



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
U. S. MARINE CORPS FORCES, PACIFIC
BOX 555300
CAMP PENDLETON, CA 92055-5300

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1520
G1/rem
4 Jun 13

From: Maj Robyn E. Mestemacher, 6387/0180
To: Branch Head, International Affairs Branch (PLU)

Subj: AFTER ACTION REPORT FOR LANGUAGE SUSTAINMENT FOR MAJOR
ROBYN E. MESTEMACHER TO GEORGE C. MARSHALL EUROPEAN
CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES (GCMC)

1. Purpose. To report on TAD to Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany for Russian language sustainment training.
2. Objective. The primary objective of this trip was to improve Russian language proficiency. The secondary objective was to sustain regional expertise through liaison with US Army Eurasia Foreign Area Officer (FAO) personnel stationed at the Marshall Center and with the staff and participants from more than 110 countries resident within various programs at GCMC.
3. Training concept. Language training was conducted through intensive, small group classes at the Partner Language Training Center Europe (PLTCE), which is located aboard GCMC. Class number was 13-4.
4. Itinerary. The following itinerary was executed:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Activity</u>
5 Apr	Fri	Depart Camp Pendleton, CA for Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany via Munich, Germany
8 Apr	Mon-Fri	Begin language study
10 May		Complete language study
11 May	Fri	Depart Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany
5. Funding. Commercial airline tickets, lodging, per diem, and language training tuition were paid using funds obtained from the Defense Language and National Security Education Office (DLNSEO) for FAO language sustainment.

Subj: AFTER ACTION REPORT FOR LANGUAGE SUSTAINMENT FOR MAJOR
ROBYN E. MESTEMACHER TO GEORGE C. MARSHALL EUROPEAN
CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES (GCMC)

<u>Type Expense</u>	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Flight (CamPen to Munich, Germany)	\$1500	\$1479
Train tickets, Munich to Garmisch- Partenkirchen (and return)	\$100	\$0
Language school tuition, lodging, and per diem	\$1,500	\$1500
Meals and Incidental Expenses (M&IE), partial	\$0	\$762
Total	\$3,100	\$3741

6. Discussion of Trip Objectives.

a. Sustainment of Russian language proficiency. My DLPT score remained the same after completing this course. Even though I did not improve my score, I cannot overstate the value this opportunity has for me as a FAO. The reality of carving out additional time to study alongside a full array of primary job responsibilities, collateral duties, and non-resident PME requirements—as Marine Corps FAOs are responsible to do—makes it very difficult to find extra hours in the day. This chance to devote all of my attention to renewed language familiarity is, frankly, an opportunity I did not expect when I first returned to my primary MOS, but one for which I am professionally and personally grateful. DLNSEO's investment in this language sustainment initiative provides the Marine Corps FAO community with a one-of-a-kind resource. Namely, this initiative creates time for FAOs to devote to language sustainment. Despite the countless resources to help me study Russian in my free time, none of them creates the time I need to do it. DLNSEO's provision of this opportunity for Marine Corps FAOs created the time that enabled me to sustain my foreign language proficiency.

b. Sustainment of regional expertise. There were three US Army FAOs in my class, one of whom is currently assigned to the Marshall Center as the Director of the US Army Eurasia FAO Program. The other two FAOs are stationed in Garmisch for their In-Country Training (ICT). I had recommended during my own ICT from Sep 2010 to Sep 2011 that it was important for Marine Corps Eurasian FAOs to engage to the greatest extent appropriate and possible within the Army Eurasia FAO program based on the fact that its communication and resource networks are so robust. My recommendation remains the same. Especially now that I have been serving in my primary MOS and outside the FAO community entirely, I appreciate having had the opportunity to reengage with the Eurasian FAO community. These will be the officers with whom I am likely to work at my next duty station as a FAO, as they will by that time be stationed at various embassies

Subj: AFTER ACTION REPORT FOR LANGUAGE SUSTAINMENT FOR MAJOR
ROBYN E. MESTEMACHER TO GEORGE C. MARSHALL EUROPEAN
CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES (GCMC)

throughout Eurasia. I was even invited to attend the Army's annual Eurasian Security Studies Seminar (ES3) at the Marshall Center in August. The program facilitates familiarization with the current political situation in various regions of the former Soviet Union. Even though I do not anticipate being able to attend, this type of networking opportunity is quite important and I sincerely value having access to it as a result of DLNSEO's initiative.

7. Assessment. My previous DLPT score from August 2012 was 2+/2+. My newly assessed DLPT score for Russian as of 10 May 2013 remains at 2+/2+. I have initiated the scheduling process with the Joint Education Center aboard Camp Pendleton to take the Oral Proficiency Exam (OPI) but am not expecting to know the date for several weeks. I anticipate being able to take the OPI within the next two months. The most recent OPI score I have on record is from August 2010 and is a 2+.

8. Point of contact. I can be contacted by phone or e-mail at (760) 725-9218 or robyn.mestemacher@usmc.mil.

R. E. MESTEMACHER

Copy to:
DLNSEO