



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
EDUCATION COMMAND
MARINE CORPS UNIVERSITY
2076 SOUTH STREET
QUANTICO, VIRGINIA 22134-5067

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From: Captain Bryceson K. Tenold, 2459/0302
To: Branch Head, International Affairs Branch (PLU)

Via: Commanding Officer, Marine Corps University

Subj: Hindi Language Sustainment Training After-Action Review

1. **Purpose.** To report on Hindi language training in New Delhi, India, from 9 July - 28 December 2012, by Captain Bryceson K. Tenold, USMC, Olmsted Scholar.
2. **Summary.** As an Olmsted scholar currently completing my tour in New Delhi, I was able to apply the Defense Language & National Security Education Office (DLNSEO) language sustainment training over a longer duration and without disrupting my other responsibilities. I met with a senior Hindi instructor at Zabaan Language School for ten hours per week, studying at the Advanced Proficiency level and covering a variety of topics and skill sets. This training significantly improved my speaking abilities and also enhanced my reading ability.
3. **Discussion.** I am currently assigned to New Delhi as a USMC Olmsted Scholar, and I previously studied Hindi for five months at DLI-Washington and for three months in India. Because of the structure of this program, scholars do not receive funds for language training once they begin studies at a university. India is unique in that it has 17 official languages and English is the language of its universities, which means that in the classroom I am rarely able to practice my Hindi. Studying Hindi with a professional tutor at Zabaan allowed me to continue improving my Hindi in a structured environment while still gaining the benefits of being immersed in the culture and society.
 - a. I began class the second week of July and continued to the end of December, meeting with a private tutor for ten hours per week at Zabaan Language School. Because of my current responsibilities of regional familiarization and university studies, these hours were cut short on several occasions, and additionally, I caught Dengue Fever at the beginning of October and had to be medically evacuated. Zabaan was very flexible during these times and I was able to reschedule class without losing any tuition.
 - b. Each class lasted two hours and began with a 20-30 minute conversation about a topic previously assigned. Zabaan has developed concise vocabulary lists of common words arranged by topics such as "diplomacy," "economics," and "politics." While studying a particular list, our dialogues would focus on topics specific to that genre, and many of our topics centered on current events, Indian history, or personal experiences. These conversations allowed for me to practice

- expressing and understanding opinions, and I believe these will be the topics most likely covered in any follow-on FAO assignments.
- c. For the next 30 minutes, my instructor drilled me in listening exercises that occasionally included visual accompaniment. This often involved listening to a radio broadcast or watching clips of a Bollywood film or news broadcast and then discussing the main points with my teacher. At times he had me translate these clips into English, other times he had me repeat back the broadcast and explain in Hindi what I understood.
 - d. For the last hour of class, I often read an article or story aloud and then discussed it. These readings always had a comprehensive vocabulary list attached, which made it much easier to practice difficult words and to continue these studies at home. As I read through the piece, my instructor would ask me to paraphrase sections in Hindi and then follow this up with questions about the storyline and about the author's opinion.
 - e. The format of this language study allowed me to move as quickly as I could and to focus on specific topics of interest. I was able to practice expressing opinions in Hindi, something that I use frequently with local Indians in Delhi, as well as to improve the rhythm and flow of my speaking. It also allowed me to learn more about Indian society, history, and current issues from a well-educated member of an Indian minority. Our discussions provided much better context for the readings and have helped me better understand the socio-cultural dynamics of this country.
 - f. Since I was already living in India, this training did not incur any flight or per diem expenses. Zabaan provided all of the reading materials free of charge and the facilities were well above the Indian standard for cleanliness and adequacy. I never found that we lacked any resources or mediums of practice, and this training has significantly contributed to my mission as an Olmsted Scholar and as a future member of the FAO community.
 - g. Projected cost of \$3810 for training, claimed cost on voucher \$3730.
4. **Recommendation.** I highly recommend immersion tutoring and specifically Zabaan Language School. I am working to schedule an OPI and DLPT that fits with my university schedule and current location.
5. **Point of contact.** I can be contacted by phone at (509) 203-4839 or by email at bryceson.tenold@usmc.mil.

B. K. TENOLD