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23 Feb 13

From: MGySgt Donald Hart
To: Branch Head, International Affairs Branch (PLU)
Subj: LANGUAGE SUSTAINMENT/ENHANCEMENT AFTER ACTION REPORT
ICO MGYSGT DONALD HART IN PARIS, FRANCE FROM 4-15 FEBRUARY 2013

1. Purpose. The purpose of this document is to provide comments on language sustainment and enhancement training at Accord Ecole De Langues (Accord School of Languages), Paris France conducted from 4 - 15 March 2013.
2. Background. The primary objective of this trip was to improve language proficiency with the emphasis on speaking fluency. The secondary objective was to supplement French language training to increase written and oral proficiency. This training was conducted after receiving a two and a half month introduction to French in Dakar, Senegal from October to December 2012. I contacted World Wide Language Resources, Inc., a U.S. based company, which sourced my specified needs to Accord Ecole De Langues in Paris.
3. Topic. World Wide Language Resources, Inc. (WWRL)
 - a. Discussion: WWRL was initially contacted when narrowing down the search for a language school. WWRL is a military friendly establishment that assisted in not only finding a school, but also in payment delivery.
 - b. Recommendation: I recommend that a list of language training facilities be maintained by PLU-8. WWRL is a middleman in the process of finding language training venues and should only be used when requesting requirements outside the norm. Their ability to help sift through the myriad of schools is priceless. The following contact information is provided:

Mrs. Zlata Dale
Language Training Manager
WorldWide Language Resources, Inc.
Phone: (207) 357-7576
Fax: (910) 483-2470
Email: Zlata.Dale@wwlr.com

4. Topic. Accord Ecole De Langues (Accord School of Languages)
 - a. Discussion: Accord is a private school located in the heart of Paris. The multilingual staff was professional throughout my training.

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The school offers a variety of French language courses based on student needs and range from group classes to one-on-one sessions or a combination thereof. This training was conducted after a two month break in a structured leaning environment with approximately one month in non-Francophone countries. After corresponding with Zlata Dale of WWLR training was designed to re-fresh/learn through group sessions for one week followed by one week of private lessons. Classes were conducted Monday through Friday. The metro was used as it was reasonably priced and convenient with the stop for the school within a two minute walk.

(1) The following is the schedule for the first week of classes:

0800-1100: (Monday) Placement test both written and oral were administered to ensure effective placement.

1415-1715: (Monday - Friday) Classes where structured and specifically targeted to enhance understanding and ability. Classes included culture, phonetics, re-enforcement, and grammar.

(2) The following is the schedule for the second week of classes:

1000-1200: (Monday - Friday) Classes focused on giving and receiving directions, past tense, conditional present, present indicative, imperative and imperfect tense.

(3) Accord offers lodging assistance that ranges from host family placement to apartment rental. Prices vary for hotels but on average are about 95 euros or approximately 122 USD per night. Apartments within walking distance from school are 665 euros per week or approximately 855 USD.

b. Recommendation: Accord is highly recommended. The school is a very professional and organized facility that provides personalized language training with the student in mind. The school takes advantage of its location by incorporating the city into its classroom. The interaction was preceded by directed instruction designed to build a level of confidence on a given topic. Instruction was followed by utilizing the people of Paris, which enhanced the learning and understanding of targeted outcome. All instructors were able to effectively convey thoughts, ideas and techniques in such a way to aid in understanding. Their ability to incorporate the people of Paris by taking the classroom to the streets of Paris was Genius. The contact information for the school is listed below:

ACCORD

14 Boulevard Poissonnière, 75009 Paris, France

Tel: +33 (0) 1 55 33 52 33

Fax: +33 (0) 1 55 33 52 34

Email: info@accord-langues.com

Web site: <http://www.accord-langues.com/>

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4. Topic: Transportation and Security

a. Discussion: Paris is a big city with a very efficient and reliable metro and train system. Getting around Paris and outlying areas is very easy and relatively cheap. The metro system will get you just about anywhere you need to go in or around the city. Trip passes, individual or multiple uses, can be bought at all stations. Information booths with staff are there to assist if troubles should arise. Like any other big city, mass transit will draw large crowds. This could lead to crime ranging from theft to assault; however, common sense and its practical application will keep you pointed in the right direction. During my stay I found most Parisians to be very helpful, although, in some cases curt and to the point, which some Americans may find rude.

b. Recommendation: The use of common sense when moving around the city and interacting with the people will provide the student with a language experience like no other.

5. Summary: The Accord Ecole de Langues is highly recommended for future language training and sustainment. The two weeks spent in Paris dramatically helped improve my language ability and confidence.

6. Point of Contact. I can be contacted by e-mail at donald.hart@usmc.mil or don.hart1833@gmail.com .

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D. H. HART