



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES, EUROPE
UNIT 30401, APO AE 09107-0401

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MEMORANDUM

From: Capt Hensarling, B.J., XXX XX 0153/7563
To: HQMC, Strategy and Plans Division (PLU)
Via: Assistant Chief of Staff, G5, III MEF

Subj: BRUSSELS, BELGIUM LANGUAGE SUSTAINMENT TRIP REPORT

1. **Purpose.** To report on language sustainment in Brussels, Belgium, 12 Jun to 26 Sep 2012, by Capt Brian J. Hensarling, USMC, 8220 and current Olmsted Scholar.
2. **Summary.** Already stationed in Brussels, Belgium as part of the Olmsted Scholar Program, this language sustainment provided an opportunity to further hone language skills in conjunction with attendance at university classes and local cultural immersion.
3. **Discussion.** During my first year in-country I had done the vast majority of my language training and met and built a successful working relationship with a tutor here in Brussels. Through the language sustainment program, I had the resources to hire my tutor for additional training. Based on our earlier work together, my tutor had a good understanding of my strengths and weaknesses with the language and we were able to quickly tailor a program that would best suit my needs.
 - a. Olmsted Scholars attend university classes in their foreign language and so listening comprehension is honed on a continuous basis. However, since the vast majority of speaking is done on an informal basis with other students, opportunities to practice higher-level, more academic types of speech are limited. Also, since much of the schooling focuses on lecture type courses with little opportunities for written expression, basic grammar and writing skills can atrophy over the course of time.
 - b. Identifying these weaknesses, my tutor and I created a program that would focus on these areas with scheduling that worked around classes and other obligations.

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d. Overall I completed 20 hours of one-on-one tutoring. Projected Cost of the sustainment training was \$1172.00; total reimbursed cost roughly \$1133.39.

4. **Recommendation.** This sustainment training is incredibly helpful in ensuring that Olmsted Scholars have the opportunity to fully leverage their in-country immersion experience and to return to the fleet with fully developed language abilities.


B. J. HENSARLING