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From: Major James W. Lively, 2736/0302  
To: Branch Head, International Affairs Branch (PLU)  
Subj: FOREIGN LANGUAGE SUSTAINMENT TRAINING REPORT ICO MAJOR JAMES W. LIVELY, PARIS FRANCE, 6-10 AUGUST, 2012

1. Purpose. To provide after-action comments on language sustainment training at OISE French language institute, Paris, France from 6-10 August, 2012.

2. Background. The primary objective of this sustainment training was to improve French language proficiency in preparation to attend the French War College in September 2012. This sustainment opportunity was taken during summer break before the formal start of the French War College.

3. Discussion. The language training was conducted through intensive, private, one-on-one classes. The sustainment training was a "bridging" event, between the intensive language program (February - July) and the actual start of the French War College, to help further refine my language skills. OISE is internationally recognized as a specialist in intensive language training courses for over 30 years. The OISE French language school offers both one-on-one, private lessons as well as small group lessons. I designed the program with their program coordinator to focus on my individual needs - specifically, I asked to focus 100% on spoken French.

- a. The daily schedule (same for all 5 days) was as follows:
  - 0845-1300: Grammar review and practical application; press/news review followed by discussion and debate
  - 1300-1400: Lunch
  - 1400-1415: Group session: individual news article presentation
  - 1415-1615: Intensive listening drills and follow on discussion/debate

b. Staff: The OISE staff is exceptionally professional, energetic and well prepared. I was particularly pleased with the fact that they used two different instructors throughout the day in order to vary the pace and routine of the course. The support/administration was excellent as well.

c. Facilities: The school is located in the 7th arrondissement, approximately 100m from a metro station thus making it ideal for an immersive setting in central Paris. The facilities are modern, bright and very conducive to learning. Internet is available, as is a robust library of reading, listening and grammar practice materials.

d. The institute gave me an informal evaluation (there was no time allocated for formal testing) based on their experience and understanding of the standard testing associated with Common European Language Reference Framework criteria. I received a B2 on speaking, listening and writing and a C1 on reading.

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4. Summary: I would highly recommend OISE for future language sustainment opportunities here in Paris. The week was exceptionally valuable for my progression in French and well worth the investment in sustainment funds. The course can be tailored to fit individual needs should a future student want to participate in outside/cultural events, group discussions, more reading and writing, etc. The school's website is:  
<http://www.paris.oise.com/french-courses-paris/Students.html>

5. Point of contact. I can be contacted by e-mail at  
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/S/

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