

USMC Language News

HQMC SLA

January 2017

Issue 1

Welcome!

Welcome to the first issue of the USMC Senior Language Authority's Foreign Language Newsletter!

Per MCO 1550.25A, the Director of Intelligence (DIRINT) is designated as the Senior Language Authority (SLA) for the Marine Corps. The SLA is charged to adopt a broad perspective on Marine Corps language policies beyond intelligence-related languages issues. Within Intelligence Department, the foreign language team supports the SLA, but the team doesn't do it alone. Language belongs to all of us, and many Marines, civilians and contractors across the Corps work daily to support language requirements and create language capability for the Marine Corps.

This newsletter is an informal platform to discuss all things language and share news and ideas across the Marine Corps. We want to ensure that all Marines have access to language information and opportunities. We want you, the Marines learning and using language and those who work to make language happen every day, to share your information with the Marine Corps. Do you have success stories, an emerging program, or training event about which everyone should know? Do you have a stellar linguist? How has language helped your unit accomplish its mission? Do you have an idea for sustaining or improving language skills? This newsletter will be published quarterly and we encourage your submissions. We hope you enjoy the newsletter and look forward to hearing from you and reading your submissions!

Name the Newsletter!

Help us give the newsletter a name. Submit your ideas to our email address. We will announce the winner and the newsletter name in the next issue!

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Marine Corps Foreign Language Program (MCFLP)

MCO 1550.25A

Traditionally, foreign language capability has been considered an intelligence or Foreign Area Officer function. As we move to future operation concepts, Marine Corps foreign language capability must expand outside of the traditional realms. The Department of Defense has determined that language and regional expertise are critical enablers to the DoD mission and are two foundations of the future Marine Corps Operational employment concept. Cultural awareness and language capability are critical enablers for mission accomplishment. To this end, MCFLP has two objectives: to increase the availability of competent professional linguists to meet USMC requirements and to prepare every Marine, regardless of MOS, with the key enablers of regional expertise and language capability to meet the requirements of the Marine Corps' expeditionary functions.

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2015 Language Award Winners!

Congratulations to the CY 2015 language award winners! SSgt Matthew Paisie of Co D, MCSB, a Modern Standard Arabic, Pashto and French linguist, was recognized as the Marine Corps Language Professional of the Year. 3rd Radio Battalion was recognized as the Command Language Program of the Year. 3rd Radio Bn saw a 20% increase in target language proficiency among the command's linguists and used a professional development model that employed a wide range of proactive initiatives to improve foreign language capability. In September 2016, both SSgt Paisie and 3rd Radio Bn were recognized at the DoD Command Language Program Manager's Conference in Monterey, CA, and the annual Marine Corps Association and Foundation Intelligence Awards Dinner in Arlington, VA. The MARADMIN soliciting nominees for CY2016 will be

out in spring 2017. Be on the lookout!

DLI Coordinated Language Training

The Defense Language Institute (DLI) has mobile training teams that may be able to support your unit prior to a deployment. Classes vary in length and scope from:

- 3-day long language and cultural orientations to
- 1 to 5 week long basic survival language to
- 48 weeks of training.

Class sizes can range from 1 to 60 students.

DLI-Washington (DLI-W) offers full-length basic, refresher, intermediate, and advanced courses for numerous low density languages, for individual students, and seats are open to all DoD personnel. For more information on DLI training and seats, commands should contact MSgt Sagebiel (ann.sagebiel@usmc.mil).

MARINE CORPS LANGUAGE HISTORY CORNER

Excerpt From:

Marine Corps Orders, HEADQUARTERS, U.S. MARINE CORPS
No 4. (Series 1924). Washington, May 16, 1924.

A large part of the service of the officers of the Marine Corps will in all probability be in the future, as it has been in the past, in foreign countries, where the discharge of their duties will require communication with the inhabitants in foreign languages. Translators and interpreters are not always available and their employment tends to impede the transaction of business, to obscure thought and to promote misunderstandings. Officers, therefore, to be well qualified for the performance of their duties, should be proficient in foreign languages... In order to promote proficiency...every commissioned officer of the Marine Corps with less than 20 years' service is directed to enroll [in a language course] on or before December 31, 1924, and will satisfactorily complete the course...within four years from that date.

JOHN A. LEJEUNE

Major General Commandant
1921-1924

Excerpt From:

The Leatherneck, November 1931

The Marine Corps Schools

by Brigadier General Randolph C. Berkeley, U.S. Marine Corps

...Following instructions received from the Major General Commandant, there will be, beginning with the fall term, 1931, an hour daily devoted to instruction in Spanish in both the Basic and Company Officers' Courses. The Berlitz Method will be used, and commencing with January, 1936, a working knowledge of Spanish will be required for promotion from First Lieutenant to Captain.

Intermediate and Advanced Language Training

Beginning in FY2017, the Defense Language Institute's Intermediate and Advanced language training courses are 19 weeks long. Previously, students had to PCS to DLI to attend these courses but the

new length allows students to attend TAD or TEMINS. Prior to attending the resident courses, students are required to attend online non-resident training via the Broadband Language Training System (BLTS). The BLTS is a virtual classroom with a live instructor. BLTS begins about 6 weeks prior to the resident training and lasts 4 weeks for

approximately 2-3 hours a day. Seats are generally reserved for 267x or 824x Marines, but other Marines with an operational requirement may attend on a case-by-case or space available basis. Units who have a student interested in attending training should contact MSgt Sagebiel (ann.sagebiel@usmc.mil).

Carolina Language Working Group

Each newsletter, we will highlight at least one unit and its language program. In this first issue, we are highlighting II MEF's Carolina Language Working Group.

In October, 2016, language representatives from II MEF CE, II MHG, and MARSOC met for the first Carolina Language Working Group. The purpose of this group is to coordinate language training efforts between the Marines in the Camp Lejeune area in order to maximize unit budgets by cooperating with each other to cover language training requirements. In addition, it provides the units with a single voice to relay ideas and concerns to HQMC(I).

Representatives from 2d MARDIV, 2d MAW, 2d MLG, and Center for Advanced Operational Culture and Learning (CAOCL) were added to the working group in November, 2016. These additions allow for a unified effort in coordinating language training requirements for

every unit within II MEF and MARSOC, maximizing the effectiveness of every dollar spent on language training.

Even though this working group was only recently established, we expect many great things to come from it. The benefits of this working group have been immediately visible. A unit that was preparing to establish their language program was able to overcome obstacles faster thanks to the guidance of the Command Language Program Coordinators and Managers of units that already have established language programs. In addition to this, there have been several instances of sharing training events between units. In an environment of decreasing budgets and fiscal uncertainty, this working group will provide a mechanism that will allow the units around the Camp Lejeune area to more effectively use their budgets in order to provide MAGTF Commanders and SOF leadership the most highly trained linguistic capabilities possible. For more information or to join the Carolina Language Working Group, contact MSgt Keith

Brooks
(keith.brooks@usmc.mil).

National Language Service Corps

Federal agencies find efficiency in the foreign language capability of the National Language Service Corps (NLSC), a Department of Defense program.

The NLSC is a DoD organization comprised of civilian volunteers with verified proficiency in foreign languages and English. Members activate as temporary DoD federal civilian employees. It is a government program capable of providing intermittent federal employees to meet your organization's requirement for surge or short-term foreign language services without impact on existing staff capabilities of either organization. There are nearly 7,300 NLSC members, all U.S. citizens, who joined the NLSC with the common desire to use their multilingual skills and cultural knowledge to support federal agencies that have a language need. They can support your language

requirements in a multitude of ways, and examples include live consecutive interpretation, role playing and assisting with emergency relief services. They have supported numerous military units in CONUS and OCONUS locations.

All NLSC members are U.S. citizens. Some members are former military or government employees and may hold a current clearance. In certain circumstances, the NLSC may be able to have highly-qualified members go through the clearance process.

The NLSC can support your language requirements by augmenting your existing language capabilities. In fact, the NLSC has supported unexpected and/or urgent short-term needs for U.S. federal agencies and has filled language gaps where government employees are required or desired.

The NLSC's highly proficient Members fulfill unplanned, short-term needs in over 360 languages. Serving domestically or overseas, NLSC Members are available wherever they are needed. Such scenarios include:

- Unfunded staff requirements for language needs that arise only occasionally and with brief durations, where keeping a linguist on-staff is not cost-effective
- Low-density language requirements that cannot be met through conventional means
- Short-notice and emergent language requirements that otherwise cannot be met
- Long-term projects provided their requirement does not exceed 130 working days or 1040 hours in a one year period.

You can find more details on the NLSC and information about requesting services at its website:

<http://www.nlscorps.org/>

LREC Strategic Plan 2016-2020

The USMC Language, Regional Expertise, and Culture (LREC) Strategy for 2016-2020 seeks to develop a new Operations Advisory Group (OAG) to support the total force LREC Community (see diagram).

Within this OAG, the Deputy Commandant for Combat



Development and Integration (DC CD&I) will serve as LREC Advocate and will work with Commanding General, Education Command, as the proponent for the general purpose force LREC requirements. The Director of Intelligence serves as the proponent for intelligence LREC requirements, and Director, Plans, Policies and Operations, Strategy and Plans Division is the proponent for the International Affairs Program. The OAG will work with the Marine Forces and supporting establishment to develop capabilities that support total force requirements.

FY17 FLPB Changes

The beginning of FY17 saw the introduction of numerous changes to the Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus (FLPB) through the publication of MCO 7220.52F and MARADMIN 520/16. FLPB eligibility changes annually and MARADMIN 520/16 outlines the FY17

eligibility requirements. The changes to FLPB eligibility this FY were driven by a reduction in budget; however these new eligibility requirements have a “softer” implementation than in years past. Marines will be eligible for FLPB based on the eligibility published at the time of testing. For example, a Marine who took the Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT) and was eligible for FLPB in FY16 but not in FY17 will continue receiving FLPB at the FY16 rate until the test expires or they retest and qualify for FY17 eligibility. Similarly, Marines who tested in FY16 but were not eligible for FLPB at the time but are eligible under FY17 criteria must retest in FY17 before they receive FLPB. The same rule applies for change in payment schedule – Marines receive payment based on the criteria in place at the time of testing.

A simplified explanation of other changes is presented below.

- When a Marine scores a 3/3 on either the DLPT or the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI), the score is valid for two years vice one.
- Prior to taking the OPI, if the language in question

has both a DLPT and OPI, the Marine must first take the DLPT and score at least a 2/2 before scheduling the OPI. If the language only has a single modality DLPT, Marines must still take that single modality and score a 2.

- There are now only two payment schedules. If a Marine’s scores are not specifically listed in the award levels, the bonus defaults to the lower level. For example, if a Marine scores a 1+/3, they will be paid at the 1+/1+ level.
- The written agreement (page 11 entry) is now required by MCO & MARADMIN.
- All languages are categorized by their eligibility requirements. Languages within an eligibility group are on the same payment schedule.
- The “Prevalent in the Force” (PFF) changes annually, and the PFF list now includes 21 different languages. FLPB eligibility for PFF languages is determined by MOS and minimum proficiency level.
- Exceptions are handled at the individual level and all requests must include a detailed description of the mission and either a

In CY2016, Marines from all MOSs and ranks took 6,646 DLPTs in 84 different languages.

supported MCTL item or OPLAN. Waivers not in direct support of mission outlined in MARADMIN 520/6 will not be approved.

Culture and Vocabulary

By Adam Jacot de Boinod

Reprinted from:

<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk>

Isn't it fascinating to see which languages have extensive vocabularies for different things? We all know about the somewhat apocryphal number of Inuit words for snow - many of which describe the varying stages of the melting process. It is true, however, that Hawaiians have 65 words alone for describing fishing nets, 108 for sweet potato, 42 for sugar cane and 47 for bananas (the basic food stuffs).

Scotland goes into extraordinary distinctions for foul weather, Somalis have a huge number of words for camels, mostly depicting their different basic feeding and sexual practices, and likewise the Greeks have a range of expressions to interpret face slapping and the Baniwa tribe of Brazil has 29 words for ants and their edible varieties.

So what does the English language tell us about British culture? The international spread of English seems irresistible, and surveys bear out the impression that acquiring some level of English is a priority for the largest number of language learners (one in three claim they can converse in it). It's a language that boasts an extraordinary range and depth of vocabulary and is by far the biggest amongst the approximately 6800 languages of the world, with so many nuances fantastically defined. What is really interesting is that in many instances it is deficient in expressing so many things commonly articulated elsewhere. This diversity must, I believe, be sustained and encouraged to flourish in an age of ever-decreasing languages (as roughly one a fortnight becomes extinct).

Of course, some words express all that is germane to a certain climate. One wouldn't expect the English language to have a word like *hanyauka* (from the Rukwangali language of Namibia) which translates as

to walk on tiptoe on warm sand.

Nor indeed would one expect thankfully many local concepts to be imported into British life. One won't find an equivalent for *mmbwe* (from the Venda language of South Africa) meaning a round pebble taken from a crocodile's stomach and swallowed by a chief or indeed, my favourite example of all: *nakhur* the Persian word for 'a camel that gives no milk until her nostrils are tickled'.

However what is so interesting is that there are a number of commonalities if not universal sentiments that are expressed in the much smaller vocabularies of the world's languages. Persian brings us *mahj* to define looking beautiful after a disease and *wo-mba*, from the Bakweri language of Cameroon, which translates as the smiling in sleep by children or *termangu-mangu*, the Indonesian for 'sad and not sure what to do'.

The differing of cultural attitudes towards time are well articulated by their vocabularies. While so many of the claims of languages to have no words

for such and such are apocryphal, it is only in Panjabi that they have a word parsing meaning either the day before yesterday or the day after tomorrow. The notion of twenty four distinct hours is irrelevant to the Zarma people of Western Africa who use *wete* to cover mid-morning (between nine and ten); the Chinese use *wushi* to mean eleven to one; and the Hausa of Nigeria

azahar takes in the period from one-thirty to around three. The Samoans' word *afiafi* covers both late afternoon and evening, from about 5pm till dark. In Hindi *pal* is a measure of time equal to twenty-four seconds and *ghari* is a small space of time (twenty-four minutes).

Instinctive reactions might be thought to be limited to one kind of vocal range of expression. But if we touch a

boiling kettle around the world, the exclamation denoting pain has many varieties though all I hope able to be interpreted. In Korea you say *aiya!* in the Philippines *aruy!* and in Russian you cry *oj!* In Danish it's *uh!* and in Germany *auwa!* At least we can all jump for joy at the wonder of our diversity!

CONTACT US



For foreign language questions, to be added to the newsletter distro, or to submit articles, email us at:

HQMC_ForeignLanguageProgram_OPI@usmc.mil



VISIT US



<http://www.hqmc.marines.mil/intelligence/Intel-OPS-PERS/Foreign-Language-Program/>