



Integrating Lessons Learned at MANSCEN

By Sergeant First Class Paul A. Zacher (Retired)

With the Army heavily engaged throughout the world, the Combined Arms Center (CAC) at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, recognized the need to share lessons learned quickly with the rest of the Army. The collection and dissemination of lessons learned to predeploying units, leaders, and Soldiers greatly enhances the success of our Army by providing valuable tools to those who need them most. In March 2006, the CAC commander implemented an initiative for sharing Army lessons learned. Lessons Learned Integration (L2I) spreads lessons learned by capturing and sharing emerging “best practices”; relevant observations, insights, and lessons (OILs); and tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) from the operating force.

Last August, the Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL) at Fort Leavenworth trained and sent out more than 40 L2I analysts to implement and strengthen already existing L2I programs at most United States Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) professional military education (PME) centers and schools and operational centers such as divisional headquarters. The analysts, all civilian contractors, are retired or former active duty personnel who have expertise and experience with the proponent they are assigned to. At the Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, United States Army Maneuver Support

Center (MANSCEN) Directorate of Training (MDOT), L2I analysts support each of the three schools and MANSCEN.

The L2I analysts provide support to TRADOC centers and schools by researching and analyzing issues identified by their proponents or from an array of information sites and systems. The analysts have vast amounts of resources at their disposal and the ability to collaborate with other analysts worldwide to provide support to their activity.

Collection and Analysis Teams (CAATs), another asset available to L2I analysts, are deployed worldwide by CALL to collect relevant and real-time data to be shared. These CAATs, consisting of subject matter experts from many branches and schools, go through a training program prior to the collection process, spend a week collecting data from designated units, and then summarize their findings to be used later in publications, TTP, or lessons learned. Since 11 September 2001, CALL has published hundreds of publications and answered more than 5,000 requests for information (RFIs) annually.

L2I analysts provide many benefits; valuable and useful information has been provided to MANSCEN and the schools for dissemination to leaders and Soldiers through the newly-developed

MANSCEN L2I Microsoft® SharePoint website. Relevant and branch-validated information from the field is rapidly shared with appropriate leaders, training developers, and instructors to supplement lesson plans without the need to rewrite programs of instruction (POIs) or doctrine.

L2I analysts are also the direct link to CALL for RFIs or publication requests and for establishing and maintaining the information flow between other analysts where similar units have the same need for information sharing. They “push” information relevant to their activity’s needs by “pulling” it from CALL or other resources, thereby alleviating the need for their activity to spend valuable resources. Optimizing the L2I program requires a collaborative effort between the schools and the L2I analysts in pushing and pulling resources to benefit Soldiers in training.

For more information on how the Engineer School L2I analyst can support you, call (573) 563-5340 or e-mail <paul.a.zacher@us.army.mil>.



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