulate user interface screens and added support for offline play of content in mobile devices. Technical benefits include additional system management flexibility, improvements in performance, and more robust system administrative functions.

The ALMS 4.0 upgrade is targeted for release in October 2014.

Did you Know?

The new content development tool - Distributed Multimedia Instruction Framework or "DIF™" has video tutorials online. These brief video snippets give information about creating a new module, adding pages to a course, reusing existing content, layering assets, checking-in and checking-out work, revision history, and releasing and publishing. It also goes over administrative functions and user roles.

Our next publication will have an article devoted to the new content development tool, but at this time it would be a good idea to get a peek at what you'll expect to see when you use it.

<http://www.d2teamsim.com/diftraining/tutorials.html>



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Joint Knowledge Online (JKO) Mobile Learning Pilot

By Nancy Russell, JKO Strategic Communications



Mr. Mark Willman, JKO Chief Information Officer, demonstrates JKO Mobile Roles Based Access at the NATO ACT ADL Summit in Suffolk, Virginia, on 10 September 2013.

The Joint Knowledge Online (JKO) / Advanced Distributed Learning (ADL) Mobile Pilot (commonly referred to as JKO Mobile) is a DOD collaborative effort to deliver military training and job aid content using Apple and Android mobile devices. The JKO Mobile App is a free download available in Apple and Android App stores, for Apple and Android tablet and phone users, delivering access to unclassified training courses, job aids, eBooks, podcasts and videos.

A collaborative effort by the Joint Staff JKO Division within the Joint Training Directorate and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) ADL Initiative, JKO Mobile leverages the JKO distributed learning architecture and mobile technology in common use today, to extend delivery of training and job aids to individuals on mobile devices as well as desktop computers. Fielded in 2007, JKO is the DOD unique and authoritative distributed learning capability that delivers global, 24/7 access to web-based, immersive, interactive training and joint learning resources. It is the OSD-sponsored, Joint Staff system of record for joint training.

ADL is the DOD Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Readiness) Initiative to advance the power of learning and information technologies to standardize and modernize DOD education and training. Also participating is the **ADL** Partnership Lab Network.

Partnership Labs work within their country and with other Partnership Labs and ADL to further ADL's vision to develop and disseminate common guidelines, lessons learned, and tutorials for ADL and to share resources among all stakeholders. ADL Partnership Labs are participating in the JKO/ADL Mobile Pilot to enhance the ability to share coalition training using mobile devices.



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The JKO Mobile capability is enabled by:

- 1) The JKO Mobile App that is the mobile device application used to download mobile content and synchronize information with the
- 2) mobile Learning Suite (m-LS) mobile content server that manages all mobile content and mobile user information. Mobile content in the m-LS is segregated by Public access and Personal Identification Number (PIN), or password, access. U.S. mobile users obtain a PIN by completing the *“Introduction to JKO Mobile”* course on the desktop JKO learning content management system. Data security is designed into the JKO Mobile architecture.

All information is unclassified with no material requiring handling caveats. The only information resident on the mobile device is the student’s PIN and mobile downloads, so no Personally Identifiable Information (PII) is at risk.

The JKO Mobile App is available in both Apple and Android app stores; users simply search on “JKO” and download the free App to their mobile device. The JKO Mobile App can be downloaded to an Apple iPad, iPod, and iPhone as well as an Android tablet and phone. It is compatible with Apple iOS 5 and Android 2.3 Operating Systems. Newer operating systems may cause minor cosmetic differences.

With the JKO Mobile App, users are able to access the m-LS to download and complete training courses on their mobile device. After the user completes a training course on the mobile device and the mobile device re-establishes connectivity, the training completion record is sent to the m-LS. Course completions in the m-LS synch with the JKO desktop system for tracking and reporting for JKO account users, where training transcripts are recorded. Training completion transcripts remain and are accessible in the JKO desktop learning content management system.

Mobile training content continues in development and will evolve with emerging training requirements and leadership and stakeholder training priorities. Mobile training and resource content currently available includes language and culture training. DOD required Combating Trafficking in Persons training, job aids assisting military personnel separating from the Service (job aids accompanying the JKO Transition Assistance Program Virtual Curriculum), and area-specific theater entry required training. Additionally, JKO mobile hosts the Negotiations Center of Excellence (NCE) Applied Negotiations Scenario. The Afghan Negotiation application is an interactive negotiations exercise that gives users a better appreciation of the importance of rapport-building in many cultures. The app was produced by the NCE staff for an Air Force audience.

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JKO collaborated with the NCE to turn it into a JKO-hosted mobile application providing a high-quality negotiation learning tool to a wider audience of service members by capitalizing on the NCE's groundwork.

JKO Mobile delivers training using technology in common use today – keeping up with the most popular use devices – delivering training using the technology now “native” to our Service men and women. Anyone can download the JKO Mobile App. Anyone with a JKO account or access to the JKO desktop learning content management system can obtain a PIN and begin completing training courses on mobile devices. ADL Partnership Labs in the UK, Canada and Poland are using JKO Mobile. Still, mobile devices present unique challenges to the DOD, such as data security, cost effective acquisition approach, and government versus individually owned devices.

The approach taken is to pilot programs, and share lessons learned, use cases and technology innovations. JKO Mobile leverages cross-domain capability, a proven distributed learning platform, existing digital content and a standards-development approach toward furthering DOD training and education with mobile delivery.

This significant advancement in global, distributed access to critical, operationally relevant training is a great example of leveraging capabilities and cooperation across the DOD to better prepare our military and civilian personnel in their mission work. ☺

JKO

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Book Review

by Linda Summerlin

TCM-TADLP

Strategic Plans and Policies Office

Title: *eLearning and the Science of Instruction: Proven Guidelines for Consumers and Designers of Multimedia Learning, Third Edition, 2011* by Ruth C. Clark and Richard E. Mayer.

Clark and Mayer's book discusses research-proven multimedia methods and **why** those methods may (or may not) work in online learning. With the new content development tool at our fingertips, reviewing these best practices is a must.

This review specifically looks at Chapter 8, the "Coherence" principle dealing with adding too much material and how that can negatively affect learning.

BLUF: Too much of anything can negatively affect learning. Too many graphics, irrelevant audio, or too much text overwhelm the learner. (Think of the last time you saw a "busy" presentation slide – one that makes your head spin because of its overwhelming amount of information.)

Do not allow this phenomenon to creep into your DL design and development. Chunk (segment) your content into easily digestible bites and allow the learner to process what is being presented. Keep things simple and relevant.



GET IT NOW: This book is available through AKO. Go to Self Service → My Education → Army eLearning → Books 24/7 (follow instructions to set up account). ☺

Favorites ▾	Quick Links ▾	Self Service ▾
AKO Mail Inbox		Antivirus Services
New Notifications (0)		Army e-Commerce
New In My Files (1)		DA Pubs & Forms
New In My Blogs		My Benefits
My Tasks		My Clothing
		My Dental
		My Doctrine
Tell CPT AKO/Tell 1SG		My Education



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The DL DART Team – Why a DART, What is It, and What Will It Do?

By Mitchell Bonnett, Chief, Capabilities & Implementation Office of the TCM TADLP

Why: As the Army DL Capability Developer, the TCM TADLP Capabilities and Implementation Office ensures that DL user requirements are adequately addressed in capability documents and specifications and that Army DL processes support implementation of DL systems and content through all ADDIE process stages. Because Army DL users work and home computing system environments (OS, browser, and plug-in versions, etc) change faster than Army DL can be updated, issues arise that prevent Army DL users from completing DL. The DL Diagnose Advisement Research Technical (DART) team mission is to find and address the issues.

What is it: The DL DART is a five person team of highly qualified degreed experienced engineers with exceptional DL skill-sets. They are the "Dr. House" diagnosticians of DL. The contract positions are:

Senior Systems Engineer/Site Chief – performs high-level systems analysis of very complex DL applications and applies higher-level business or technical principles and methods to very difficult technical problems to arrive at automated engineering solutions.

Managed Systems Engineer – performs systems analysis/evaluation that requires expertise in system/processor architecture, desktop management, SNMP, client/server architecture, operating systems, network protocols, routers, switches, remote servers, and firewalls.

Senior Software Architect – develops software products or major enhancements to existing software in highly complex systems. Acts as highest-level technical expert, addressing problems of systems integration, compatibility, and multiple platforms. Performs feasibility analysis.

Technical Editor – Develops and maintains DL DART technical documentation that includes DL DART Advisory Notices issued to Army DL Users (like a MS TechNet notice) and Developers (like a MS MSDN notice) and the DL Dart code repository of "fixed" code samples for DL developers.

Program Manager – Instructional System Designer (ISD) for ADDIE process for rest of team. Also Serves as principal point of representation and liaison with TCM TADLP on operational matters, and provides day-to-day technical/professional guidance and leadership to the area of expertise.

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What will it do:

The DL DART provides the capability to determine the source of Army DL issues and identify measures to correct them; identify, document, and distribute solutions to ensure DL functions on Army Learning Content Management Capability platforms; update DL development and delivery specifications fast enough to stay in front of changes to DL user's computing system environments; and to quick-fix critical high-priority DL (a very limited capability).

Article Submissions Six Easy Steps:

1. Use "active" voice (p. 6) AR 25-50
2. Be brief; limit to 800 words
3. Proofread submissions
4. Include **copyright permissions**
5. Submit articles anytime to:
usarmy.jble.tradoc.mbx.atsc-tem-tadlp@mail.mil
6. Encourage everyone to submit!

In order of priority, DART team tasks are:

1. Diagnose - Determine source of DL issues; provide explanation and corrective measures. Issue sources include Army Training Help Desk (ATHD) reports and DL Functional Testing results.
2. Advisement - Provide solutions with functioning samples that perform properly on ALCMC delivery platforms. The sample code will be made available to DL developers for their use free-of-charge.
3. Research - explore standards, specifications and recommendations for DL development and delivery; provide findings in research reports. These will update Army DL specifications.
4. Technical migration assistance - Review content migrating from expiring LMSs to ensure proper technical functionality on ALCMC platforms. While DL may be examined to identify what needs to be done to fix it, the team is too small to perform routine repair of non-critical quick-fix DL.

The DL DART team is already at work. As the capability matures we expect it to provide benefits to the Army well beyond its small size. For more information, contact mitchell.l.bonnett.civ@mail.mil .