

# ADL Implementation Fest 2005



**MT2 AND ALMOST 350 MEMBERS OF THE ADVANCED DISTRIBUTED LEARNING COMMUNITY ATTENDED THE RECENT IMPLEMENTATION FEST 2005 WHERE, DURING THE THREE-DAY EVENT, SOME SIGNIFICANT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS WERE REVEALED.**

**BY EDITOR JORDAN FUHR  
AND EDITOR-AT-LARGE  
MARTY KAUCHAK**

After a few years of becoming familiar with the concept of advanced distributed learning (ADL) and the Sharable Content Object Reference Model (SCORM) standard, the ADL Implementation Fest 2005 has taken a more direct role by focusing on the hands-on applications.

Attendees at this year's event saw much more dialog on the implementation, challenges and results rather than the "how to" of the initiative.

"ADL has moved from the basics of 'What is ADL?' and 'What is SCORM?' and into implementation," said Joint ADL Co-Lab Director Jean H. Burmester, host of the conference. "The speakers represented

all services, the joint community, academia and industry bringing a variety of backgrounds together to accomplish a common goal—providing access to the highest quality education, training and performance aiding, tailored to individuals needs, delivered cost effectively, anytime and anywhere."

Speakers at this year's event, hosted by the Orlando Joint ADL Co-Lab, lectured and fielded questions on registry and compliance issues, the benefits and challenges of a standard content format, joint force trainer perspectives, the impact on the Joint Knowledge Development and Distribution Capability, and the individual service's use of ADL.

"Based on the critique sheet comments received last year one of the major changes we made was to focus the speakers at the action officer level or those with hands-on experience," Burmester said. "We asked the speakers to not only talk to their successes, but more importantly to address the challenges they faced in implementing the ADL Initiative.

In addition, the entire last day of the conference was devoted to discussing game-based learning. Researchers and developers from organizations such as Carnegie Mellon University's Entertainment Technology Center, the University of Southern California's Institute for Creative Technologies and the U.S. Army Research Institute discussed

the foundation of game technologies, education of game developers, training assessment, and artificial intelligence and story telling.

Colonel Susan Helms, the deputy director of Air Education Training Command, presented an overview of how the Air Force is using ADL and where it would like to be in the future. One of the colonel's main points was that the Air Force would like to create a true integrated learning environment. By integrating ADL, the Air Force could host Web-based career management, create a one-stop shop for all supplemental training requirements, and tie in all joint training requirements.

However, as with all the services' implementation, challenges exist. Some of the main challenges to implementing this learning environment and fully taking advantage of ADL throughout the Air Force include resource and manpower models lacking a solid structure. Furthermore, the return on investment is difficult to quantify.

Although Terence Kerrigan, director of the Marine Corps College of Continuing Education, touched on some challenges, he mostly touted the accomplishments the Marine Corps has had with ADL. In his presentation, he noted the success of the Deployable Learning Resource Center.

The self-contained electronic training

and resource systems have been deployable with some units of the Marine Expeditionary Force. The centers provide deployed troops access to much of the educational and resource tools they had available at state-side bases. He also noted the need for multiple methods of delivering the same curriculum because of the overwhelming number of captains and majors taking correspondence classes.

Dan Gardner, director, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Readiness (Readiness and Training, Policy and Programs), delivered an upbeat assessment on the state of ADL during his Tuesday keynote address.

He observed the program is meeting combatant commanders' needs by providing ADL-formatted courses and content through the Joint Knowledge Development and Distribution Capability (JKDDC), and is enabling the Department to provide trafficking in persons (TIP) training to deploying personnel—a priority administration policy requirement.

Gardner congratulated the ADL Academic Co-Laboratory of Madison, WI, on rapidly producing TIP instruction, and also cited successes of the other network co-laboratories—Alexandria, VA, Workforce in Memphis, TN, and the Joint Co-Lab.

He reminded the conference participants that ADL has evolved into an international effort, and announced that the program was collaborating to co-host Plugfest II in Taiwan in January 2006, and that it maintains partnership labs in the United

Kingdom and Canada.

Dr. Robert Wisner, director of the Advanced Distributed Learning Program, told attendees that his office was re-coordinating the approval of the DoD Instruction 1322.HH (Development, Management and Delivery of Distributed Learning).

Two of the instruction's more important tenets will mandate that "all newly acquired ... [systems and content] ... shall conform to Sharable Content Object Reference Model (SCORM)," and that "all newly acquired learning content shall include metadata and be registered in the ADL Registry and maintained in searchable repositories."

This last effort is certain to bolster the program's embryonic Content Object Repository Discovery and Registration Architecture.

The 1322.HH is expected to be approved not later than the 2005 Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference.

The Joint Knowledge and Distribution Development Capability (JKDDC) also was on the agenda. It is one of Training Transformation's (T2) three pillars, and prepares the individual sailor, soldier, airman and marine for assignment to combatant commanders' staffs and other challenging joint assignments. The capability uses SCORM and other enabling efforts from ADL.

Conference attendees learned that JKDDC's management and oversight is being moved from the Office of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (J7) to U.S. Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM).

Dr. Jerry West, JKDDC's deputy director, said that courses obtained through the JKDDC Web portal are preparing individual augmentees for duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Challenges which remain on the horizon for the management office and its industry partners include tracking individual JKDDC course completion and recording the results in the evolving Defense Readiness and Reporting System.

USJFCOM's deputy for Joint Individual Training, Joe Camacho, told those who attended his Wednesday morning session "that the command has "been very quietly working with our friends and allies."

The command, in collaboration with Allied Command Transformation (ACT) and other organizations, is developing ADL courses that will enable the individual warfighter to support collective training. "This is a very important notion," Camacho said. "ADL in and of itself is very good, but to prepare warriors in an exercise in a real-world environment to do their job better, to ensure their survivability, and to use ADL as a tool to do this, is where we believe the Secretary [of Defense Donald Rumsfeld] wants us to go with T2 and JKDDC," he added.

To help achieve this vision, the ACT/USJFCOM partnership, with support from the Consortium of Defense Academies and Security Studies Institutes, has established 18, three-person cooperative development teams to create SCORM-conformant courseware, launched from a learning management system, for the multinational warfighter. Representative ADL courses include Introduction to Information Operations and Introduction to NATO Logistics.

A first for NATO will occur when the training audience for the late summer exercise VIKING 05 completes a mandatory one-hour, introduction to peace support operations course, in ADL-format, before it reports for assignment. ★

---

*Editor's note: For more information about these presentations or those not covered in this article, PowerPoint presentations are available for download from the Implementation Fest Web site (<http://www.jointadcolab.org/ii2005.htm>).*



**The ADL directors: (seated from left to right) Paul Jesukiewicz, director ADL Co-Lab; Dan Gardner, director of readiness and training, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense; Dr. Robert Wisner, director, ADL Initiative, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense; (standing, left to right) Xiangen Hu, director, Workforce Co-Lab; Jean Burmester, director Joint ADL Co-Lab; Judy Brown, director Academic Co-Lab; and Major Dave Kitchen, director, Canada ADL Partnership Lab.**

Contact Editor Jordan Fuhr at [jordanf@kerriganmedia.com](mailto:jordanf@kerriganmedia.com). For more information related to this subject, search our archives at [www.mt2-kmi.com](http://www.mt2-kmi.com).