



# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



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## Language, Regional Expertise & Culture: Skills that Matter

*"In our global Navy, where every Sailor and Marine has a role in diplomacy, we must respect and understand the world's diverse populations and cultures. Language proficiency greatly enhances our ability to work with our maritime partners and increases our likelihood of strategic, operational and tactical success around the world."*

**– Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus**

The Navy remains forward deployed and engaged around the world, delivering the core capabilities of the [Maritime Strategy](#). Combatant commanders realize how critical it is to understand the languages, regional differences and cultures of both our allies and potential adversaries. The Navy's [Center for Language, Regional Expertise and Culture \(CLREC\)](#) prepares Sailors for global engagements by delivering cultural awareness and foreign language training solutions. A directorate of the [Center for Information Dominance](#) in Pensacola, Fla., CLREC's staff develops, delivers and coordinates training solutions for the Navy Total Force and serves as the execution arm of the Navy Foreign Language Office (OPNAV N13F).

### Building Partnerships Through Maritime Security Cooperation

- [CLREC](#) delivers vital training to U.S. forces preparing for global engagements including [Pacific Partnership](#), [Africa Partnership Station](#) and [Continuing Promise](#).
- Recently, CLREC developed a specialized training package to meet the [specific pre-deployment LREC training requirements](#) of Sailors deploying to Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- CLREC provides foreign language skill sustainment and enhancement training for foreign area officers and cryptologic technicians (interpretive) and provides [language familiarization tools for all hands](#).
- In cooperation with command training officers, CLREC provides commands with tailored training solutions, including mobile training teams or video-enabled delivery of its 170-plus cultural awareness training products.

### Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response

- Twenty-one ships, several other units and 10,975 Sailors received LREC training materials before deploying or while underway in support of [Operation Unified Response](#), the 2010 Haiti earthquake relief effort.
- CLREC has developed new and improved medical translation tools in several languages to enhance communication between practitioners and patients while in the field.

### Innovations to Develop Fleet Skills

- CLREC is partnering with the Academic Consortium for Global Education to test an innovative language learning program using social networking and gaming to create an immersive learning environment called the [Integrated System for Language Education and Training](#).

### Key Messages

- LREC skills are enablers of the Maritime Strategy.
- CLREC provides significant training resources for both commands and individuals.
- CLREC tailors training solutions to Navy missions.
- CLREC works to determine the right balance of language and cultural skills required, delivering the right training, to the right Sailors, at the right time.

### Facts & Figures

- CLREC trained more than 42,000 Sailors and supported 200,000 more in FY10 and FY11.
- CLREC supported more than 50 flag officers with mentored language training and/or self-paced language learning tools.
- CLREC's work is high value and low cost – FY11 cost to deliver training is about \$12 per Sailor.
- For LREC information and training, visit Navy Knowledge Online and click "Language Resources."