



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20350-2000

5200
Ser N13F/221
15 August 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subj: PROFICIENCY CERTIFICATION OF COMPUTER ADAPTIVE MODERN
STANDARD ARABIC DEFENSE LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY TESTS

1. The Department of Defense will launch the computer adaptive test (CAT) version of the Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT) on or about 2 September 2025. As has been the policy for previous CAT DLPT launches, I authorize a one-year grace period for sailors who take the MSA CAT DLPT for the first time.
2. From 2 September 2025 to 2 September 2026, the initial 12-month period after the release of this test, Sailors whose proficiency scores decrease in one or both modalities, are eligible to retain their previous higher score in the corresponding modality. The previous higher score(s) achieved on the conventional (non-adaptive) DLPT will serve as the sailor's official, current, certified language proficiency both for Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus (FLPB) and advancement eligibility. All previous scores used under this policy are only valid for up to 12-months from date of DLPT. This is a blanket (automatic) policy, there is no requirement for individual exceptions to policy.
3. Sailors have only one chance at this extension of previous proficiency certification. It only applies to the first MSA CAT DLPT taken during the initial 12-month period. In the event a Sailor takes a second MSA DLPT during this period, his or her proficiency certification will be derived from that latest MSA DLPT.
4. OPNAV N13F will monitor MSA CAT DLPT results and work with Command Language Program Managers and the Language Proficiency Assessment Directorate of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center to identify trends and resolve discrepancies and testing issues, as necessary.
5. OPNAV N13F encourages language professional communities and organizations with civilian language analysts to employ a similar approach to extend certification of language proficiency for professional standards and Foreign Language Proficiency Pay (FLPP) eligibility.
6. My point of contact for this issue is MCPO William Schweitzer, who can be reached at ALTN_N13F1@navy.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James H. Lewis III".

J. H. LEWIS
Navy Senior Language Authority