

## Distributed Learning System (DLS)

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# Press Release

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## 84th Training Command (Leader Readiness) Attains Key Milestone in the Army's Transition to a Standard Training Management System

*Achievement Involves Migrating 38 Virtual University Courses to the Army Learning Management System (ALMS)*

Fort McCoy, WI – March 26, 2008 - The U.S. Army announced that the 84th Training Command (Leader Readiness) is transitioning its Virtual University distributed learning (dL) curriculum to the Army Learning Management System (ALMS). The 38 courses involved in this migration process will include annually required training such as Operations Security (OPSEC), Force Protection, and Subversion and Espionage Directed Against the Army (SAEDA).

“The migration process of the Army Reserve’s Virtual University curriculum represents a key milestone for the entire Army as it transitions to the ALMS,” stated Lieutenant Colonel Robert A. Bean, Product Manager for the U.S. Army Distributed Learning System (DLS). “With the deployment of ALMS, the Army is achieving important goals to reduce and eliminate duplication of effort across training institutions, improve cost effectiveness and ensure conformance to industry standards.”

DLS acquires, deploys and maintains a worldwide learning infrastructure for the Army, including the ALMS. In accordance with Army *DAMO-ZA message, DTG 051254Z Jun FY07, subject: Army distributed Learning (dL) Governance; Approval Process for Distributed Learning Courseware Development*, all Army agencies are required to develop a plan to migrate all dL courseware to ALMS and to complete the migration no later than the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2009.

By establishing a single resource for Army leadership to view the progress of training within units or for individuals, ALMS enables commanders to more quickly assess Soldier readiness and make decisions needed to correct any deficiencies. Additionally, automated training records in ALMS will have the capability to contain not only all of the occupational specialty and grade tasks for which Soldiers are responsible, but also whether or not they have attained proficiency in each task, when the proficiency was conferred, and by whom.

The efforts of the 84<sup>th</sup> Training Command provides an important example of how ALMS migration efforts are delivering the results and benefits associated with training management standardization. “The bottom line is that Soldiers, whether they are Reserve, National Guard or Active Duty, can get quick access to the training they need,” stated Mr. Paul Squires, Deputy Director of the Advanced Distributive Learning Directorate (ADLD) at the 84th.

There are many variables involved in producing dL course content, including courseware authoring tools, the course content itself, and the fact that developers use different methods to produce courseware. The migration effort to move the Army’s entire dL curriculum is aided by DLS staff teaming with the Army’s training schools to complete the transition in the most effective and efficient manner possible.

For courseware developers, DLS provides access to an integrated content validation system that automates quality-assurance processes, allowing developers to quickly perform rigorous tests on new content prior to transferring material into ALMS. “In working with DLS, the personnel have been incredible,” stated Mr. Don Graham, Assistant Training Developer in the 84<sup>th</sup>’s ADLD. “They’ve been responsive and very helpful along the way. Everybody is working as a team. You hear that a lot, but we really do work as a team. And we are able to use the combined knowledge of everyone in our center to keep the migration moving forward.”

#### **About the U.S. Army Distributed Learning System**

The U.S. Army Distributed Learning System (DLS) acquires, deploys and maintains a worldwide learning infrastructure that innovatively combines hardware, software and telecommunications resources with training facilities and course content to deliver a cohesive, Web-based solution within five components. The Army Learning Management System (ALMS) enables improved knowledge sharing and process transformation by standardizing procedures, terminology and data across local training centers throughout the Army. Army e-Learning contributes more than 2,600 training courses in the areas of foreign languages, information technology, business, leadership and professional development. Digital Training Facilities (DTFs) contribute 231 facilities at 94 locations worldwide, each offering 12 to 16 student workstations, video tele-training (VTT) equipment and Microsoft Office software. The Enterprise Management Center (EMC) contributes system administration for DLS worldwide, managing integrated computer servers, telecommunications equipment and software assets. Deployed Digital Training Campuses (DDTCs) improve learning and in-theater decision-making by providing classroom capabilities directly to the Soldier’s area of operations using satellite and wireless connectivity.

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