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MEMORANDUM FOR HQMC, Strategy and Plans Division (PLU), Plans, Policies, and Operations, Washington, D.C. 20380

Subj: INDONESIAN LANGUAGE SUSTAINMENT TRIP REPORT

1. **Purpose.** To report on official travel to the Republic of Indonesia, from 31 March - 13 April 2012, by Maj Douglas P. Krugman, USMC, 8248 Southeast Asia FAO.
2. **Summary.** This trip was intended to revitalize and sustain language skills which I use on a re-occurring basis as a faculty member at the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies. The secondary purpose the trip was to gain currency on issues in Indonesia through observation and interaction with the local population, US embassy personnel, and others.
3. **Discussion.** I spent the majority of my time in Yogyakarta on the island of Java, in keeping with other FAOs to conduct language sustainment recently. In addition to its reputation as a cultural and educational hub for all of Indonesia, travel costs in Yogyakarta are also significantly lower than Jakarta. Maximum per diem payment of \$144 in Yogyakarta compared to \$361 in Jakarta, for a savings of over \$2,000 dollars during 10 days of study after factoring in the roundtrip flight.
  - a. I used Wisma Bahasa as my primary language school. The costs were comparable to several other language schools in the area, but Wisma Bahasa offers a wider array of field trips that included not only the standard cultural sites but also "practical application" trips. I visited the local office of a national political party as well as a community health clinic. In addition to providing focused exercises for specific vocabulary sets, those visits also enhanced my efforts to update regional expertise. The clinic trip in particular will be of value in future HA/DR projects and exercises, including one US Army Pacific led planning exercise I may be supporting in June 13.
  - b. Wisma offers classes in 2-hour sessions with 5 sessions available each day. The staff recommend no more than 3

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- sessions per day for a total of 6 hours of 1-1 instruction per day. My last day I scheduled only 2 hours in order to fly to Jakarta in early afternoon, for a total of 48 hours of formal instruction. I alternated focus between listening skills and speaking/pronunciation exercises. The instructors were well prepared, including written comprehension questions for downloaded local newscasts. I also conducted regular discussions of current events, often based on newspaper articles printed that morning.
- c. A violent incident involving Indonesian Army Special Forces personnel that occurred in Yogyakarta just before my arrival dominated the local and national news for much of my stay. That incident not only provided a great deal of written and broadcast material for formal and self guided language study focused on security vocabulary, but it also served as a natural conversation starter for discussions about the roles and reforms of the Indonesia security forces after 15 years of democracy.
  - d. The school is located in a university neighborhood approximately 3 blocks from the Yogyakarta Plaza Hotel with multiple homestays also available through the school in the immediate area. There are a very large number of low cost eating establishments in the immediate area which also provided more opportunities for engagement with the local population. Local transportation was not required, further reducing costs and given the traffic situation in Indonesia increasing safety.
  - e. Although Wisma Bahasa normally offers Saturday classes, they were closed on Saturday for instructor training during my stay. I did 4 hours of training at another school, Alam Bahasa. Although the two schools offer similar programs for essentially the same price, the technology support at Wisma for the use of local radio/television broadcasts as listening comprehension exercises was more systematic and better organized. Alam Bahasa also does not offer the practical application site visits.
  - f. During my one full day in Jakarta I met with the Marine Corps Attache, several officers from the Defense Cooperation Office, and two staff members at International Crisis Group who have existing relationships with my current command, the Asia-Pacific

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Center for Security Studies (APCSS.) These sessions were extremely helpful in gaining addition perspectives on recent political and military developments in Indonesia.

- g. Traffic in Jakarta continues to be a major obstacle to working in the city. The re-location of many embassy sections to an annex several blocks away for a construction project complicates the situation. An additional proposed meeting with an APCSS alumnus and other staff researchers at the Center for Strategic and International Studies Indonesia did not occur because of scheduling problems - although their offices were only a few miles away from my hotel and other meeting sites, the transit time needed prevented an in person meeting.

4. **Recommendation.** This form of training was cost effective and valuable. My vocabulary and comfort in communicating entirely in Indonesian returned rapidly with significant noticeably improvements over the two week period. That type of real-time interaction including unexpected conversations and situations can not be achieved through self study or even telephone/video chat based lessons. As with other recent trips, the actual cost was significantly less than the original forecast amount due to savings on airfare through slightly indirect routing.

D. P. KRUGMAN