



Air Force Senior Language Authority, Don Get, works through the DLIFLC HeadStart2 Iraqi program on an electronic whiteboard at Maxwell AFB where he attended 30 hours of language and culture training. Photo courtesy Maxwell AFB.

Air Force Senior Language Authority and Brig. Gen. Anthony Rock complete Iraqi familiarization course

By Robert Miltersen, DLIFLC program manager, Maxwell AFB

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala., - Air Force Senior Language Authority Don Get and Air Command and Staff College Commandant Brig. Gen. Anthony Rock completed 30 hours of Iraqi dialect language instruction facilitated by the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) at Maxwell Air Force Base (AFB) in October 2010.

The class is part of the Air Force's General Officer Pre-Acculturation Course (GOPAC) designed to prepare general officers and other high-ranking officials for command positions in the international arena.

"I just returned from a week in Baghdad where I did my orientation for the command I will assume," said Rock in an e-mail to his DLIFLC language instructor Hussein Hassan. "Your survival level Iraqi dialect was put to good use as I met many very senior and junior officers. I even got a chance to use my 'maacha laazim' and 'ashukurak hawayah' when I was presented a gift by the commander of

the Iraqi Special Operations Forces as a welcome."

"The pace at which they acquired the language was superb. They were very serious about the training which made my job a lot easier with this level of motivation and determination. I think both students learned a good deal of language in this short course," said Hassan, who instructed the two students on a daily basis, establishing close rapport with both.

"I'll continue to treasure the instruction you provided to me and Saydee," said Rock, referring to Get's nick name given in the class, which is customary in the Arabic culture.

In addition to 30 hours of DLIFLC instruction, where language and culture lessons are intertwined, the participants also received culture general and culture specific training from the Air Force Culture and Language Center to further prepare them for their upcoming assignments.

"My approach was to go beyond the syntax level of the language and

analyze the cultural depth behind the phrases and expressions they learned. Language reveals the native speakers' mind-sets, attitudes, and emotions. You cannot learn this from history books," explained Hassan.

In FY10, DLIFLC provided GOPAC language instruction to six general officers heading for various theaters worldwide.

Get has been selected for reassignment as director, Iraq Training and Advising Mission, Ministry of Defense, Deputy Commanding General, Advising and Training, U.S. Forces-Iraq, Baghdad, Iraq and Rock will be reassignment as Director, Iraqi Training and Advisory Mission - Air Force, U.S. Forces-Iraq, U.S. Central Command, and Commander, 321st Air Expeditionary Wing, Air Combat Command, Baghdad, Iraq.