**CHALLENGE**

The Regional Proficiency Assessment Tool (RPAT) was commissioned by the Defense Language and National Security Education Office (DLNSEO) to provide understanding of the regional proficiency of the military workforce. As developed and prototyped by CASL, the RPAT will allow the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) to assess, track, and manage the regional proficiency of its military personnel, enhancing its ability to meet regional proficiency requirements.

**SOLUTION**

CASL’s RPAT prototype consists of the Data Collection Module, which gathers biographical information from individuals, and the Data Viewer, which displays this information to decision makers. A complex algorithm combines each individual’s biographical data to provide a regional proficiency assessment in each of the DoD’s world regions.

Recent work on the RPAT refined the algorithm and initiated validation through a usability and face-validity study. This study revealed several areas for improvement, including broader inclusion of region-focused experiences, relaxed requirements for formal education, and clarifications to the instructions. Most participants reported that the RPAT questionnaire covers the major dimensions of regional proficiency.

With support from CASL, the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) has developed and launched a production version of the RPAT Data Collection Module and is currently collecting data to be used in conjunction with validity studies in fiscal year 2015. Further, CASL has designed a prototype Data Viewer for decision makers.

Continued engagement with stakeholders (clients and end users) has also informed the development of materials to explain and illustrate the appropriate uses of the RPAT.

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**WHAT IS REGIONAL PROFICIENCY?**

Regional proficiency represents “an individual’s awareness and understanding of the historical, political, cultural (including linguistic and religious), sociological (including demographic), economic, and geographic factors of a foreign country or specific global region” (DoD Instruction 5160.70).

More at [www.casl.umd.edu/RPAT](http://www.casl.umd.edu/RPAT)