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SECTION 1: Leadership

Welcome to Edition Eight of the dL STAR!



Hello, I am Helen Remily the new TRADOC Capability Manager (TCM) for The Army Distributed Learning Program (TADLP) and I am proud to introduce the 8th edition of the dL Star!

Before beginning to tell you about the innovations for distributed Learning (dL), let me say how excited I am about the opportunity to serve the dL Community. The OPTEMPO that Soldiers are experiencing is unprecedented and requires that the Army discover and develop new ways of providing distributed training and education while integrating technologies that we all have come to depend on. My promise to you is that I will never forget that the purpose of dL is to provide access to vital training through multiple means and technologies, anytime and anywhere.

Some of the new ways that you will be experiencing dL include: Persistent Learning - which will allow the capability to hone collaborative and teamwork skills in an unclassified, time constrained, simulated TOC environment; mLearning - using mobile technologies that provide Soldiers the ability to use electronic devices (i.e., personal digital assistants (PDA) iPod/MP3 players, e-books, smart phones, and notebooks) in the same manner that they could use in any educational environment; and Brigade Combat Team Modernization, incremental capability packages fielded in synchronization with ARFORGEN that provide sustainable forces fully integrated across Doctrine,

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Organization, Training, Materiel, Leader development, Personnel and Facilities (DOTMLPF) and allow the Army to quickly field capabilities required for current and future missions.

The transition of distributed Learning, using new and emerging architectures and technologies, will enable the Army to provide Soldiers easier access to learning content, and meet the requirement of dL Total Force. dL supports just-in-time learning when and wherever it is required for the expeditionary force. The evolving training requirements of the expeditionary force requires a flexible and responsible training system. These innovations will help train Soldiers for their next assignment.

Finally, we encourage you or anyone you may know who would benefit from the dL star to subscribe at the below website. The dL Star provides articles that describe what is happening in the dL community. It provides vital information and allows feedback on how we can better serve you. If you have any questions about dL please contact us at <http://www.atsc.army.mil/TADLP/index.asp>.

We are here to serve you!

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

SECTION 2: TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Army Correspondence Course Program

ACCP Modernization:

This quarter, the Training and Doctrine Command began migrating curriculum for the Army Correspondence Course Program (ACCP) from the Interim Learning Management System (ILMS) to the Army Learning Management System (ALMS). This migration is the latest phase of the modernization of the ACCP which enhances test security, and improves customer support for all of its on-line material.

Increased security:

The enhanced security features begin as students open a course from the ALMS. Each student enters their AKO username and password to access course material and Common Access Card (CAC) and PIN to access the exams. Students must progress through all course material and wait 24 hours after enrolling in a course before being granted access to an exam. These procedure enhance security protocols and is ensures students have an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the material. Each exam is timed and for the first failed attempt will (require a 24-hour waiting period) before retaking the exam. A second failed attempt will require a 30-day waiting period before retaking the exam, allowing the student time to adequately review the course material.

Location is transparent:

Students enrolling in Army Correspondence Courses through the Army Training Requirements and Resources System (ATRRS) process are automatically directed to the ALMS (<https://www.lms.army.mil>). All enrolled in a course prior to its migration have one year from their enrollment date to complete the course.

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No extensions will be granted past the expiration date. All courses, subcourses, and exams will be migrated and hosted on the ALMS by July 2010. Contact the Army Training Help Desk (<https://athd.army.mil/>) if difficulty is experienced with the content, have questions regarding student records, have concerns about exam security or the compromise of exam material. POC is the Army Institute for Professional Development (757) 878-4787.

Connecting Soldiers with Digital Applications

The Connecting Soldiers with Digital Applications (CSDA) project is an effort to support Soldiers with anytime anywhere training and employ the latest technologies to support Soldiers never ending increasing time management challenges. The CSDA project uses mobile internet devices to deliver education and provide hand-held connected computing to Soldiers. CSDA is a two phase project. The operational phase (phase I) and tactical phase (phase II).

Three devices will be certified for use in the initial phase. They are the HTC TouchPro II, HTC Droid, and Palm Treo Pro. The Apple iPhone is expected to be certified the third quarter FY 2010. Mobile applications (APP) will be distributed through AKO. All phones delivered from AKO come with a 'test plan' that users must execute. The test plan serves to familiarize users with smart phone capabilities and validate their proper operation.

The delivery of these phones will come with minimal restrictions. Some security protocols are enforced, i.e., no illegal content, no lending to friends, etc. All phase I phones will be standard off-the-shelf devices and will not be hardened.

The CSDA projected pilots:

- 1) Army Evaluation Task Force (AETF) pilot- Fort Bliss, TX – Phase I will comprise garrison units and will test single model phone. Phase II test multiple phone models within a tactical environment.
- 2) Signal CoE FA53 course pilot - Fort Gordon - "Smartphone Application Development" - Train Soldiers for in-source APP development, 20 students per course. Students will develop APPs using iPhones and Droids. There is a for fee contractor that attend this training.
- 3) Sustainment CoE Instructor's pilot - CASCOM Fort Lee, VA- This pilot was ready to start in February. The CASCOM Technical Integration Branch at Fort Lee has begun APP development for this pilot. Current APPs created include an Instructors toolkit, test creator, mobile wiki for lesson plans, etc. and 'time bomb' for document removal. In time this project will push Application delivery and full capability support to schoolhouses.
- 4 & 5) MP Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC) & Engineer One Station Unit Training pilots - MANSCEN Fort Leonard Wood - will be provided sets of phones to experiment with, but will select a single device before pilot deployment (Fall 2010). The Plan is to provide augmented training delivery to support resident students. This pilot includes an extensive list of suggested applications, from 'MyPay' to 'Open Source Interface Model to diagnose network issues'.



Connecting Soldiers with Digital Applications Continued:

6) Patriot Advanced Initial Training (AIT) 6th Brigade Crew Gaming Solution - Fort Bliss & Fort Sill, TX - Use interactive gaming solution on a variety of media, including desktop and laptop computers in combination with small hand held Mobile Internet Devices (MID). AIT Soldiers will experience drill crew exercise type gaming solutions. This pilot intends to demonstrate that by leveraging gaming technologies less time and resources are required to teach crew drills, improve learning, training proficiency, interest, and long term retention of skills.

7) Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) Self-Development pilot - Provide NCO leadership training and master task and education requirements prior to attending the NCO Leadership resident course.

8) Combined Arms Center (CAC) Command and Control (C2) Pilot - ASCOPE (area, structure, capabilities, organizations, people and events) - Fort Leavenworth, KS - This pilot will focus on Counterinsurgency training and will begin late FY2010 or early FY2011.

The above article was submitted by Mr. Bob Hess, who has worked within Army eLearning community since 1995. Initially as a contractor, developing content and programming Army courseware test tools until March 2003 when he began Department of Army service as a Computer Scientist. During seven years of government service, Mr. Hess provided Technical support for the DL XXI Statement of work template and the DLETP Delivery Order Template; he has also worked on Army-wide courseware delivery standards and specifications with ATSC, Ft. Eustis, Virginia.

Civil Affairs: Scenario-Based Learning that's as Realistic as Being "in it"

Imagine that you are stationed as a Civil Affairs (CA) Sergeant in the Philippines. Your CA team is being sent to East Timor in response to a natural disaster, Cyclone Nuri. Your goal is to re-establish stability in the area and provide relief to a small ailing village in which the citizens are displaced, dehydrated and injured. You must consider how the actions and choices you are making impact the civilian populace and how the nearby militia may respond in a given scenario. This is the Civil Affairs Specialist course, in which you will learn to prepare, execute, and transition CA Activities, CA Operations, and Civil-Military Operations (CMO).

The 34 hours of Interactive Multimedia Instruction (IMI) in this course contain both knowledge lessons and interactive performance-based exercises. The training places you as the student in a mission with maximum hands-on application of the instructional concepts while engaging you in an immersive environment similar to a tactical situation. Many of the tasks you will learn in this course will be used throughout other tasks in your military career. These tasks include "Problem-Solving", "Cross Cultural Communications", and "Analyze Legal, Moral, and Cultural Obligations."

This course consists of four modules: *General Subjects*, *Civil Affairs Mission*, *Civil Affairs Operations*, and *Civil Affairs Operations Planning*.

Each of these modules allows students to gain foundational knowledge while practicing the skill set needed for application in the field. Every practical exercise begins with a short news story depicting the current situation in East Timor and the surrounding area.



Civil Affairs: Scenario-Based Learning that's as Realistic as Being "in it" Continued:

These news stories illustrate the overarching storyline as it is connected to the instructional content, allowing students the ability to readily recall and transfer the material more effectively into application.

Every lesson incorporates 3D graphics, dynamic text, professional video course guide, and interactive checks on learning which cover the basic skills needed to perform as a Civil Affairs Sergeant. Students may progress through the lessons in any order and are not required to follow a linear path; this allows them the opportunity to create a more individualized learning experience to meet their own training needs. Learning strategies include drill and practice, role-playing, gaming, and scaffolding.

The design and development of this course combines 3D architecture with video-based characters to create a realistic training environment. By implementing a world where user decisions drive the chain of events within the scenario, the course allows the student to prepare for real-life events and decision making in the safety of a virtual environment. The video produced in this course uses professional actors filmed in high definition resolution, providing quality that is second to none.

Professional SMEs with recent operational and tactical Civil Affairs experience were extensively utilized to draw on their "real-world" experience in the design and development of the course and also provided a level of realism that is unmatched in the industry.

The U.S. Army Civil Affairs Specialist course is SCORM compliant and may be delivered on a LMS or CD.

The above article was submitted by Mr. Jim Monahan, Ft. Eustis, Va.

Army Knowledge Management Qualification

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kansas.— The Chief of Staff of the Army approved Knowledge Management (KM) Sections for division, corps and theatre Army levels in July 2009. Coincidentally, BCKS had almost completed the first pilot of the Army Knowledge Management Qualification Course (AKMQC), sending 12 new graduates to those just-approved KM Sections. "The Army has recognized that knowledge management is important and just like businesses that have chief knowledge officers with their CEOs, now the Army is saying knowledge management is important," said BCKS Director Col Charles Burnett. The AKMQC produces an Additional Skill Identifier (ASI)/Skill Identifier (SI) 1E (Knowledge Management Professional).

Although developed specifically for KM Sections at division, corps, and theatre Army levels, the course is applicable to all Army units and organizations. The first pilot was five weeks long and was conducted in 2009. The second pilot (January 11 – February 5, 2010) was trimmed to four weeks, and was composed of 20 students (11 officers, 1 warrant officer, 2 NCOs and 6 DA civilians) who represented a variety of units and headquarters, including: 4th Inf Div, Fort Hood; Special Operations Command CENTCOM (SOCCENT); 113th Signal Command, Hawaii; 196th Inf Bde, Fort Shafter, Hawaii; Fires Center of Excellence, Fort Sill; Soldier Support Institute at Fort Jackson; HQ, US Army Europe (USAREUR); HQ, US Army Africa (USARAF); Medical Readiness & Training Command, San Antonio; Army Capabilities Integration Center (ARCIC), Fort Monroe; and several programs and directorates at Fort Leavenworth.

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Army Knowledge Management Qualification Continued:

Grounded in FM 6-01.1 *Knowledge Management Section* and FM 3-0, *Operations*, the AKMQC produces KM Sections that can plan, coordinate and synchronize knowledge to enhance the commander's situational understanding and decision making abilities. The Section does this by developing a plan that includes the "how to" in displaying the common operational picture. That plan details the process of how a unit accesses and filters new information internally and externally, and provides a working KM system that can route content while keeping commanders and staff from being overwhelmed.

Recommended changes and areas for improvement in the AKMQC are gathered from students during weekly and end-of-course After Action Reviews (AARs). "We get the student's input and we also had SMEs (subject matter experts) who sat through certain portions of the course. They analyze comments and make continuing improvements in the course," Burnett said.

The AKMQ Course provides students with:

- KM fundamentals which contribute to reducing organizational stovepipes through the use of collaboration;
- the ability to apply KM principles and processes to manage content which will contribute to the unit's ability to retrieve relevant information ;
- how to use knowledge assessments to determine how well their unit creates, organizes, applies and transfers knowledge;
- an understanding of how to conduct a knowledge assessment, build KM strategies, conduct interviews, and use KM tools/techniques to analyze the results of an assessment;

- the ability to build and use tools in the Warfighter's KM kitbag including knowledge portals and other useful online solutions that will help their organization share critical internal information.

Some say knowledge is the Soldier's last competitive advantage, and that may be true when realizing that a smart and adaptive enemy is also looking for an edge. At a conference at Fort Leavenworth last year, TRADOC GEN Martin Dempsey said, "Knowledge management is one of the things that makes warfare in the future different from warfare in the past."

This article was submitted by Mr. Bill Ackerly, U.S. Army Combined Arms Center(CAC), Fort Leavenworth,Kansas

dL STAR wants to hear from you!

Email the dL STAR at distributed.learning@us.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 in the next issue.

dL Resources:

Program: The Army Distributed Learning Program (TADLP)

Website: <http://www.atsc.army.mil/TADLP/index.asp>

Program: Distributed Learning System (DLS)

Website: www.dls.army.mil

Program: Army e-Learning

Website: www.us.army.mil, select "My Education"

Program: Army Training Support Center (ATSC)

Website: www.atsc.army.mil

Program: Soldier Training Homepage

Website: www.train.army.mil

Program: Army Training Help Desk

Website: <https://athd.army.mil>