



## Key stakeholders meet at English Language Program Working Group

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During the English Language Program Working Group (ELPWG) meeting on February 11, DLIELC's key stakeholders in the English language training mission assembled and discussed several important topics.

During DLIELC's portion, the organization introduced the Commandant-approved Strategic Plan which will be officially unveiled at the March Commandant's Call. We shared that this plan provides direction in academic, program management, outreach, and institutional areas.

Monitoring the implementation of the plan will be conducted through a series of working groups and boards which will also serve to improve internal accountability. Finally, we suggested that the leaders from the various military departments can assist us by identifying emerging or changing requirements, supporting DLIELC engagement at follow-on training locations, and bringing DLIELC into their initiatives early—we are here to enable their programs.

We discussed our March 2015 Accreditation visit and provided a copy of the Overview and Summary of our submission to the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA).

The assembled leaders clearly understood that this accreditation represents our functional validation of the quality of the English mission and that all aspects of DLIELC's mission are governed and inspected through the accreditation process. We expect the accreditation decision in the July 2015 timeframe and are working towards a 10-year accreditation.

The ELPWG members understood that we have the highest numbers of students on campus in over 30 years. To meet this high demand and the expected summer surge, DLIELC is working through GSA to contract additional instructors. While our traditional trajectory would have us topping out at around 1500 students this summer, with recent changes to entry ECL waivers for a few countries, we might see more of a flat student population vice the traditional summer surge.

We then shifted to a discussion on forecasting student loads in the next five to 15 years and there was little resolution on this topic. If the student load continues at the current level, we have an Area Development Plan which has the template for an additional academic building, student support building, and other facilities to support a larger student population.

David Oglesby, Chief, Testing and Measurement branch, briefed the ELPWG members on the latest initiatives related to the ECL. Defense Language and National Security Education Office (DLNSEO), a valued member of the ELPWG, sponsors a high-level advisory panel to assist DLIELC in ensuring the ECL is valid and reliable to meet Security Cooperation requirements. The panel provided four key recommendations and DLIELC is working through them. They include phasing out paper and pencil forms and standardizing the ECL to a uniform computer-adaptive testing format, conducting a military/security domain analysis to inform ECL item development and curriculum, revising the ECL framework document to include a refined definition of the ECL testing construct, and developing an automated test assembly method to enhance score resolution at required ECL cutoff scores.

We also discussed the DLIELC effort to provide deliberate input in to the annual ECL-OPI Waiver that is signed by the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA). With enabling support from David Oglesby's team and a small working group, DLIELC will be able to assess and make expert recommendations for this important policy waiver. The team developed the criteria or rubric for our recommendation which includes country performance on ECL and OPI testing, academic research and publications, and performance of the countries at US training events or participation in exercises.

The conversation shifted to our curriculum development. We discussed that part of the Strategic Plan is to settle into a 6-year curriculum development cycle so we will not see a core element of our curriculum become 10 years old or older. We are implementing a more robust engagement with follow-on training sites to en-



**Fanz, DLI key personnel, and personnel from DSCA, the Defense Language and National Security Education Office, AETC, AFSAT, SATFA, and NETSAFA gathered in the DLI Conference Center to conduct an English Language Program Working Group.**

*Photo by Spencer Berry, DLI Public Affairs*

sure validity and reliability of the curriculum.

We solicited working group members' support to provide guidance and advocate support for DLIELC visits at the training locations—the end product will be better if they are involved.

A recent theme that increased in importance over the last year has been DLIELC oversight of English language training contracts done as part of a Foreign Military Sales case. We proposed and DSCA accepted our recommendations for engagement in the development of these contracts from the initial analysis through annual inspections of the implementation of the training. DLIELC is implementing our technical oversight of contract English Language Training successfully in several locations to include the United Arab Emirates, Sheppard AFB, and other developing contracts.

We provided an update to the ELPWG members on the Royal Saudi Air Force (RSAF) F-15SA English Language Training efforts (mostly in bldg. 5570). We iterated that we work closely with the RSAF leadership and AFSAT to improve the training success rate and are participating in the "bottom-up" review that General Rand, AETC Commander, asked AFSAT to complete.

Meg Flynn, Plans and Programs, updated the working group members on the network-based eWheel which to date had focused on accurately determining the length of time to achieve desired proficiency and arrival at DLIELC. We are deliberately reaching out to our other stakeholders to identify additional features that would better enable the planning, programming, and execution of our collective mission.

We revealed that on February 10, DLIELC received approval to be reorganized as a numbered Air Force Group with three subordinate Squadrons. The effective date of this change is April 3, 2015. However, we have a lot of work towards getting the Unit Manning Document (UMD) in order. We briefed the ELPWG that there are no mission impacts expected with this change. On April 3, 2015, we will be known as both the 637th Training Group and DLIELC, with the 332nd Training Squadron (essentially LEA), 637th International Support Squadron (essentially IOS), and 637th Training Support Squadron (essentially LES).

Finally, we briefed the ELPWG on our effort to certify the Language Training Detachment in the United Arab Emirates as an official DLIELC Campus with a delegated General English mission and authorization to issue DLIELC certificates. The DLIELC/UAE is advancing well with a Memorandum of Agreement nearing concurrence—we already have an Operating Instruction in place that brings this campus into compliance with DLIELC main campus standards and procedures—to the extent feasible.