

GLOBE



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I hereby... oath, that I absolutely and entirely
renounce... all allegiance and fidelity to any
foreign... entate, state, or sovereignty of whom
or which... heretofore been a subject...

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Soldiers and Sailors compete in tug-of-war during Resiliency Day held on April 4, 2015 at the Presidio of Monterey. See the story on page 10-11.

Photo by Gary Harrington

ON THE COVER

DLIFLC Commandant, Col. David K. Chapman poses with a faculty member who just received her United States citizenship.

FULL STORY Page 22-23

BACK COVER

(Clockwise) DLIFLC Color Guard in downtown Monterey participates in the first annual cultural festival; Airman 1st Class Jauric Flowers examines a Russian Orthodox icon in a church in Daugavpils, Latvia; California Representative Loretta Sanchez visits the Presidio Municipal Service Agency; Margarita Than Nguyen, Vietnamese teacher in the DLIFLC Continuing Education Directorate, along with her daughter; DLIFLC service members participate in the Color Run to increase awareness of sexual harassment; DLIFLC Commandant Colonel David K. Chapman takes the lead in the Commandant's Run; Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention workshop March 31; Language Day 2015 performers.



DLIFLC MISSION

Provide culturally based foreign language education, training, evaluation and sustainment to enhance the security of the nation.

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FROM THE TOP

DLIFLC COMMANDANT, COL. DAVID K. CHAPMAN

As my command of DLIFLC comes to end, I want to highlight the importance of resiliency of our force, our families and our faculty. We have dedicated this current issue of the GLOBE to raise awareness of these pertinent topics, as they are relevant to all of the stakeholders at DLIFLC. Resiliency is of critical importance and something that I hope will have prominence well beyond my change of command.

As many of you know, DLIFLC students go through one of the most stressful and demanding academic training programs in the Armed Services. Days are long, the material is difficult, and the stakes are high at the end of each course. To succeed in such an environment requires persistence and a set of well-honed life skills that can tax even the most adept. This is why teaching and emphasizing resiliency are so important.

Students, however, are not the only ones affected, because when our students are stressed, their families will certainly feel the strain as well. Focusing on our families is equally important. Finally, the imperative of producing superior academic results can also negatively impact our faculty and staff over time. Therefore, we must do everything we can to create an environment where everyone at DLIFLC can improve his or her resiliency on all levels.

As such, during my time in command, I have invested heavily to ensure that DLIFLC remains prepared mentally, psychologically, physically and spiritually for the daily trials of our profession. In July, a team from the Army Surgeon General's office trained our service members and faculty on the "Performance Triad" – specifically, how positive activity, nutrition, and sleep can significantly improve our health. I have also worked hard to increase our behavioral health support and our ability to help those who need assistance in coping with stress. One highly important aspect is the contribution of our Sexual Harassment/Assault Awareness and Prevention Program. This program has done much to help this command build a culture that supports SHARP practices, where victims are supported, respected and can feel free to report

incidences both past and present. We conduct innovative training to create an environment where everyone knows how to effectively intervene when necessary.

On an administrative level, we have also begun to synchronize resiliency activities through our local Community Health Promotion Council and now have a full-time Health Promotion Officer on the staff. The CHPC applies all our resiliency tools toward improving the quality of life for all our service members and employees.

In order to reach the highest levels of foreign language proficiency that the Department of Defense requires of us, we must look at each area of the academic experience holistically and seek to improve everywhere.

As I conclude my tenure as commandant and hand the guidon to my successor, I am very thankful to have met and worked with so many true professionals at DLIFLC. You are what make the institution a national treasure and I wish you all the greatest success in the future. I know that you and DLIFLC will continue to be the world's leader in all aspects of foreign language education and training.



Col. David K. Chapman
Commandant



FAREWELL TO Col. Ginger L. Wallace

By Patrick Bray
DLIFLC Public Affairs

MONTEREY, Calif. – More than 150 faculty and staff of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center said farewell to Assistant Commandant Col. Ginger Wallace during a luncheon at Khalil Hall on the Presidio of Monterey, California, June 16.



More than 150 faculty and staff came to the potluck lunch to say farewell to Col. Ginger Wallace. (Photo by Patrick Bray, DLIFLC Public Affairs)

As assistant commandant, Wallace served as the most senior spokesperson for faculty at DLIFLC since 2013. During her two-year tenure, the institute was faced with a manpower study, faculty and staff cuts, a reorganization, budget cuts, sequestration, and a furlough. Through all of this turmoil, she continued to advocate for the faculty and staff with enthusiasm.

"This has been by far the most rewarding assignment in my 25 years of service. People speak about my energy, but I get that energy from you, watching what you do every day with our students," Wallace told well wishers at the potluck

"I have been through five assistant commandants here at DLIFLC, and without reservation, Col. Wallace has been the best I have worked for...We will miss you and we want you to stay in touch," said DLIFLC Chief of Staff, Steve Collins. "I want to tell faculty and staff here today, that Col. Wallace has been your biggest advocate at DLI and in Washington, D.C."

Wallace relinquished her command on June 26, 2015 and moved to her next assignment at the Pentagon.

(Photo by Gary Harrington, DLIFLC Public Affairs)



Assistant Commandant, Col. Ginger Wallace addresses the crowd during the change of command ceremony June 26. (Photo by Gary Harrington DLIFLC Public Affairs)

DLIFLC assistant commandant changes command

By Patrick Bray
DLIFLC Public Affairs

MONTEREY, Calif. – Colonel Ginger Wallace relinquished responsibility of her position as assistant commandant at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center during a change of command ceremony June 26 on Soldier Field at the Presidio of Monterey, California.

Colonel Keith Logeman assumed responsibility as DLIFLC assistant commandant, which also includes command of the U.S. Air Force's 517th Training Group.

"I am passionate about this institute and this training group. I am convinced you are the right person to take both organizations to even bigger successes," said Wallace to Logeman.

"I have known Ginger since we were captains at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, and the last ten days she's continued to teach me about this amazing institute as she did then," said Logeman.

Wallace also thanked DLIFLC instructors for teaching students more than six to seven hours per day.

"You are the heart and soul of this institute," she said.

As assistant commandant, Wallace was responsible for more than 1,800 faculty members and 250 joint service staff providing language training and operational support. As Commander of the 517th Training group, she lead two squadrons composed of 1,200 Airmen, the majority of whom are cryptologic linguists.



New DLIFLC Assistant Commandant, Col. Kieth Logeman takes command of the 517th Training Group by taking the Guidon from Col. Kimberlee Jeos, commander of the 517th Training Wing, Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas. (Photo by Sal Marullo)

For her leadership and service, Wallace was awarded the Legion of Merit, one of the U.S. Armed Forces' highest awards, from Col. Kimberlee Jeos, commander of the 17th Training Wing, Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, which is responsible for the 517th Training Group.

Logeman will assume these same responsibilities from Wallace, but first thanked his family for their patience in the many moves that military families must endure.

"This is the fourth move in five years, and I just want to tell you how proud I am of you for making this transition and supporting my career with grace and a smile on your face," said Logeman. "I promise we will have a blast during this command tour."

Students win big in separate language contests

By Patrick Bray
DLIFLC Public Affairs

Mandarin speech contest

MONTEREY, Calif. – Service members studying Mandarin Chinese at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, Presidio of Monterey, participated in the 40th Annual Mandarin Speech Contest in San Francisco April 26, with 28 DLIFLC students winning awards.

About 500 Mandarin Chinese students from Northern California universities such as Stanford, Berkeley, San Francisco State and the University of California – Davis competed in the contest.



Trophies earned by Mandarin Chinese students. (Photo by Patrick Bray, DLIFLC Public Affairs)

Teachers in DLIFLC's Chinese department encourage their students to participate in the annual contest, which many of them see as a measure of both faculty

and student success, according to Patrick Lin, a lead faculty member at DLIFLC Asian School I.

"Every year we take this contest as a driving force to enhance our students' language proficiency," said Lin. "This requires students to think in their new language."

Students deliver a three to five-minute speech, which they wrote, memorized and delivered on their own, on any appropriate topic the student chose to speak on, appropriate to his or her level of training.

Airman 1st Class Naomi Woods won first place for her speech in Mandarin about joining the U.S. Air Force to study at the institute and not letting her mother down.

"I spoke about how important it was for me to come here and learn Chinese and be good at it and make my mom proud because she did not have the same opportunities I have had," said Woods.

The day-long competition, the largest of its kind in the United States, is sponsored by the Chinese Language Teachers Association of California with the purpose of fostering good language skills in Mandarin.

Russian essay contest

MONTEREY, Calif. – Six Russian language students at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center received awards from the American Council of Teachers of Russian for their entries in the National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest. Dr. Betty Lou Leaver, DLIFLC Provost, presented the awards to four of the students June 3.

Staff Sgt. Arturas Karizskis won a gold medal, Spc. Aleksandr Didarov won a bronze medal, and Staff Sgt. Ilya Volovik and Staff Sgt. Almaz Jamankulov received honorable mention.

"This is the only competition of its type in that it is not only native English speakers learning Russian competing but also the best of heritage Russian speakers," said Leaver.



Russian language students received awards from the American Council of Teachers of Russian for their entries in the National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest. (Photo by Patrick Bray, DLIFLC Public Affairs)

The contest is divided into categories depending on the source of the student's Russian capability. All of the DLIFLC students participated in Category C of the contest, intended for students born to Russian speaking families who received most or all of their education in English.

Volovik, who received honorable mention, praised his instructors for their mentorship and helping him succeed.

"We couldn't have gotten these awards without the great teachers we have here," said Volovik. "The credit really goes out to them."

Once these students graduate from DLIFLC they will join the Defense Threat Reduction Agency where they will work as interpreters.

The contest included more than 1,000 participants from 68 universities, colleges and institutions. This year's topic was "A very interesting day in my life."



Egyptian instructor Wael Khattab interacts with his students. (Photo by Natela Cutter, DLIFLC Public Affairs)

DLIFLC launches Egyptian Basic Course

By Natela Cutter
DLIFLC Public Affairs

MONTEREY, Calif. - The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center now offers an Egyptian dialect Arabic basic course, designed to get students up to speed with speaking an Arabic dialect as they simultaneously learn Modern Standard Arabic.

"We began the first pilot Egyptian class last summer and our students will graduate this November," said Tarek Elgendy, in charge of curriculum development for the course. "It took us about two years to write the curriculum, and now we will see the first fruits of our labor," he said with a smile.

The institute first began teaching Arabic dialects in 2009 when the Iraqi course was implemented. The concept behind the implementation of dialect-heavy teaching came about as a result of user agency needs. Until this time, students had been exclusively studying Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), akin to the "King's English," and a language that is spoken on national television and used in writing and reading.

"The concept behind teaching dialect first appeared to be an obvious choice because most people only speak their own dialect on the streets," said Viktoriya Schevchenko,

dean of Middle East III School which houses the Egyptian course.

"Our course materials are structured in such a way that we teach four hours according to what is contained in the prepared curriculum, which constitutes three hours of Egyptian dialect and one hour of MSA, while the last two hours of the day are left to the discretion of the teachers," said Elgendy, who taught English for 20 years at the Egyptian Ministry of Defense Language Institute (MODLI) in Alexandria, Egypt.



DLIFLC Commandant, Col. David K. Chapman welcomes Egyptian Brig. Gen. Mohamed Moustafa to the DLIFLC. (Photo by Patrick Bray, DLIFLC Public Affairs)

"This is the first time our students could converse with a visitor from Egypt," said Wael Khattab, an Egyptian dialect instructor, speaking about the recent visit of Brig. Gen. Mohamed Moustafa of the MODLI in Cairo, Egypt, who visited DLIFLC May 4. MODLI teaches 14 foreign languages and is modeled after DLIFLC programs.

Meanwhile, Elgendy is preparing to pilot yet another course, this time it will be the Sudanese dialect course slated to begin in July.

DLIFLC commandant teaches FAOs how to navigate through careers

By Patrick Bray
DLIFLC Public Affairs

MONTEREY, Calif. – Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center Commandant, Col. David K. Chapman, told a group of Foreign Area Officers in training June 12, that performance, reputation, and the learning of foreign languages and culture are some of the most important things to keep in mind while building their careers.

“Performance trumps everything,” said Chapman, adding that reputation is also important because of opportunities to serve in unique positions at home and around the world.

“Your reputation has already started, right here today, and the first impression is really, really important,” said Chapman, who has served at U.S. Embassies in Moscow, Russia, Kiev, Ukraine, Belgrade, Serbia, and Athens, Greece, with an upcoming assignment at the U.S. Embassy in Paris, France. “It is serious business, guard your reputation.”

“Stay current, read. And I don’t mean only read what is assigned to you, but understand current events, about art, history. You have to be able to have breadth of knowledge, and language is the ice-breaker.”



A Marine poses a question during the Joint Foreign Area Officers conference. (Photo by Patrick Bray, DLIFLC Public Affairs)



DLIFLC Commandant, Col. David K. Chapman, addresses FAOs telling them that performance, reputation and a broad education with language skills is key to success in their careers. (Photo by Natela Cutter, DLIFLC Public Affairs)

DLIFLC hosted the Joint Foreign Area Officer Course June 8-12 at the Weckerling Center on the Presidio of Monterey. FAOs, who come from the four branches of the U.S. military, are regionally focused and are considered experts on political-military issues. Once their FAO training is completed, they are expected to serve as defense attachés, security cooperation officers and political-military planners worldwide.

Locally, the JFAOC takes place twice a year for future FAOs who either attend DLIFLC for language training or are in graduate school at the neighboring Naval Post Graduate School.

“Your reputation has already started, right here today, and the first impression is really, really important.”

- Col. David K. Chapman

Three guest speakers shared their experience with the newly-minted FAOs, Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Brand, deputy chief of staff for Strategic Plans and Policy, NATO, U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Rocco, commanding general of the Third Marine Aircraft Wing, and Rear Adm. Colin Kirlain, a Naval Special Warfare SEAL and graduate of the Spanish and German programs.

Silver Spring native takes different path to higher ed

Discovers gift for language in Marines, excels at Columbia University

By Kevin James Shay
Staff writer, The Gazette

After graduating from Georgetown Prep, Andrew King pursued his higher education differently than many of his peers did.

King, who was born in a Silver Spring hospital and grew up in Adelphi, attended the University of Maryland, College Park, for a year before he was drawn to the U.S. Marine Corps.

He discovered he was a natural at foreign languages and earned an associate of arts degree from the Defense Language Institute. He achieved fluency in Persian, or Farsi, with a focus on regional dialects.

During his five years as a military senior linguist, he was deployed to Afghanistan twice. Among his duties there was to translate between the Afghan National Army and village civilians to support infrastructure projects.

Through a Marine scholar program, King applied to the Columbia University School of General Studies, beginning classes in fall 2012 just two weeks after the end of his service.

Officials from the Columbia dean of admissions office regularly fly to Marine bases. On one such trip in late 2011, King interviewed with them.

“Columbia makes a strong effort to recruit veterans,” he said.

Many of King’s credits from the Defense Language Institute transferred to Columbia, as some University of Maryland credits transferred to DLI. In three years, he earned a bachelor’s degree in Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies, graduating summa cum laude.

He was the class of 2015’s salutatorian, marking the first time a veteran has been either salutatorian or valedictorian in the undergraduate school’s history, according to Anna O’Sullivan, a general studies spokeswoman.

“I was pretty surprised,” King said. “I was very humbled and honored.”



Silver Spring native Andrew King speaks as the Columbia University School of General Studies Class of 2015 salutatorian during a May 18 ceremony in New York. (Photo by Bruce Gilbert, Columbia University)

He was among the speakers on May 18 during the school’s graduation ceremonies, along with Christopher Hood, Kellogg’s president for European operations, a keynote speaker.

Besides being named to the Phi Beta Kappa and Columbia School of General Studies honor societies, King was awarded the U.S. Department of State’s Critical Language Scholarship. That enabled him to spend a summer studying in Turkey, which he found of particular interest for its links to both the Eastern and Western worlds.

“I found I had a passion to understand that part of the world,” King said. “It has a really interesting history.” He wrote his senior thesis on Islamic finance. He was treasurer of Military Veterans of Columbia University for two years and volunteered for Hurricane Sandy relief efforts.

King’s accomplishments placed him among the top graduates at Columbia this year, School of General Studies Dean Peter J. Awn said in a statement. “In addition to his stellar academic achievements, Andrew worked with passion and commitment to make a positive difference in the Columbia undergraduate community and the broader New York community,” he said.

Columbia, one of the oldest universities in the country, dates to 1754, when it was called King’s College.

*Courtesy of the Gazette

A DIVERSE AND RESILIENT WORKFORCE

Photos by Gary Harrington, DLIFLC Public Affairs



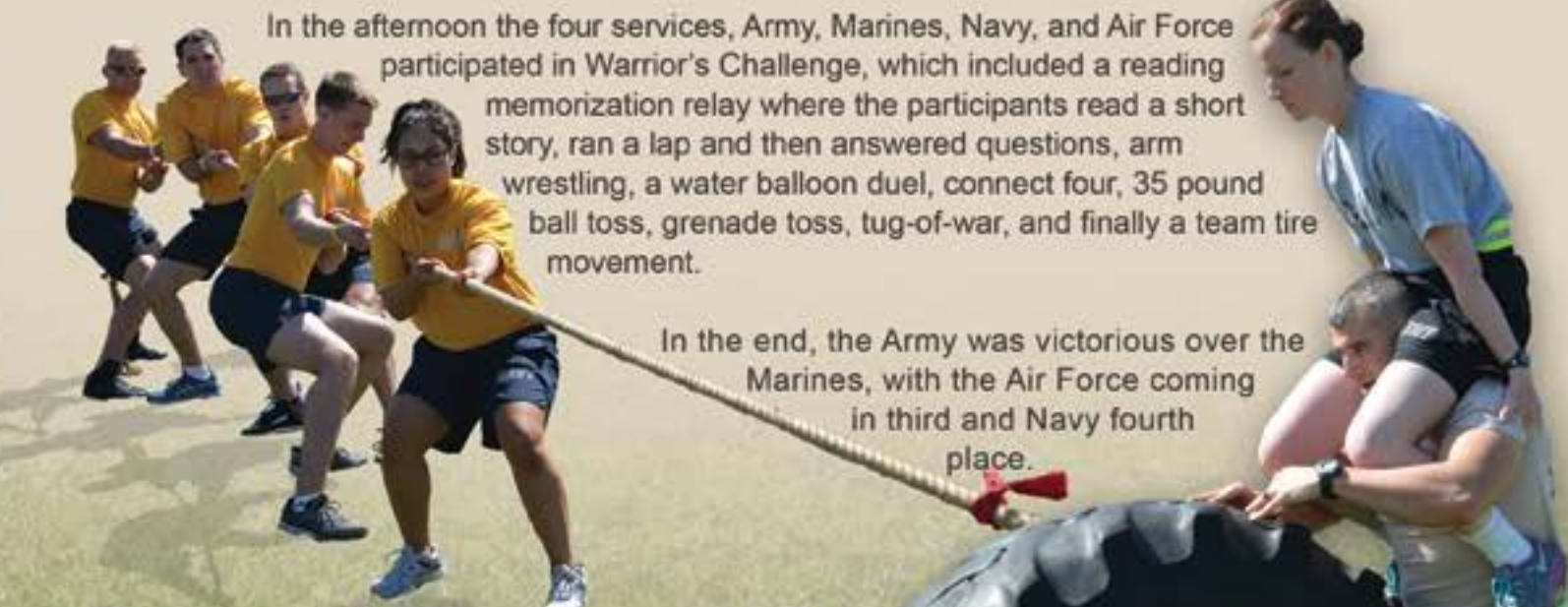
DLIFLC Commandant Col. David K. Chapman takes a photo with Army participants, winners of the Warrior Challenge.

The Presidio of Monterey and the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center conducted a Military Community Resiliency Day to promote wellness, safety, team-building, unit morale, and esprit de corps for military members, families, staff and faculty around Soldier Field on April 3. Attendees were able to participate in a variety of activities, physical fitness competitions, wellness awareness, and information booths, while enjoying food, ware vendors, and much more.

Sports played a major part in the event with students and faculty participating in Frisbee, football, ping-pong, dunk tank, and dancing to music, which is always an all time hit with instructors teaching Zumba and salsa.



The activities began with a SHARP skit that addressed sexual assault by focusing on prevention through education and training, which goes a long way in reducing the stigma associated with sexual violence.



In the afternoon the four services, Army, Marines, Navy, and Air Force participated in Warrior's Challenge, which included a reading memorization relay where the participants read a short story, ran a lap and then answered questions, arm wrestling, a water balloon duel, connect four, 35 pound ball toss, grenade toss, tug-of-war, and finally a team tire movement.

In the end, the Army was victorious over the Marines, with the Air Force coming in third and Navy fourth place.





Margarita Thao Nguyen (right), a Vietnamese teacher in the DLIFLC Continuing Education Directorate, along with her daughter, wears Vietnamese traditional clothes on Language Day May 8. Nguyen, who escaped from Saigon in 1975, took part in a ceremony to honor Vietnam War veterans on Language Day as the U.S. commemorates the 50th anniversary of the war. (Photo by Patrick Bray, DLIFLC Public Affairs)

Vietnamese teacher reflects on journey to DLIFLC

By Patrick Bray
DLIFLC Public Affairs

MONTEREY, Calif. – Every year on Language Day at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center Margarita Thao Nguyen, a Vietnamese teacher in the institute’s Continuing Education Directorate, participates by wearing traditional Vietnamese clothing and sharing her knowledge of the culture of Vietnam. This year she took part in a ceremony that honored veterans of the Vietnam conflict as the U.S. commemorates the 50th anniversary of the war.

The war forced Nguyen to flee her home country and start anew in America when she was 27 years old. Even though coming to the U.S. put her out of danger from the communists, she still had to adapt to living in another country.

Her journey would be long, but eventually she became a much-loved instructor at DLIFLC.

Early years in Saigon

Nguyen was born in the northern part of Vietnam, but when the country was partitioned in 1954 she moved to Saigon with her parents where she grew up. As a five-year-old at the time, her only memory is getting sick on the boat as the family traveled south.

Prior to 1975, it could be said that Saigon was relatively calm and stable throughout the Vietnam War, aside from a few skirmishes and the 1968 Battle of Saigon. However, for most residents, the war was something that was fought in the countryside, not the city. Life in Saigon was very normal for Nguyen and her 12 siblings as she was growing up. She had the opportunity to go to school and even had a job when she entered adulthood.

Nguyen’s father was a high school teacher and encouraged her to get an education. She would have preferred to be a nun to show her devotion to her Catholic faith, but she honored her father’s wishes and went to college and then worked for the Ministry of Education. She still had hopes that someday she would be a nun, so she continued to

volunteer and help others in Saigon until the day came when she had to leave.

Fall of Saigon

Nguyen’s parents escaped the communists three times. Once in 1948 before she was born. Again in 1954 when Vietnam was split and the family fled to the south. A third attempt was made in April 1975. This time it would be more difficult as the family was now larger, Nguyen’s parents were older, and in the chaos leading up to the fall of Saigon, passage out of the country appeared impossible. Nevertheless, the family would try their escape again.

“We didn’t know what the future held,” said Nguyen. “My father said we would take our chances on the boat. He said he would rather die in the ocean than stay in communist Saigon.”

The family attempted to board a ship out of Vung Tau, just south of Saigon, but the communists were already in the area. So, they returned home to Saigon.

“After that, my brother came and said we should try to go to the airport,” said Nguyen. “We went there and had to fight through the crowd because there were so many people trying to get out.”

The Nguyen family was able to board a Chinook helicopter bound for Guam, but the family then became separated. Nguyen’s older brother was then a lieutenant colonel in the South Vietnamese Army and he stayed behind to fight

the communists. He would escape almost at the last minute on one of the last flights out.

Passage to Guam was not easy. The uncertainty only added to their suffering. In Guam there were rumors amongst the refugees as to where they would end up. One rumor circulating said that they would be placed on an island in the Pacific to live out the rest of their days. No one knew what the future held.

“The worse things people would



Margarita Thao Nguyen (second row, second from right) stands with her family in Saigon, South Vietnam, in 1970. Nguyen would flee Vietnam in 1975 and eventually resettle in the U.S. (Photo provided by Margarita Thao Nguyen, DLIFLC)

say, the more people would believe it,” said Nguyen.

Contrary to all the rumors they were only in Guam for 10 days before being flown to the U.S.

“They put us on an airplane, but we did not know where we were going,” said Nguyen.

Four refugee centers were established by the U.S. Government in 1975 under Indochinese resettlement, or Operation New Life.

Nguyen arrived at one of the camps at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, but was separated from her mother and brothers and did not know where they were. Eventually her brother, the lieutenant colonel, and another brother arrived in the camp. Both had previously studied at the Naval Postgraduate School in 1956 and had very good command of the English language. So, they began to work in the camp headquarters. Through this position they were able to locate and find Nguyen’s mother. She was evacuated to

Camp Pendleton, California.

New life in America

In the refugee camps the Vietnamese were slowly integrated into the U.S. As political refugees, they were granted permanent legal residence in the U.S., but Nguyen held onto her deep cultural roots and felt that she needed a

husband before she could go on to start a new life in the U.S. She lived at Fort Chaffee for three months before she married another Vietnamese refugee whom she only knew two months prior to the fall of Saigon.

“I never planned to marry. All my life I wanted to be a Catholic nun,” said Nguyen. “So, in this situation I married because of what happened to my country. I never knew him well, but he promised to take care of my father who was 75 at the time

and spoke French.”

Together, they would settle in Texas, their only possessions being things given to them at the refugee camp.

“It was very hard for me. I had to start from the beginning, but I had a foundation in English so I could survive,” said Nguyen.

Just like in Saigon, Nguyen also devoted her time to serving and helping others through volunteerism. She helped out in the local Vietnamese community doing anything she could.

In 1988, mostly because of her brother’s previous experience in Monterey at the Naval Postgraduate School, Nguyen and her family left Texas for the Monterey Bay area.

In Monterey, she continued her service to the Vietnamese community and even got a new job in the local school district. She applied to work at DLIFLC in 1992. After a long wait, she was accepted as a Vietnamese instructor in 1994.

Coming to DLIFLC

Nguyen became a teacher in the Vietnamese resident course where she became well-loved among the faculty and staff. Unfortunately, defense spending cuts in 1997 forced the institute to let Nguyen go. She was rehired in 1998 and during her year off she studied computer science at Monterey Peninsula College. This proved advantageous, as in 2004 DLIFLC closed the Vietnamese department, but retained Nguyen in the Continuing Education Directorate because of her computer skills. Today, she uses technology to conduct video tele-training whereby she interacts with students anywhere in the world.

Nguyen’s coworkers and students enjoy her cheerful personality. Her former students who come back to DLIFLC to study another language always meet with

her to brush up on their Vietnamese.

“The students named me ‘hoa’ which means flower because I’m always smiling,” said Nguyen.



Margarita Thao Nguyen takes a photo of herself as she sets up her video tele-training system at the DLIFLC Continuing Education Directorate. Nguyen escaped from Saigon in 1975 and resettled in the U.S. before making her way to DLIFLC in Monterey, California. (Photo provided by Margarita Thao Nguyen, DLIFLC)

This year, DLIFLC organized a special salute to Vietnam War Veterans during Language Day festivities. Together with more than 65 Vietnam Vets, Nguyen stood proudly among them, thankful to the veterans and the country that welcomed her 40 years ago.



Vietnam War veterans are recognized at the DLIFLC's Language Day May 8. Margarita Thao Nguyen took part in the ceremony to honor Vietnam War veterans as the U.S. commemorates the 50th anniversary of the war. (Photo by Patrick Bray, DLIFLC Public Affairs)

California Representative Loretta Sanchez tours DLIFLC



Rep. Loretta Sanchez takes a photo with Persian Farsi students. (Photo by Gary Harrington, DLIFLC Public Affairs)

By Gary Harrington
DLIFLC Public Affairs

MONTEREY, Calif. – “The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center is such a great gem for America where we teach culture and language to not only our service members but to so many others in government so that we can communicate through diplomacy and not have to use our military all the time,” said Rep. Loretta Sanchez from California’s 46th district in Orange County, California.

Presidio of Monterey Garrison Commander, Col. Paul Fellingner, gave Sanchez a tour of DLIFLC April 10. After a brief by Fellingner and DLIFLC Chief of Staff, Steven Collins, Sanchez’s first stop was the Presidio Municipal Service Agency, a model of efficiency for the Department of Defense, saving the government more than \$1.5 million over the past five years and nationally lauded as the Monterey Model.

Sanchez’s next stop was the Persian Farsi School where she was met by Capt. Sarah Martin, interim dean, and assistant dean Dr. Martine Danan. Sanchez visited a Persian Farsi classroom where she was given a classroom demonstration by students in Farsi. Before leaving the Persian Farsi School, Sanchez was given a brief technology demonstration of online learning materials that DLIFLC offers to military and civilians at no cost.

After a short walk next door to the Price Fitness Center, Sanchez was met by the director of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Robert Emanuel, and given a tour of the new Functional Fitness Facility. The facility was created and equipped through the generosity of a local community activist, Bud Colligan. The primary goal is to help service members maintain combat readiness during their time at DLIFLC.

Sanchez’s final stop was lunch at Belas Dining Facility where she ate with students, Fellingner and other leaders from the Presidio of Monterey and DLIFLC.



Rep. Sanchez greets students at Belas Dining Facility. (Photo by Gary Harrington, DLIFLC Public Affairs)

LANGUAGE DAY 2015

“This is a good day to share my culture and to see other cultures, behaviors or anything related to language.”

Hadi Gardi, a former DLIFLC instructor



By Patrick Bray
DLIFLC Public Affairs

MONTEREY, Calif. – The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center opened its doors to the local community May 8 for Language Day 2015.

More than 4,200 people attended the annual event, which promotes and encourages cultural understanding and customs found around the world. The event featured cultural displays and activities as well as ethnic foods served by local international vendors on Soldier Field at the Presidio of Monterey.

In a similar event the previous weekend, DLIFLC partnered with the City of Monterey to host the Language Capital of the World Cultural Festival May 2. The festival featured music, flags, international crafts and food, dancers from many diverse cultures and a whole array of exhibitions to celebrate the diverse culture of Monterey.

“Each performance reflected the spirit and authenticity of each culture, demonstrated the dedication of all students and teachers involved,” said Sameera Sharif, master of ceremonies for both Language Day and the Language Capital of the World Cultural Festival.

Language Day has been a tradition at the Presidio for more than 30 years and every year it gets larger with more visitors and more cultural events. The City of Monterey is starting a new tradition as it plans to make the Language Capital of the World Cultural Festival an annual event.



Korean performers march in the Language Capital of the World Festival parade in Monterey California, May 2. (Photo by Gary Harrington, DLIFLC Public Affairs)





I.A.M. STRONG
INTERVENE • ACT • MOTIVATE

SHARP workshop invites military, academia to share best practices

By Tonya Townsell
Presidio of Monterey Garrison Public Affairs

MONTEREY, Calif. - Local military and academic representatives attended a two-day Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) workshop at the Presidio of Monterey March 31-April 1 to exchange ideas regarding challenges faced by both military and academic institutions.

Guests from about 15 universities and a variety of local military agencies representing the Army, Air Force and Navy, gathered for the event to share best practices. Some topics discussed included barriers to reporting; unique challenges within the Department of Defense and academia; fostering student activism; and building military and civilian community partnerships.

Military installations and universities both serve a similar population and face like challenges, explained Sgt. 1st Class Saffron Fletcher, the installation sexual assault response coordinator.

A big focus at the joint workshop was on a significant need to eliminate victim blaming and preconceived notions about reported suspects. This would require a culture shift, according to guest speaker Russell Strand, chief of the Family Advocacy Law Enforcement Training Division at the U.S. Army Military Police School.



Monterey County Rape Crisis Center Deputy Director, Ms. Lauren DaSilva speaks to the group during the two-day SHARP workshop. (Photo by Gary Harrington DLIFLC Public Affairs)

Russell Strand, guest speaker, addresses the participants of the two-day SHARP workshop held on the Presidio of Monterey.

(Photo by Gary Harrington, DLIFLC Public Affairs)



The good news is there are various culture shifts regarding sexual harassment and assault happening now, according to Strand, and he believes others are just around the corner.

The workshop was the first of its kind with a plan to continue similar workshops in the future, according to Harry Green, the Training and Doctrine Command SHARP program manager.

The SHARP Program reinforces the Army's commitment to eliminate incidents of sexual harassment and sexual assault through awareness and prevention, training, victim advocacy, reporting and accountability. The program is a comprehensive integration and transformation of the Army's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program and Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) efforts.



"At the end we had everyone together to shout 'Color DLI free of sexual assault.'"

- Sgt. 1st Class Tanner Swanson

Photo by Gary Harrington DLIFLC Public Affairs



By Patrick Bray
DLIFLC Public Affairs

The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center and Presidio of Monterey Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) office held a Color Run in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month at Soldier Field on the Presidio April 29.

About 100 service members pre-registered for the awareness-raising event, but on run day approximately

150 more than expected turned out, for a total of about 250 people.

The run took service members around Soldier Field. As participants ran by, volunteers threw a mixture of corn starch and food coloring on them, adding to the spirit of the event.

"This was a healthy and fun way to bring service members together," said Sgt. 1st Class Tanner Swanson, SHARP victim advocate. "At the end we had everyone together to shout 'Color DLI free of sexual assault.'"

Students study Russian in the European Union

By Natela Cutter
DLIFLC Public Affairs

DAUGAVPILS, Latvia – When the political situation became heated in the Ukraine in late 2013, the U.S. Embassy in Riga, Latvia, received an urgent call. U.S. students studying Russian needed a place to continue their studies – and what better place but within the European Union, in a country where 50 percent of the population speaks Russian?

“In fact, about 90 percent of the people here in Daugavpils speak Russian and use it all the time. Because we are located at the eastern most part of Latvia, most who live here are ethnic Russian,” says Sergey Simonov, the director and program manager of a company that has partnered with Daugavpils University to make the program possible.

With a unique approach of customized individual and small group courses in Russian, taught by highly qualified professors, the program specializes in literature and post-Soviet studies and instructs more than 150 students from various countries annually.

“The best thing about our program is that we have such a wonderful partnership with the Daugavpils University linguistics department. We expect our program to grow, precisely because of that excellent quality, convenient location and the fact that it is very safe here. Daugavpils is the best kept secret,” says Simonov, with a grin.

“I spend about two hours per day talking with my family. We talk about everything that happened during the day, about life in the U.S., life here, and cover just about every topic imaginable,” said Army Spc. Taylor Johnson.

In a local restaurant, friendly servers enjoy chatting in Russian with students who are trying to practice their language.



Airman 1st Class Jauric Flowers examines a Russian Orthodox icon in a church in Daugavpils. (Photo by Natela Cutter, DLIFLC Public Affairs)

Because the menu is in Latvian, a language with very little similarities to Russian, the conversation is at first a struggle and then turns to laughter.

“I wish this immersion could last longer because I feel like I just got over the stage fright,” says Seaman Israel Trujillo, musing over the menu in one of the most popular restaurants in town that resembles a German or Irish pub, with countless beer mugs, antique collectibles, and even an old fashioned crank phone attached to the wall.

Downtown Daugavpils, with its main square and small shopping malls is a picturesque little town, with a population slightly below 100,000 and very little crime. The streets are kept pristinely clean, the buildings have all been remodeled, and the countryside resembles the Midwest, with flat land and quaint farms dotting the countryside.

While class is conducted at Daugavpils University in the morning hours, the afternoons are filled with excursions to significant war memorials, churches, museums, and other historic sites.

“This Russian Orthodox church is one of the original churches that is called the Old Believer’s Church,” said Professor Dimitri Olekhovich, the assistant dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences. Speaking rapidly in Russian, Olekhovich explained the schism that occurred within the

Russian Orthodox Church in the 17th century still exists today.

And it is precisely this type of lecturing that broadens not only the vocabulary of students, but gives them the historical context within which a particular society functions.



Language students speak with food server in a restaurant in downtown Daugavpils about the menu selection in Russian. (Photo by Natela Cutter, DLIFLC Public Affairs)

Continued from page 20

“I feel that I better understand how people think, why they use certain colloquialisms, and why they act the way they do,” said Airman 1st Class Tyler West, after returning from Latvia.

“I definitely feel more at ease speaking the language and I am more ready to jump into a conversation than before.”

Only a few months away from graduation, this group of DLIFLC students feel that they are better prepared for their final exam, the Defense Language Proficiency Test, which they must pass in order to embark on their linguist careers.

“I think we are leaps and bounds ahead of where we were before we went to Latvia,” confirmed Spc. Rachel Brookens.



DLIFLC hosted about 40 foreign naval attachés and their spouses June 1 at the Presidio of Monterey, California. (Photo by Patrick Bray, DLIFLC Public Affairs)

Naval attachés visit DLIFLC

By Patrick Bray
DLIFLC Public Affairs

MONTEREY, Calif. – The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, Presidio of Monterey, California, hosted about 40 foreign naval attachés and their spouses June 1.

DLIFLC Commandant, Col. David K. Chapman, welcomed the attachés to the institute and gave them an overview of how DLIFLC trains linguists for the armed services.

Chapman, a Foreign Area Officer and three-time graduate of DLIFLC, spoke about his own experience learning Russian, Serbian-Croatian, and Greek.

“People often don’t realize how big we are, they assume that we are a single

‘institute’ or building, but when they come here, they are amazed by all the things we do, the capabilities that we have, and the number of military service members we train,” said Chapman, explaining that the perception about DLIFLC is often that it is a small school that only trains foreign area officers.

DLIFLC trains approximately 3,500 service members in 23 languages, most of whom are new to the military. The attachés visited classrooms in the European and Latin American school to get a firsthand look at just a fraction of the languages offered.

Defense, Military, Naval, and Air

Attaché of Finland Capt. Timo Stahlhammar observed a Serbian-Croatian class and was impressed with the students’ learning, especially that they were so young and new to the military.

“I didn’t understand anything that was being said, but hearing the students speak to each other I could tell that they were communicating,” said Stahlhammar.

Stahlhammar commended the students and their instructor for their hard work and success. He encouraged the students to keep up their language skills once they leave DLIFLC.

Attachés serve as military advisers to ambassadors or other heads of their country’s diplomatic mission, with most working in Washington, D.C. The naval attachés’ visit was part of a U.S. government-sponsored tour organized annually for members of the Naval Attaché Association.

Citizenship: many cultures, one dream



MONTEREY, Calif. - The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center is keeping up with tradition by hosting naturalization ceremonies for those obtaining U.S. citizenship at the Presidio of Monterey three times a year. Since 2012, more than 120 employees and family members have been naturalized.

"This is the best event at DLI and the one I have been the most honored to participate in during my time here," said DLIFLC Assistant Commandant Col. Ginger Wallace, with emotion in her voice. Wallace, who has participated in several events during her two-year assignment at DLIFLC, was the keynote speaker on June 4.

DLIFLC began holding naturalization ceremonies at the Presidio of Monterey in September 2012 because of the large number of non-citizens who work and teach at the institute. Cooperation with the local U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has led to a full day event, which includes the taking of a citizenship test, interview, and final oath taking ceremony.

"I feel very happy, privileged and grateful to have received my naturalization certificate. This has been a dream of mine for a very long time," said Asma Naser, an instructor from Afghanistan. "I have been here for almost eight years now and love living and working in my new country. There are many things that I can do here that I would think twice doing at home."

DLIFLC's Faculty Personnel System Office helps coordinate with USCIS, schedules the dates and reserves the venue for the event. Special certificates for new citizens are obtained from Congressman Sam Farr's office, making the event even more special.

"It is so exciting to see entire families receive their citizenship here at DLI. I think the event becomes more personalized allowing family members, colleagues and sometimes even their students, to come help celebrate," said Elise Billingsley, who works in the FPS office.



Assistant Commandant, Col. Ginger Wallace, presents a certificate to one of the youngest new citizens. (Photo by Natela Cutter, DLIFLC Public Affairs)



COMMANDANT'S RUN



Photo by Michael Beaton

By Gary Harrington
DLIFLC Public Affairs

MONTEREY, Calif. – The sun came out just in time to kickoff the Commandant's Run at the Presidio of Monterey, Feb. 18.

With more than 3,000 service members from the Army, Marines, Navy and Air Force taking part, DLIFLC Commandant, Col. David K. Chapman, led the run which began at the Price Fitness Center athletic field.

The run wound its way up and down hills and curves of the Presidio of Monterey before eventually reaching the bottom of the Presidio's Soldier Field. Service members were in high spirit with the Presidio's largest battalion, the 229th Military Intelligence Battalion, leading the way with cadence calls, a traditional call-and-response, sung by military personnel while running or marching. The Air Force followed with the Navy and Marines bringing up the rear.

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DLIFLC Commandant Col. David K. Chapman leads the four branches, Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines during the Commandant's Run held at the Presidio of Monterey, Feb. 18. (Photo by Gary Harrington, DLIFLC Public Affairs)

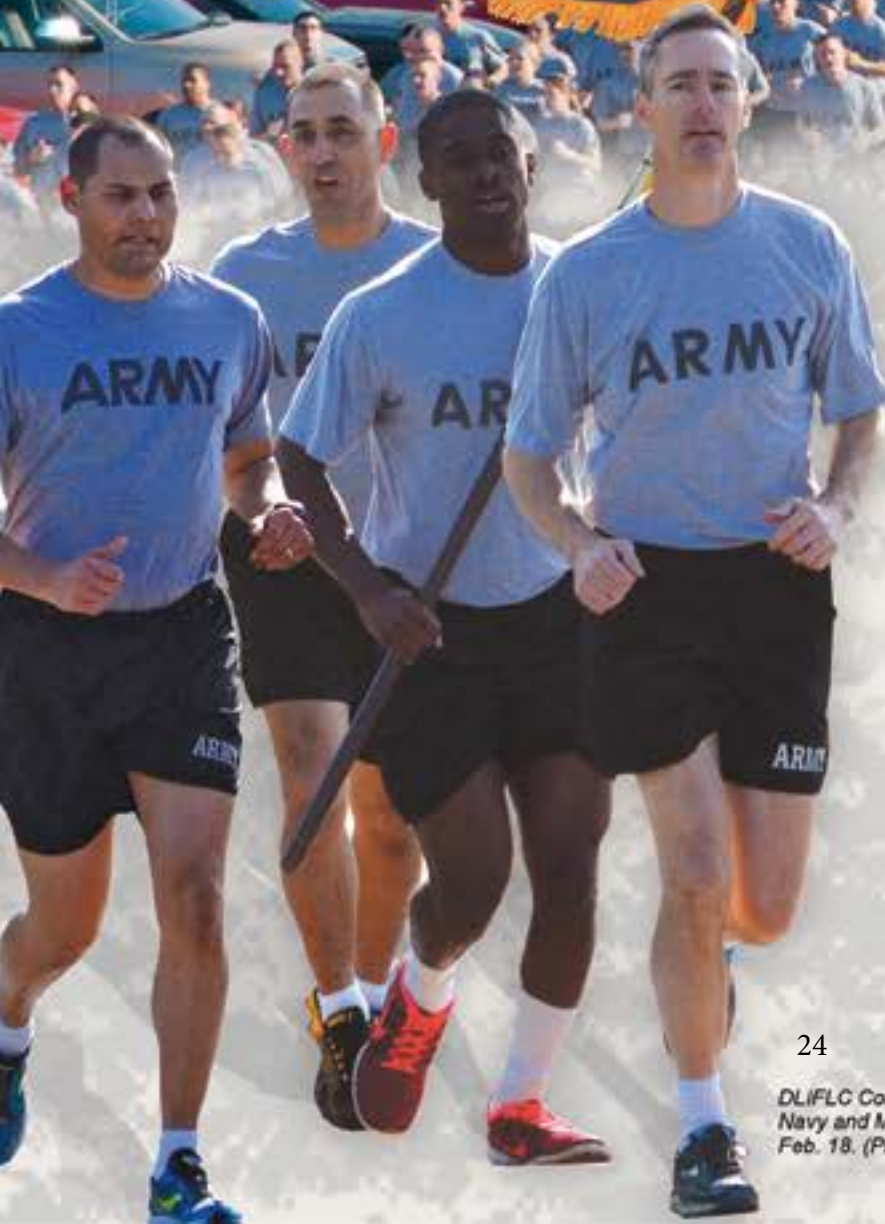
Once at the bottom of the Presidio on Soldier Field, Chapman addressed service members with a congratulatory "well done." He told service members that at larger installations the Commandant's Run can consist of more than 20,000 participants, making this run look small with its 3,000 service members. Chapman pledged to host another Commandant's Run in July.



Members of the Air Force 311th Training Squadron participate in the Commandant's Run held at the Presidio of Monterey, Feb. 18. (Photo by Gary Harrington, DLIFLC Public Affairs)



DLIFLC Command Sgt. Maj. Matildo Coppi encourages Navy service members during the Commandant's Run held at the Presidio of Monterey, Feb. 18. (Photo by Gary Harrington, DLIFLC Public Affairs)



The Commandant then handed the stage over to Command Sgt. Maj. Matildo Coppi who laterally appointed Provost Sgt. Maj. Wyndham Fox to Command Sergeant Major. Fox served as Provost Sgt. Maj. at DLIFLC since June 2012 and headed for a new assignment to serve as Battalion Command Sergeant Major at Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia.

"Sgt. Maj. Fox implemented changes to policies which positively affected an increase in student language proficiency rates. His advice and recommendations were relied upon by the Commandant Provost and multi-service commanders on matters affecting students and staff," said Sgt. Maj. Coppi. "He was the heart and guiding baton of the provost office," said DLIFLC Provost Dr. Betty Lou Leaver.

The United States Army first established the rank of Sergeant Major during the Revolutionary War, when Baron Fredrick William von Steuben, a Prussian volunteer, spelled out the duties and instructions for the rank in his Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States in 1779. The duties of the Sergeant Major included maintaining discipline, preparing rosters and details, and conducting parades.

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DLIFLC Command Sgt. Maj. Matildo Coppi laterally appoints Provost Sgt. Maj. Wyndham Fox to Command Sergeant Major during the Commandant's Run held at the Presidio of Monterey, Feb. 18. (Photo by Gary Harrington, DLIFLC Public Affairs)



Students visit the mausoleum of Mohammed V, a central tourist attraction in Rabat, Morocco. (Photo by Natela Cutter, DLIFLC Public Affairs)

DLIFLC language students get a taste of Morocco

By Natela Cutter
DLIFLC Public Affairs

RABAT, Morocco - Lance Cpl. Paul Smith never imagined that one of his most challenging language instructors would be a two-year-old. In fact, just a few years ago, Smith never thought he would be studying Arabic, let alone attend one of the nation's most difficult military schools, the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in Monterey, California.

"While studying Arabic in the classroom, I never realized the concept behind the word 'ball.' Thanks to Riad, now I know that it can be anything that resembles something round," said Smith speaking about his host family's two-year-old boy.



Lance Cpl. Paul Smith holds two-year-old Riad in his arms, his host family's son, while Aisha and Hussein Boudrar prepare a delicious meal of traditional couscous with vegetables and chicken. (Photo by Natela Cutter, DLIFLC Public Affairs)

Smith returned in April from a month-long immersion trip to Rabat, Morocco where he attended classes at local language school and had an opportunity to be immersed in the culture.

With a student body of about 3,500 military service members studying some two-dozen foreign languages, DLIFLC currently sends approximately 15 percent of its student body on immersion trips and plans to increase that number gradually over the next five years.

"I am deeply convinced that sending students on in-country immersions is critical to language acquisition," said DLIFLC Commandant Col. David K. Chapman. "Students not only have the opportunity to practice their language but gain in confidence and are exposed to the culture, sights, sounds, historical places, food, people and way of life. This can't be replicated anywhere."

For Smith and 10 of his classmates who traveled to Morocco, the trip was an experience of a lifetime. "There is no book you can learn this from, this is real, you can touch it, see it, feel it," said Smith, standing before the mausoleum of Mohammed V, in central Rabat.

During the day, the students diligently attend a local Arabic Language Center where the curriculum is taught by highly educated Moroccan instructors and topics range from politics to economics, history, and culture and beyond.

"When we moved to Morocco I immediately realized that there was no school for foreigners to learn Arabic," said Malaika Franklin.* "It started as small project in 2007 and today we have more than 150 students per world to study Arabic or colloquial Moroccan Arabic," said Franklin, adding that their program is based upon a communicative and immersive curriculum, with class sizes up to eight students.

"We pay close attention to their accommodations with host families, making sure that they have all the amenities that were promised, with adequate sleeping quarters, meals, etc. We also make sure the host families spend time speaking Modern Standard Arabic with them."

For Smith, staying with his host family not only improved his fluency in Arabic but also left a deep impression.

"Before, I had a closed world-view. This experience opened my eyes and gave me humility. Now I understand that things are not really the way we see them, on TV for example. Wherever I go, I will be opened minded about everything and never judge based upon what 'appears' to be, before I have experienced it."

Arabic Language Center is situated near downtown Rabat, in an area that houses most of the capital's embassies. The modern two-story home is decorated with Moroccan style ceilings, plush sofas, a library, language

labs, and large comfortable classrooms. The highlight, however, is the Bedouin tent in the backyard where students can drink tea, eat lunch, and relax during breaks.

"We offer breakfast and lunch on a daily basis. The meals are traditionally Moroccan and the students have the opportunity to enjoy authentic food prepared right here in our kitchen," said Franklin. "We give students an opportunity to experience what it is like to live in an Arabic culture and to be able to use the language functionally in a natural setting."



Lance Cpl. Paul Smith speaks with the director of the Arabic Language School during lunch under the Bedouin tent. (Photo by Natela Cutter, DLIFLC Public Affairs)

Structured class begins at 8 a.m. and normally finishes about noon. In the afternoons, the school organizes lectures by guest speakers or provides excursions to museums, universities, and other locations in town. On the weekends, the students embark on trips to nearby historic cities and are provided guides who lecture exclusively in Modern Standard Arabic.

On the weekends, the students embark on trips to nearby historic cities and are provided guides who lecture exclusively in Modern Standard Arabic.



Immersion students enjoy getting together for dinner at a host family's home in Rabat, Morocco. (Photo by Natela Cutter, DLIFLC Public Affairs)

"There is no rest here," said Franklin with a chuckle. "Contrary to popular belief, we make the students work hard because we know that the stakes are high when they get home and that their final exam is very difficult."

* Names in this article have been altered for security reasons.

Former Korean ambassador discusses North Korea

By Patrick Bray
DLIFLC Public Affairs

MONTEREY, Calif. – Korean language students at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, Presidio of Monterey, got a taste of potential issues they could be dealing with in their future careers during a lecture May 20.

Sook Kim, former Korean ambassador to the United Nations, spoke about the nuclearization issue in North Korea and the policy of North Korea's current president, Kim Jong Un. The lecture was given entirely in Korean and intended to provide students with target language content regarding a current foreign policy concern.

"I learned a lot about North Korea's nuclear research and issues that South Korea has to deal with," said Spc. Olivo Bonnelly. "It was great to get informed on how we might go about denuclearizing the country and get Kim Jong Un to cooperate."



Sook Kim, former Korean ambassador to the United Nations, speaks to Korean language students at DLIFLC about the nuclearization issue in North Korea and the policy of North Korea's current president during a lecture at the institute May 20. (Photo by Patrick Bray, DLIFLC Public Affairs)

Ambassador Kim is a career diplomat with more than 35 years of experience in the foreign service and intelligence fields. He is currently a Pantech Research Fellow at the Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center at Stanford University, California.

"I am always impressed and very thankful that the staff within the Korean department takes the time to seek out and invite such experienced and knowledgeable individuals to address us in Korean at a higher level," said Maj. Michael Vincent.

Students who attended the lecture are nearing completion of the 64-week Korean Basic Course. Service members are full-time learners, with five days of class a week and seven hours per day of class time.



Kim Jong Un succeeded his father in 2011 as the leader of North Korea. He continued his father's policy of "military first," while pursuing the simultaneous development of nuclear weapons and economic growth. However, very little has been revealed as to how much control Kim Jong Un actually has in the North Korean regime and this contributes to the threat to stability in Northeast Asia.

"Attending the lecture was a great privilege and an opportunity to hear Korean in a practical setting outside of the classroom," said Airman Joshua Mabry. "The speaker was not only easy to understand, but he was also engaging and discussed very interesting topics which are relevant to our career."



Capt. Travis Galloway, Korean language student at the DLIFLC poses a question in Korean to Sook Kim, former Korean ambassador to the United Nations, May 20. (Photo by Patrick Bray, DLIFLC Public Affairs)

Deputy assistant secretary of defense recognizes importance of linguists

By Patrick Bray
DLIFLC Public Affairs

MONTEREY, Calif. – The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center welcomed Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness, Daniel P. Feehan, to the institute at the Presidio of Monterey, June 25.

"The work that's done here 100 percent saved the lives of my Soldiers, saved my life, and will continue to do so," said Feehan, a U.S. Army Iraq veteran, with firsthand knowledge of the value of military linguists and acknowledges the vital role they play in the field.



Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness, Daniel P. Feehan (left), joined by Dr. Michael Nugent, Director of the Defense Language and National Security Education Office and DLIFLC Assistant Commandant Col. Keith Logeman, speaks with an Arabic Levantine instructor at one of the schools. (Photo by Patrick Bray, DLIFLC Public Affairs)

Within his scope of duties, Feehan is responsible for policy and oversight of joint training, education, training innovation and capability modernization, and advanced distributed learning technologies for the Federal Government and the Defense Language and National Security Education Office.

During his visit senior DLIFLC leadership briefed Feehan on the institute's goals to reach higher proficiency levels, faculty compensation, and distance learning capabilities, including online learning materials offered to not only the military services but also the public.

"I think he was pretty surprised to see the variety of online learning materials we offer and that most of the products are available online and are accessible and free to the public as well," said Branka Sarac, director of Technology Integration at the DLIFLC Directorate of Continuing Education.

During the day, Feehan visited classrooms, spoke with instructors and students of Arabic Levantine, and toured the Directorate of Continuing Education, as well as the Isolation Immersion facility for local immersion exercises.

"My take-away from here today is that you are incredibly unique," Feehan told senior DLIFLC staff during his final meeting of the day. "The 2+ effort (increasing proficiency) is a huge piece and I want to set you up for success."

Feehan emphasized that his newly gained knowledge about DLIFLC training capabilities of the services is essential in a globalized world, and stated that students graduating from the institute are in effect diplomats who promote and protect U.S. values and interests wherever they go.

"It is easy to take for granted that the world is globalized, but there are some places where globalization is not the norm," said Feehan, explaining why cross-cultural competency is important, a skill that DLIFLC students graduate with.

DLIFLC is regarded as one of the finest schools for foreign language instruction in the world. The Institute provides resident instruction in 23 languages to approximately 3,500 military service members, five days a week, seven hours per day, with two to three hours of homework each night. Generally, students spend between 26 and 64 weeks at the Presidio, depending on the difficulty of the language.



Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness, Daniel P. Feehan, shakes the hand of a service member at the Presidio of Monterey's Bela dining facility where he had lunch with students. (Photo by Patrick Bray, DLIFLC Public Affairs)

MEMORIAL DAY 2015



Photo by Patrick Bray

Col. Ginger Wallace, Assistant Commandant of DLIFLC, and Ben De La Selva, founder of the DLI Alumni Association, unveiled the plaque of all the institute's fallen who lost their lives in the Global War on Terrorism, which included U.S. Army Spc. Christopher Landis who lost his life in Afghanistan in February 2014.

Memorial Day observed at DLIFLC and POM

By Patrick Bray
DLIFLC Public Affairs

MONTEREY, Calif. – The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center observed Memorial Day during a ceremony on Soldier Field at the Presidio of Monterey May 21.

The annual Memorial Day ceremony consists of a formation of troops in their dress uniforms representing all four service detachments, ceremonial cannon fire and the playing of taps. This year, DLIFLC honored the service, patriotism and bravery of U.S. Army Spc. Christopher Landis who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country.

Landis, of Independence, Kentucky, was killed in action in Afghanistan in February 2014. He entered the U.S. Army in 2011 and graduated DLIFLC as an Arabic linguist before becoming a cryptologic linguist. He deployed to Afghanistan in late 2013.

Sgt. 1st Class David Lee and Staff Sgt. Frank Henegar, both from the 3rd Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, served with Landis in Afghanistan and gave remarks at the ceremony.

"Lonnie, as he was known to his brothers, was a strong willed and free spirited," said Lee. "He had a zest for life and even more for having fun."

Following the guest speaker's remarks, Col. Ginger Wallace, Assistant Commandant of DLIFLC, and Ben De La Selva, founder of the DLI Alumni Association, unveiled the plaque of all the institute's fallen who lost their lives in the Global War on Terrorism with Landis's name included.

Wallace encouraged the attendees to observe the Memorial Day holiday as a day of reflection and remembrance.

www.dliflc.edu

DLIFLC launched its new website May 8, 2015!

See our new look and feel! Visit our online learning page and pick a language! Whether you are a beginner, advanced learner or simply want to find out about the history and culture of a nation, you will find the information here at your fingertips. Log on today to learn a new language free of cost and open to the public.



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