



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, PROGRAM ANALYSIS AND
EVALUATION
DIRECTOR, FORCE TRANSFORMATION
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Management of the Defense Language Proficiency Testing Program

This memorandum assigns authorities, responsibilities and procedures for the Defense Language Proficiency Testing Program and for the development and delivery of the Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT).

National security demands have greatly increased the nation's need for foreign language capability, both in numbers and proficiency. As a result, the requirement for large-scale foreign language test development and delivery has never been greater. This issue calls for Department-level governance, clearly defined authorities and responsibilities, and one set of standards for test security and accountability for all DoD and other government client users to ensure test reliability, validity, high security, and best quality assessments of military and civilian personnel in world languages.

The Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Plans, OUSD (Personnel and Readiness)/OSD Senior Language Authority shall publish, in coordination with the Foreign Language Steering Committee (FLSC), DoD policy and program direction for the DLPT Program, to include the implementation of the web-delivered DLPT5, and the conversion of pre-DLPT5 generation tests from paper and pencil to a web-delivered format. The Department of the Army Human Resources Command will continue to provide pre-DLPT5 paper and pencil DLPTs until tests in these languages have been converted to a web-delivered format.

The Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Plans, OUSD (Personnel and Readiness)/OSD Senior Language Authority shall task those activities necessary to establish and coordinate a process to provide testing advice and guidance that ensures adherence of the DLPT Program to the highest national testing principles and standards,



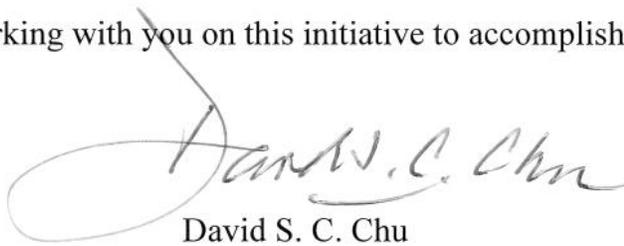
as defined by the Joint Committee on Testing Practices and government organizations that establish official language testing standards, as appropriate.

A Defense Language Testing Requirements Board (DELTRB) shall be established to develop and coordinate DLPT language testing requirements and set DLPT test development priorities for the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC). The DELTRB will meet bi-annually, or as needed, will be chaired by the Director of the Defense Language Office, and will be composed of organizations represented on the Foreign Language Steering Committee and the Defense Language Action Panel.

The DoD Executive Agent (EA) for DLIFLC will continue to exercise program authority for test content, validation, and test administration conditions and will program for funds related to test development and validation. The Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) will have responsibility for DLPT test delivery, test administrator training, and system technical support and will program for DMDC funds related to these activities. Services and Agencies will program and fund for DLPT5 System client user requirements (e.g., hardware, software, Oral Proficiency Interviews, etc.). DMDC will collaborate with DLIFLC to ensure the psychometric quality of tests. DoD Components and other DLPT client users will be responsible for administering DLPTs only under the supervision of trained and certified Test Control Officers (TCOs) who follow DoD DLPT test security and accountability policies, procedures, and regulations. Client users' testing and education authorities remain unchanged; the only changes are the test delivery platform and the location and conditions under which the tests are administered.

This important initiative requires your full support to bring about the changes required for a strong Defense Language Testing Program.

I look forward to working with you on this initiative to accomplish our shared goals.



David S. C. Chu