



The dL STAR

Supporting Training Awareness and Readiness

October 2006
Issue 2
Volume 2

Leadership Introduction

We are pleased to present this second edition of the dL STAR (distributed Learning Supporting Training, Awareness and Readiness). We received positive feedback on the first edition of the dL STAR. We are excited to continue presenting the dL community with success stories, lessons learned, important new information, and general news about dL and all technology enhanced learning.

As we mentioned in the first edition, the dL STAR is the result of the combined efforts of the strategic communication representatives from several Army dL related organizations. To date, the dL related organizations included in this integrated outreach initiative are: the TRADOC Program Integration Office for The Army Distributed Learning Program (TPIO TADLP); the Army Training Support Center (ATSC); Army National Guard Distributed Learning Branch; the Product Manager for the Distributed Learning System (PM DLS); and representatives from the Army Reserves. The purpose of the integrated initiative continues is to bring a unified dL message to the entire Army community. You can look forward to other products from the integrated outreach team in the near future such as the new Army dL Passkey and other dL related material.

In this edition of the dL STAR there is useful information about new initiatives and strategies for the design of courseware. You will also see information regarding emerging governance structures for the Army Training Information System (ATIS). There are informative articles for users regarding the new integrated look and feel of the 'My Training' page on Army Knowledge Online (AKO) and online library services you can reach through AKO. Also, there is a sneak peek of an article about the Deployed Digital Training Campus (DDTC) supporting Soldier training in Iraq today. The stories in the dL STAR exemplify our strive to support the Soldier by leveraging dL, implementing efficiencies in the training development community, and promulgating policies that make training easier and more effective.

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 are here to serve YOU! Email army.dl@us.army.mil with your input and inquiries.

COL James Markley
TPIO, TADLP

What's Inside This Issue

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Highlights important notes and introductions from the leadership of the various Army dL agencies. Check out this section to see what the current focus is in Army dL.

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This section of the STAR focuses on aspects of dL that will aid the Army training development community in leveraging dL to train Soldiers. Check out this section for articles about the latest tools, methods and strategies for using dL in Army training.

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Training Development



Gen Wallace Signs New TRADOC Program Integration Officer (TPIO) Charter for TADLP and ATIS

On July 31, 2006, GEN Wallace, TRADOC Commander, signed a new charter designating COL Markley the TPIO for the Army Distributed Learning Program (TADLP) and the Army Training Information System (ATIS). COL Markley will continue to report to the TRADOC Commanding General in his duties as TPIO and will continue to have full-line authority over all matters relating to TADLP and the ATIS. The ATIS responsibility is a new addition to the charter and a significant first step in establishing comprehensive training systems governance. By placing the ATIS and TADLP under the same governance authority, the Army can expect to achieve gains in its efforts to centralize management and thereby enhance integration and harmonization of its training development and training management systems. Additionally, this will allow for a centralized, efficient implementation of task-based training strategy, which is also mentioned in the new charter.

The additions to the charter are consistent with changes taking place in a number of Army programs and objectives, such as Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN), to better serve and enable an Army at war. Such centralization and integration are vital to the Army's efforts to upgrade from its legacy training-related information systems to a new system of systems vision in which the ATIS serves as a common database and provides common standards ensuring and facilitating data reuse and system interoperability. Consistent with the Army's Systems Approach to Training (SAT), all phases of training automation will be interfaced and interoperable. This, in turn, will allow for a more efficient flow and reuse of information. Under the ATIS vision, relevant systems will exchange data using common interfaces based on a common standard and architecture. This contrasts with the current environment in which systems cannot share data or reuse data, particularly not with systems in other phases of the SAT process. This positive change will greatly enhance the Army's ability to meet its goal of providing training anytime, anywhere.

To view a copy of the charter click the below link:
www.tradoc.army.mil/tadlp/documents/tpio_charter.pdf

How dL Supports the Operational Environment

Currently TADLP focuses on redesigning portions of resident courseware to dL. This provides limited support to the immediate training requirements for Soldiers and leaders in units preparing for deployment, during deployment, or re-deployment. The training of Soldiers in units is based primarily upon gaining and maintaining proficiency in critical individual tasks that support unit Mission Essential Task Lessons (METL) and promote team work.

Recognizing this, HQDA memo - Army Training Strategy; Strategic Training Guidance dated 26-Jun-06, states that training base schools must ensure Soldiers, leaders, and DA civilians can perform individual critical tasks to prescribed standards. Soldier training must focus on mastering basic individual skills such as weapons handling, communications, navigation, and field craft in addition to technical and tactical competencies.

TADLP is immediately relevant as a solution because of its *potential* to develop and field training products in a timely manner that will meet Soldier and Leader training needs. To meet this challenge, the dynamics and unpredictable nature of the Contemporary Operation Environment (COE) requires TADLP reorientation of focus from the Institutional to the Operational domain with the focus on developing individual critical combat task training products using an expedited training development and validation process. Critical individual tasks are the basic building blocks for individual task training, lesson based training, and yes, institutional training as we refocus our development effort on the Operational training domain.

A Proof of Principle (POP) Test is underway to validate a streamlined training development process and to determine if contractors and proponent schools can develop, validate, and deliver task-based training products within 2-3 months. Although the POP is still underway, initial feedback proves that task-based training products can be developed in 2-3 months – if the proponent has sufficient resources and a high enough priority to put a full time effort into the development process. This is a big 'if' because competing demands and limited personnel at participating schools have a way of extending product development and validation beyond the 2-3 month development goal. Unfortunately this is the environment in which we live. However, we continue to look for ways to further streamline the process and to establish priorities for task based training product development that will, as a minimum, address the most critical training requirements.

The desired end-state is to transform TADLP from a predominantly resident education/training orientation and environment to a new, distributive training environment that will bring standardized task-based training products to Soldiers and

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How dL Supports the Operational Environment (cont. from pg.2)

leaders in the operating forces and training institutions. Further, that those individual task-based training products can be configured into lessons, courses, etc., that will support both Institutional training and Operational training as appropriate.

POC for this article: LTC Frank Anderson, (757) 788-5563 or frank-anderson@us.army.mil

Soldier's Corner

Army dL Training Integrated via My Training Webpage

My Training: Helping Meet the Soldier's – and the Army's – Needs

Tired of clicking in and out of windows, looking for just the right website, time and again? Rather than having to navigate from one website to another, Soldiers and leaders can access all Army dL training websites from one page, thanks to the My Training webpage. By integrating all of this information into one portal page, AKO users can streamline the process of finding and accessing their favorite dL sites via My Training.

The My Training site allows for one-stop access to all dL Training websites, all of which provide Soldiers and leaders with the vital information and training tools necessary to achieve their professional and personal goals. Soldiers and leaders can quickly and efficiently research courses and courseware via catalogues; have access to and manage their course schedules and personal training records, such as transcripts and promotion points; and take courses via the various available online courseware. Soldiers and leaders can also access a wealth of job aids such as expert advice and information, as well as all applicable policies and regulations.

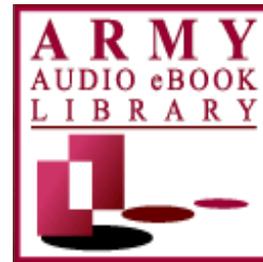
The My Training site represents a promising, progressive first step toward the goal of integrating the various Army dL initiatives by bringing everything together in one place. And by making dL Training more visible and easier to access and use, course enrollment will increase. My Training also helps to move toward the goal of creating a tasked-based training environment by giving Soldiers the capability of modeling learning toward their individual needs.

It's Easy to Access...

To access My Training, you must log into your AKO account. From the Self Service tab on the pulldown menu, select My Training and that's it, you're there! Choose from the following seven separate training websites: ALMS Online; ARNG Online; Soldier's Training



Homepage; TADLP Online; Army e-Learning Online; USAR Virtual University; and ATRRS Online. Each section has its own easy-to-recognize logo; a brief introduction to the program; useful information such as points of contact; and, of course, a link to its website.



Traveling and need a book for the long trip?

Working on your resume and need some helpful tips?

Need help with the formulas in your Excel spreadsheet?

Army Audio eBooks available to all users on AKO is your answer at work and at home. From the AKO homepage, click on Self-Service and then My Library. You can download to your MP3 player, burn to a CD or print the pages you need.

Audio eBooks is sponsored by Army Europe Libraries and has been open since the beginning of September 2006. During the first week of its debut over 2000 titles were downloaded. Take advantage of this wonderful resource whether to retrieve important reference materials or to listen to one of the latest bestsellers.

POC for this article: Amy Loughran, (757) 788-2155 ; DSN 680-2155

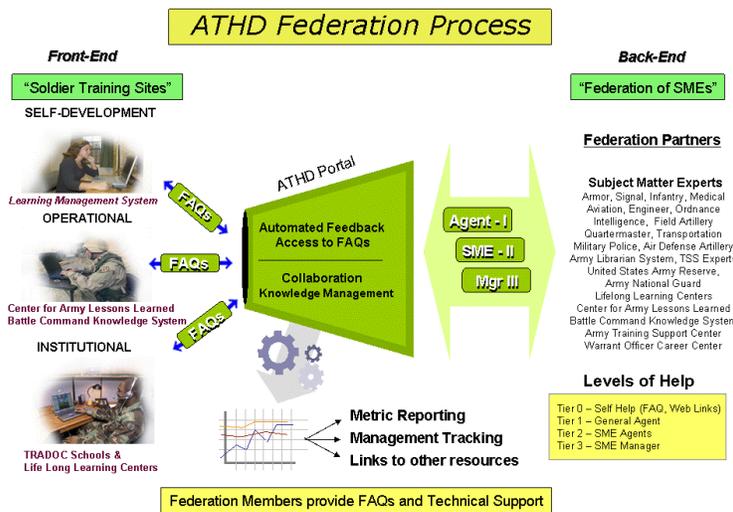
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Army Training Help Desk (ATHD)

"What a great resource the Army Training Help Desk is – I have used it in the past and was totally pleased with the response. They stuck with the issue until it was solved to my satisfaction and did so in a timely manner. I strongly recommend them to help Soldiers when needed!" – General Dennis J. Reimer, U.S. Army, Retired

The ATHD is an Army-wide adaptive and Army accredited "virtual help desk". It provides operational efficiencies through knowledge management, automation of processes, and centralization of customer assistance service. Customers have access to up-to-date and relevant training information through a central help desk, email, and toll-free telephone number linked to a collaborative federation of Army and TRADOC subject matter experts (SMEs).

In FY05, "ASK ATSC" transitioned to the ATHD. The purpose was to improve customer assistance and eliminate gaps between help desks and provide 24/7 support. The near term goal is to have 100% of TRADOC Centers and schools represented as well as select Army activities by the end of FY06.



Soldiers and civilians can get answers to their training questions 24/7 in a quick and efficient way through the use of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). The FAQs help organizations be more adaptive and agile for their customers, and also allows SMEs to change training information quickly. If you are unable to find an answer, submit a question via the web <https://ATHD.army.mil>, e-mail ask.athd@us.army.mil, or contact a customer assistance agent toll free at 1-800-275-2872 or proponent 1-800 numbers.

POC for this article: Gregory Bailey, (757) 878-3666 ; DSN 826 or Gregory.bailey@atsc.army.mil

Army dL Deployed Digital Training Campus (DDTC)

Army distributed Learning (dL) continues to put much effort into programs for Warfighters on the frontlines. An Army dL Deployed Digital Training Campus (DDTC) prototype is open seven days a week in Iraq, and provides a "safe haven," where Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen spend spare time taking online college classes and military training courses. The DDTC, used in the past year by divisional units for BNCO training, is currently being run by Soldiers with teaching backgrounds that help facilitate and proctor classroom courses and offer private tutoring. Additionally, academic admission and placement examinations, such as the SAT and CLEP tests, are administered at the training campus monthly. The Iraq DDTC is growing and servicing more students everyday. An upcoming article by the Training and Doctrine Command's (TRADOC) public affairs office will provide more information on this dL success story.

POC for this article – Charlie Bos, (757) 788-2102 ; DSN 680-2102 or charles.bos@us.army.mil

Immersive Training Video-Teletraining (VTT) Sessions

For the past several years, DCSOPS&T has sponsored a series of two to three hour video-teletraining (VTT) sessions for Army trainers that have originated from the Institute for Creative Technologies (ICT) in California and broadcast to TRADOC schools. Topics have included the following: learning how to be a distance learner; evaluating instructional games; authoring for interactivity; latest trends in interactive media content; and creative and technical aspects of interactive media technology. Four broadcasts were completed in FY06 with additional VTTs planned for FY07, specific dates TBD. Additional information regarding these sessions is forthcoming.

POC for this article: Rick Karpinski, (757) 788-5531 or rick.karpinski@us.army.mil

The dL STAR wants to hear from you!

Email the dL STAR at army.dl@us.army.mil if you have a dL related article or link that you would like to see posted.

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Email: army.dl@us.army.mil with subscribe or unsubscribe to the dL STAR in the subject line.

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



TRADOC's Army Training Support Center (ATSC)

www.atssc.army.mil



The Army National Guard (ARNG)

www.arng.army.mil/about_us/training/dl/

VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY

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

Login to Web-based Training Portal



84th U.S. Army Reserve
Readiness Training Command
ARRTCWebmaster@usar.army.mil
(608) 388-7343 or 7309