

# UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

PERSONNEL EXCHANGE PROGRAM  
CHILEAN MARINE CORPS  
UNIT 3460 BOX 90  
DPO AA 34033-0090

IN REPLY REFER TO  
1520  
JPL  
04 Nov 12

From: GySgt James P. Leandro USMC, Ground Personnel Exchange Program  
To: Branch Head, International Affairs Branch (PLU)

Subj: FOREIGN LANGUAGE SUSTAINMENT TRAINING AFTER ACTION REPORT ICO GYSGT  
JAMES P. LEANDRO, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL, 17-29 SEPTEMBER 2012

1. Purpose. To provide after-action comments on language sustainment training at Casa do Caminho Language Centre, Ipanema, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 17 -29 September, 2012.

2. Background. The primary objective of this sustainment training was to improve Portuguese language proficiency in preparation to apply for the experience track FAS/RAS program. The secondary objective was to sustain regional expertise through liaison with the U.S. Consulate General country team in Brazil and temporary immersion in Brazilian Portuguese. This sustainment opportunity was taken during my current Personnel Exchange Program (PEP) tour in Chile. I originally contacted World Wide Language Resources, Inc. a U.S. based company that sourced my specific need to Casa do Caminho Language Centre.

### 3. Topic: **Casa do Caminho Language Centre**

a. Discussion: Casa do Caminho Language Centre is a non-profit organization that funds a local orphanage, it has a multi national staff that are very professional and offer both one-on-one private lessons as well as small group lessons. I designed the language training through the school's program coordinator to focus on my individual needs; specifically I asked to learn Portuguese from my Spanish base. Classes ran from Monday through Friday in Ipanema, a Rio de Janeiro suburb.

#### 1. The schedule for the first week of classes was as follows:

0800-1400: Breakfast and lunch at different locations throughout Rio de Janeiro to immerse in the culture and their public transportation systems.

1400-1700: One-on-One: Grammar and practical application, followed by discussion.

2. During the second week the small group setting gave more interaction and practice speaking Portuguese. The schedule for second week was as follows:

0900-1200: Group session: Individual presentation, Grammar review, practical application, press/news review followed by discussion and debate. Homework and individual presentation assignments were given at the end of each class.

1200-1800: Lunch at different locations throughout Rio de Janeiro to immerse in the culture and their public transportation systems.

1800-2000: Homework, presentation preparation and completion.

3. Casa do Caminho Language Centre also offers a home placement program with either a local host family or a small apartment. Immersion with the local community is a big part of the Centers goal; they do so by hosting

Subj: FOREIGN LANGUAGE SUSTAINMENT TRAINING AFTER ACTION REPORT ICO GYSGT  
JAMES P. LEANDRO, SANTA TERESA BRAZIL, 17-29 SEPTEMBER, 2012

activities and sporting events such as city tours, Beach sports, and volunteering at the local orphanage.

b. Recommendation: I would highly recommend attending this language center. Its professional staff, courseware and goals are designed to provide maximum language immersion. Though I did not use the home stay program I would recommend this option as well due to the close proximity and relatively low price. The contact information for the school is provide below:

Casa do Caminho Language Centre  
Rua Farne de Amoedo 135  
Ipanema Rio de Janeiro  
Tel: 21 22676552  
E-mail: [casadocaminho.languagecentre@gmail.com](mailto:casadocaminho.languagecentre@gmail.com)  
Skype: [casa.do.caminho.language.centre](https://www.skype.com/name/casa.do.caminho.language.centre)  
[www.casadocaminho-languagecentre.org](http://www.casadocaminho-languagecentre.org)  
<http://youtu.be/D8-04KLH5oI>  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/casadocaminholanguagecentre/sets/>

#### 4. TOPIC: **World Wide Language Resources, Inc.**

a. Discussion: World Wide Language Resources helped me narrow down a school that fell within all the requirements I asked for. They also made payment of the school easy because PLU was able to pay them directly with an SF-182; they have a cage code (07ES4) and are in the CCR database.

b. Recommendation: I highly recommend using World Wide Language Resources to find a new school in an unfamiliar location. Since they are a middleman and charging to find and set up classes, I would not use them to go back to the same school. Their contact info is below:

Mrs. Zlata Dale  
Language Training Manager  
World Wide Language Resources, Inc.  
Phone: (207) 357-7576  
Fax: (910) 483-2470  
[Zlata.Dale@wwlr.com](mailto:Zlata.Dale@wwlr.com)

#### 5. Topic: **American Consulate General Visit**

a. Discussion: On 28 September 2012, I visited the Consulate and met with CDR Morris, Assistant Defense Attaché, LCDR Restrepo, Military Liaison Office (MLO) OIC, and SSgt Jaurigue, MSG Det Cdr and his Marines.

1. CDR Morris opened with an explanation of his duties and a country orientation. He went into detail with Rio de Janeiro's past, the vast changes it has made and its plan for the future, such as the Favela Pacification Program. We also compared the differences between the USN/USMC, Brazilian and Chilean Navy and Marine Corps. Our meeting closed with great advice and mentorship for my future as a possible FAS/RAS.

2. LCDR Restrepo explained the command structure of USMLO in Brasilia, Brazil and the MLO det in Rio de Janeiro. She gave an overview of the Brazilian Navy and Marine Corps size and structure. LCDR Restrepo described the focus USSOUTHCOM wants for USMLO Brazil by detailing the types of Traditional Commander's Activities (TCA), Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE) and Science Technology & Logistics (ST&L) events held in Rio. As we finished the meeting LCDR Restrepo touched on the (PKO) center the Brazilian

Subj: FOREIGN LANGUAGE SUSTAINMENT TRAINING AFTER ACTION REPORT ICO GYSGT  
JAMES P. LEANDRO, SANTA TERESA BRAZIL, 17-29 SEPTEMBER, 2012

Marine Corps has, Interop events and the large Foreign Military Sales (FMS) projects in the works.

3. SSgt Jaurigue escorted me thru the MSG Det area and I had the opportunity to chat with some of his young Marines. As a PEP in Chile, it was good to talk to fellow Marines in remote locations and about Marine Corps related topics.

b. Recommendation: Contact information for the American Consulate General Rio De Janeiro, Brazil is below.

CDR John Morris, Assistant Naval Attaché, [MorrisJR@state.gov](mailto:MorrisJR@state.gov)  
LCDR Anne Restrepo USN USMLO SCO [Anne.Restrepo@tcsc.southcom.mil](mailto:Anne.Restrepo@tcsc.southcom.mil)  
SSgt Ian Jaurigue, MSG Det Cdr [jaurigueij@state.gov](mailto:jaurigueij@state.gov)

6. Topic: **Lodging**

a. Discussion: Lodging in Rio is very expensive and limited. During my stay in Rio there was a Petroleum Convention that flooded the city and made lodging in one location for the entire trip nearly impossible. Maj Cuevas (PEP Brazil) was a tremendous help and was able to secure an apartment for the remainder of my trip.

b. Recommendation: Reach out to the Consulate Military Liaison Office (MLO) Staff and request assistance securing reservations thru their local contacts before traveling. These personnel have in depth local knowledge and can make many facets of travel much easier.

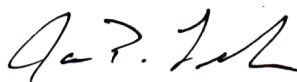
7. Topic: **Transportation and Security**

a. Discussion: Although the Metro is a safe, inexpensive, and reliable means of transportation, it is limited to the downtown and beach areas of Rio de Janeiro. Taxis are a simple way to get to any location in Rio de Janeiro but are expensive and have been known to overcharge tourists. Buses are a reliable and inexpensive mode of transportation and once you understand the routes you can get to almost any location. Parking throughout the city is limited and expect to pay for parking everywhere you go. In general I found that most of the Brazilians in Rio are very friendly and most of the city is safe. I saw a large presence of tourist police and friendly security eager to help throughout the city.

b. Recommendation: As in any foreign country being aware of your surroundings and remaining a hard target will keep you from being a statistic. Keep bags in close on the Metro and on buses. Ensure the meter is operating correctly in taxis and park in safe, well-lit areas that have security.

8. Summary: I would highly recommend future language sustainment opportunities in Rio de Janeiro. The two weeks spent there were extremely valuable for my progression in Brazilian Portuguese and regional expertise in preparation for the FAS/RAS program.

9. Point of contact. I can be contacted by phone or e-mail at (760)305-9517 or [jleandro08@gmail.com](mailto:jleandro08@gmail.com).

  
J. P. Leandro