

WAR DEPARTMENT  
The Adjutant General's Office  
Washington 25, D. C.

AGAM-PM 350.03 (12 Nov 46)  
WDGOT

20 November 1946

SUBJECT: Program for training personnel to speak foreign languages

TO: Commander-in-Chief, United States Army Forces in the Pacific  
Commanding Generals;  
United States Forces, European Theater  
United States Forces, Mediterranean Theater of Operations  
Peiping Headquarters Group  
Army Advisory Group, China  
Caribbean Defense Command

1. World War II demonstrated a need within the Army for skilled linguists of many kinds to perform intelligence, liaison, and administrative duties. It demonstrated also the lack of this type of specialists within the Army. A language and area training program has been initiated under section V, WD Circular 250, 1946, for the purpose of providing a limited number of competent linguists and area intelligence specialists. This program has already felt the action of enforced economy. A curtailment of the planned schedule has been directed. Further reductions are considered a possibility. It is therefore considered highly desirable to exploit every available source of language and area training.

2. One of the most favorable sources for this training which has not been exploited to the maximum extent is the facilities afforded by the overseas commands. All overseas commands provide conditions favorable for language and area training in practically all of the languages essential to the Army. It is therefore desired that the overseas commanders of each major command exploit to the extent possible within the present allotment of personnel and funds the possibilities for language instruction. Language training should be available to all personnel and particularly to commissioned and enlisted personnel who have special aptitude and whose duties require knowledge of the language spoken in the area. If possible, selected officers and men may be detailed to well organized courses of instruction.

3. It is desirable that instruction be given in the following languages where facilities permit; however instruction need not be limited to these languages:

Russian	French	Portuguese
Polish	Serbo-Croatian	Malayan
Czech	Italian	Japanese
German	Spanish	Chinese

4. It is desired that the War Department be informed of any language training being undertaken by the overseas commanders.

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5. Where a language course has been successfully completed and proficiency in a language obtained, the appropriate entries as prescribed below will be made on the individual's personnel records.

a. Officer's record.

(1) WD AGO Form 66-1. Item 18 "Languages," paragraph 83, TM 12-425.

(2) WD AGO Form 66-2, 66-3.

(a) Item 30 "Special and General Service Schools," as prescribed by AAF Manual 35-0-1.

(b) Item 31 "Languages," as prescribed by AAF Manual 35-0-1.

b. Enlisted records.

(1) WD AGO Form 20.

(a) Item 22 "Service Schools," paragraph 50, TM 12-425.

(b) Item 9 "Languages," paragraph 37, TM 12-425.

(c) Item 29 "Record of Current Service," paragraph 50-e and 57, TM 12-425.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

  
EDWARD F. WITSELL  
Major General  
The Adjutant General