



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY  
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ANNAPOLIS MARYLAND 21402-1300

USNAINST 5160.71

4 JUN 2014

USNA INSTRUCTION 5160.71

From: Superintendent

Subj: U. S. NAVAL ACADEMY DEFENSE LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY TESTING PROGRAM

Ref: (a) DoD INST 5160.71 as of 26 Jan 2009 (DoD Language Testing Program)  
(b) OPNAVINST 5200.37 (Navy Foreign Language Testing Program)  
(c) NAVADMIN 161/11 - Navy Foreign Language Testing Delivery

1. Purpose. To establish guidelines for the administration of the Foreign Language Testing Program at the U. S. Naval Academy (USNA) in support of reference (a).

2. Background and Definitions

a. The Foreign Language Testing Program at the USNA is an essential component of the Navy's Language, Regional Expertise, and Culture (LREC) Program to assess foreign language proficiency of officers or enlisted members assigned to USNA or Midshipmen engaged in the Language Study Abroad Program (LSAP), Semester Study Abroad (SSA) Program, and foreign language major and minor academic curriculum.

b. The Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT) is a test battery authorized for assessing proficiency in a foreign language and the only test that determines qualification for receiving a Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus (FLPB). As such, the DLPT will be administered at the U.S. Naval Academy to establish and assess:

(1) The DLPT level of proficiency by participants in foreign language majors and minors.

(2) The DLPT level achieved by participants in programs that promote foreign language abilities (e.g. LSAP and SSA) or heritage language speakers.

(3) Foreign language proficiency of heritage speakers or others that have established an ability to speak foreign languages.

c. The Defense Language Aptitude Battery (DLAB) is the preferred test battery authorized by the Department of Defense for assessing an individual's aptitude for acquiring a foreign language. The DLAB may be administered on a case by case basis via the Languages and Cultures Department.

3. Policy

a. Language Majors and Minors

(1) Initial testing and testing frequency. Foreign language majors shall take the DLPT at the conclusion of the first year of language instruction and following any significant foreign language educational experience (e.g. LSAP and SSA).

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(2) Culminating Linguistic Event (CLE). At the conclusion of the course of study, but no later than spring semester first class year, Midshipmen majoring or minoring in a language shall take the DLPT as a culminating linguistic event, in addition to any requirements stipulated by the Language and Cultures Department.

b. LSAP and SSA

(1) Initial testing. Midshipmen seeking to take part in SSA shall take the DLPT the semester prior to the commencement of the program in which they plan to participate.

(2) Subsequent testing. Midshipmen returning from a LSAP or SSA shall take the DLPT at the first available opportunity as scheduled by the DLPT Coordinator. Due to the mandated 180-day "no test" interval between testing periods, it is not practical for LSAP participants to sit for the DLPT prior to their study abroad program; therefore, participants will take the exam only after completing their respective program.

c. USNA Officers and Enlisted are also eligible to participate in the DLPT process.

4. Responsibilities

a. Academic Dean. The Academic Dean and Provost shall exercise overall responsibility for the scheduling and administration of the DLPT and DLAB.

b. Director, Division of Humanities and Social Sciences. The Division Director shall:

(1) Assign a DLPT Coordinator. The DLPT Coordinator shall ensure that Test Control Officers (TCOs), proctors, and facilities are available to administer the DLPT and DLAB as required by the Academic Dean.

(2) Provide, train, and schedule TCOs and proctors to administer the DLPT and DLAB as required.

(3) Provide testing space and access to necessary IT equipment for administration of the DLPT.

c. Chair, Department of Languages and Cultures. The chair of the Languages and Cultures Department shall ensure that those students majoring in a foreign language (Arabic and Chinese) take the DLPT in the second semester of their First Class year or at some other time deemed appropriate during the course of study. The department chair is responsible to the Academic Dean and Provost for tracking the historical performance of foreign language major or minor participants on the DLPT.

d. LSAP Coordinator. Normally assigned by the Chair, Department of Languages and Cultures to ensure that those Midshipmen selected for language study abroad are tested as part of their program.

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e. Director, International Programs Office (IPO). The Director, IPO shall:

(1) Utilize the DLPT as an assessment tool in conjunction with IPO related programs supporting foreign language development.

(2) Serve as the U. S. Naval Academy liaison with appropriate U. S. Navy and U. S. Marine Corps points of contact to provide graduating Midshipmen DLPT results for the purposes of initiating FLPB.



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