**Objective**

To design an instrument that will enhance the ability of the Department of Defense (DoD) to assess language and regional proficiency in its active and reserve personnel. The instrument will establish documented regional proficiency levels.

**Definition**

The **Regional Proficiency Assessment Tool (RPAT)** will, as required by DoD Instruction 5160.70, identify regional proficiency levels that “represent 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.”

**Expected Findings**

We hypothesize that high RPAT scores will occur with a relatively low frequency, and that low scores will occur with a relatively high frequency. Consequently, we believe that the scores in a military population will not be normally distributed.

**Relevance**

The RPAT will assist the DoD in meeting requirements for staff with regional proficiency as needed to accomplish existing and emerging operational and surge missions. A baseline assessment of active and reserve personnel regional proficiency will enable the DoD not only to make timely and well-informed deployment decisions, but also to identify related personnel deficiencies. As a result, the DoD can work to build and maintain necessary regional proficiency capacity.

**Reports & Products**

- **RPAT poster presented at the Human Social Culture Behavior Focus Conference 2011** (February 2011)
- **RPAT paper presented at the 2011 Society for Cross Cultural Research Annual Meeting** (February 2011)

**For More Information**

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