

WAR DEPARTMENT
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF
Intelligence Division
Washington 25, D. C.

11 April 1947

SUBJECT: Language Training

TO: Conferencees Attending D/I Conference 1400, 12 April 1947.

1. Purpose of the conference.

- a. To determine the disposition of NISIS.
- b. To outline current language training, its deficiencies, and to determine the feasibility of developing NISIS into a better balanced language training agency.

2. Background on NISIS.

a. NISIS was moved from Ft. Saullig on June 19, 1946, to its present location, Presidio of Monterey, California, which is operated as a sub-post of Ft. Ord. Until October of 1946, the only language taught in the school was Japanese and the students were principally Nisei who were given a nine months course, then sent to the Pacific Theater to meet linguist requirements in that area. Hereafter the term "Nisei Section" will be used to identify this group.

b. In March of 1946, Pacific Theater had been queried on accepting the training responsibility and transfer of the essential training group from NISIS to Japan, but the offer was rejected by General MacArthur and the subject dropped.

c. Negotiations were reopened again in October 1946 and the Pacific Theater indicated some interest, but due to lack of facilities, administrative difficulties and the fact that the Commander-in-Chief had previously refused the offer, a final decision to accept or reject the offer has not been obtained. A decision has been promised by 15 April but it is doubtful that Far East Command will accept.

d. Since September 1946, the student strength of MISLS has diminished from approximately 800 to 400, of which 30 are officers and enlisted men undergoing a one year course in Russian, and 9 regular officers of the four year Japanese Language and Area Course. The remainder are members of the Nisoi Section. By January 1948 estimated strength of this section is 200.

e. The Russian course was instituted in October to meet demands for Russian linguists that could not be trained elsewhere.

3. For purposes of this discussion it will be assumed that the "Nisoi Section" of MISLS will not be accepted by FEC and training will be continued in the Zone of Interior. Should it be accepted, the training problem is accordingly reduced.

4. Before arriving at a final decision as to the future of MISLS, consideration should be given to the training that has been conducted during the past year and the overall language training requirements of the future.

a. For training completed and in progress see Tab A.

b. The language training installation utilized during the past year are as follows:

(1) Naval Intelligence School.

(a) The Naval Intelligence School provides instruction in the majority of strategic languages in courses ranging from 3 to 14 months. The Army has taken advantage of the 4 months Portuguese course and the 6 months Russian course.

(2) Columbia University.

(a) The first year of training for twenty officers taking the four year Russian language and area course.

(3) Yale University.

(a) Ten officers taking the first year of a four year Chinese language and area course.

(4) EPIS, Peiping, China.

(a) Eight officers studying the first of a four year Chinese language and area course.

(5) NISIS, Presidio of Monterey, California

(a) Nine months training course for Japanese linguists (Wise Section) to be used in FEC.

(b) One year Russian course for officers and enlisted men.

(c) First of a four year Japanese language and area course.

5. There are certain advantages and disadvantages to the training agencies above.

a. Naval Intelligence School.

- (1) The Naval Intelligence School conducts short intensive courses in all important strategic languages, no course of which is over 1 1/2 months.
- (2) Students can be entered on one week's notice in groups of five and if successful in completing the course, graduate with a language equivalent to three years in college.
- (3) The cost is very little, as it is based upon \$1,000 per year and since most courses are of shorter duration, only the fractional part of the year actually in the school is charged. Use of the school eliminates any Army overhead.
- (4) The principal disadvantage in using NIS is that it takes an individual with Phi Beta Kappa qualifications or pre-knowledge of the language to successfully complete the course and the Army does not have sufficient number of that type to produce the number of linguists required. Casualties to date have been 70% among our Russian students.
- (5) Five officers attending the Portuguese course, with difficulty and persistent application, completed the course.

b. Columbia University.

- (1) To date twenty officers have been entered in the Russian institute at Columbia. The students were entered "cold" since they had no previous knowledge of the Russian language. In surveying the students to determine improvements or criticisms of the course, certain common expressions were revealed. All students agree that they should have previous language training before entering Columbia. The real strength of the universities does not lie in the language training but rather in the very excellent area course available. Students feel that by crowding in a difficult language with area subjects, the full benefit of neither is secured in one year.
- (2) To secure the best results in the shortest period of time, it is suggested that the four year course could be reduced by a sequence of one year language in an Army language school, nine months at Columbia with emphasis on the area training and language training sufficient to guarantee advancement followed by one year's overseas training. Total three years.
- (3) Instruction in language in the civilian institution is conducted leisurely compared to an Army school.

c. Yale University.

- (1) Yale University is used for Chinese training in the same way that Columbia is used for Russian training.
- (2) The student comments are very similar.

d. WDIS, Foiping, China.

- (1) The school has been in operation since January and there has been insufficient time to determine whether the training in China for the first year is superior to that conducted during the first year at Yale.

e. NISLS

- (1) NISLS has one of the finest Japanese language courses in the country and it is recognized as such by other institutions. The officers taking the four year Japanese language and area courses were given four months at Yale, for general orientation, then sent to NISLS for the first year's studies.
- (2) Training of linguists to be used to meet FEC requirements is done in a 9 month period. However, some few students complete in 6 months. The majority of the students are Nisei since they have a background in language before entering the school.

6. During the past six months numerous requests for language training could not be met in a military, naval or civilian language school or institution for one of the following reasons:

- a. Language course not offered.
- b. Mental or pre-language qualification too high.
- c. Length of course not suitable.
- d. Starting date of course unsuitable.

e. Excessive cost or non-availability of funds of proper project number.

7. The Russian Section was instituted in MISLS to meet some of the demands but lack of money and the indefinite future of the school precluded institution of other language courses. All of the above listed deficiencies have not been overcome in this course but the basis and method of entry and operation of the course is a step in the right direction.

8. As a result of experience during the past year, those connected with language training are of the opinion that the Army should have a flexible language school. It should be able to teach any language required by the Army and further have the following abilities, characteristics and responsibilities.

a. Provide language training for selected personnel of all major forces.

b. Flexibility as to date of entry.

c. Courses of various lengths and completeness in all required languages.

d. No course to be over one year in length.

e. Intensiveness of instruction with the aim of producing a fluent student upon completion of a regular course.

f. Provide special courses.

g. Emphasize language training at the expense of area subjects except for instruction in the latter as an orienting measure.

h. The school should be charged with preparing extension courses for reserve linguist training.

i. Maintaining and developing rosters of linguists.

j. Furnish language screening teams and assist in determining the language ability of officers and enlisted men in the entire Army.

k. Conduct necessary refresher training.

l. Conduct language training for linguist reserve officers on periods of active duty.

m. Produce courses for training upon mobilization.

n. Be prepared to expand training facilities to accommodate additional students on M-Day and coordinate any training instituted in civilian schools.

9. Requirements.

a. Based upon present and predictable future requirements, the school should be capable of accommodating a top level of 500 students (300 Nisei Section and 200 officers and enlisted men for all other language training). Should FEC accept the Nisei Section, the size would be accordingly reduced. See Tab B for details.

10. Location.

a. It is highly desirable that any language school be located on either the East or West Coast, for in these areas are found foreign speaking population, instructors and universities with which any language school is closely allied. MISLS is closely connected with the universities on the West Coast and utilize their source material, libraries, instructors during vacation periods and other instructor contacts and facilities. Interior sections of the U.S. are not conducive to language training since these facilities and advantages are less available and it is difficult to secure instructors on short notice or for short periods of employment.

b. Should the War Department continue to be responsible for furnishing linguists to FEC, the location is further limited to the West Coast since the source of Nisei comes from Hawaii and the West Coast. Were it not for this feature the school could well be located on the East Coast.

c. The language school should be located on an Army post where the least additional overhead is required.

d. Under the present arrangement, MISIS is administered and supplied by the Sixth Army and all training and personnel problems are handled directly by the Intelligence Division of the War Department. Such split responsibility has numerous obvious disadvantages and consideration is being given to placing the language training school under Ground Forces, at least, by 30 June 1947.

e. As to a specific location, it is believed that MISIS should continue on at Monterey, particularly so if the "Nisei Section" remains in the Zone of Interior. It is adjacent to Ft. Ord, a training center, through which many of the students pass. Problems are similar and the school might be operated by CG of the Training Center with a language training staff. MISIS is close to a port of embarkation. Repairs and classroom construction has been done at a cost of \$250,000.

11 a. It is difficult to give an accurate estimate of the size of a language staff until the responsibilities and duties are more clearly defined. However, it is estimated the civilian staff (instructors and clerks) would average 50, if the student body is maintained at 500. Estimated officer staff, 10. No estimate of enlisted men.

b. Colonel Thorpe has been requested to draw up a proposed staff for such a student body but it has not been completed.

12. Funds.

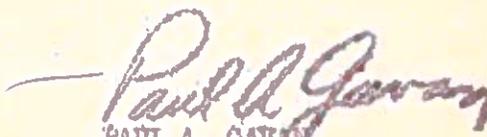
a. If the school remains at Monterey, maintenance funds would be available since estimates were included in 1943 budget for that station.

b. \$200,000 was requested for NISIS for civilian employees.

c. In addition, \$165,000 was requested under QCA 541 that is sufficient to cover tuition in civilian institutions, overseas schools, and leave a sizeable balance to apply to instructor salaries at NISIS, if necessary.

d. A reduction in the budget estimates is expected, but it is believed the school should be established along the lines indicated above and reduced in size according to funds made available, rather than to continue operating on an unstable base.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE:


PAUL A. GAVAN
Colonel, GSO

Jan 17

1. The following table gives the current status of the four year Language and Area Training Program (Regular officers):

<u>Class</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>No. Officers</u>	<u>Complete 1st Year</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1st Russian	Columbia	First	10	June 47	To overseas school for further training.
2nd Russian	Columbia	First	10	Sept 47	To overseas school for further training.
1st Chinese	Yale	First	8	June 47	To WMLS(1), Peiping, China for further training.
2nd Chinese	WMLS, Peiping	First	8	Dec 47	Will continue training in China.
1st Japanese	MISLS (2)	First	9	June 47	To Japan for further training.

(1) WMLS, War Department Language School

(2) MISLS, Military Intelligence Service Language School, Presidio of Monterey, Calif.

2. Other language training completed or in progress is tabulated below:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Course Length</u>	<u>No. Students</u>	<u>Completion date</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Russian	NIS (3)	6 mos	7 officers 1 E. N.	Mar 47	Completed and now on duty in positions utilizing their training.
Russian	NIS	6 mos	2 officers	July 47	Assignment not yet determined.
Russian	MISLS	1 yr	4 officers 5 E. N.	Oct 47	A one year course after which graduates may be used in suitable positions or selected for further training.
Russian	"	"	2 officers 5 E. N.	Dec 47	"
Russian	"	"	5 officers 6 E. N.	Mar 48	"
Russian	"	"	6 officers 1 E. N.	Unknown	"
Portuguese	NIS	4 mos	5 officers	Mar 47	On duty.

(3) NIS - Naval Intelligence School.

1. Requirements.

a. Based upon a complete survey made in March 1946, it was determined that training of the following was desirable during FY 1947.

Far East	38
Latin America	118
European	103
Linguists for FEC	<u>800</u>
Total	1059

b. The majority of the above were to take shorter courses, but only a fractional portion was completed because of unavailability of personnel, funds and the existence of a flexible Army language school that could meet demands.

2. A survey of the coming year requirements is in progress to determine new requirements. The following has been determined from the reports, a majority of which have been submitted.

	Officers	Enlisted Men
New 4 year Language and Area, Russian	10	
New 4 year Language and Area, Chinese	10	
New 4 year Language and Area, Japanese	10	
3 year Near-Mid East Course		
Greek	15	
Turkish	18	
Iranian	10	
Arabic	10	
Miscellaneous Balkan Languages	6	
(1) Japanese Linguists FEC	100	500
Russian Linguists FEC	20	6
Korean Linguists FEC	17	17
CIC Japanese	25	15

	Officers	Enlisted Men
CIC Russian	25	15
Spanish and Portuguese (Missions)	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
Total	372	230
Less (1) if transferred to Japan	<u>100</u>	<u>600</u>
Balance to be trained in Z.I.	272	130

a. It is pointed out that the FEC requirement of 100 officers and 600 enlisted men is going to be difficult to meet because of reluctance of individuals to enlist and Reserve officers to accept active duty. It is estimated 50 officers will be secured and 350 enlisted linguists produced in meeting requirements with military personnel.

b. If the Missi Section remains in the Zone of Interior, the student body will average 200 next year.

c. With the above condition, the top level of 500 for the school would be sufficient since courses vary in length and all students are not present for a full year.

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1. Basis for recommendation:

a. Student level.

(1) Present Nisei student body is 342. Graduation rate is expected to exceed enlistment rate until 1 January 1948, when it is estimated the Nisei student body will stabilize at approximately 200, and input and output will be approximately equal.

b. In addition to the above students, there are 38 officers and enlisted men taking Russian and Japanese courses.

c. Based upon linguists training requirements during FY 1948, the Language Training School should be able to accommodate a peak of 200 students in addition to those in the Nisei group. Therefore, a student body of 400 should be provided for at the Presidio of Monterey.

d. It should be pointed out that the output of Nisei from a group of 200 is insufficient to meet attrition of Japanese linguists in FEC and MISLS should be prepared to accept additional Nisei if and when procurable. Likewise, space is not provided for English training of Latin-American military students.

e. To provide for increased Nisei students and contemplated English instruction, spaces for 100 is estimated as sufficient.

f. Therefore, it appears that the planning purposes a top student level of 500 will be sufficient.

2. Funds.

a. Based on past experience and the fact that all students will

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not be present a full year, a ratio of one instructor to ten students is considered sufficient. Thus, 50 instructors would be required for a top level of 500 students. Instructor salaries average \$4,000 per year, or a total of \$200,000 in the event 50 instructors are employed throughout a 12 months' period.

b. Requests for funds under 1948 fiscal year included \$200,000 for civilian employment.

c. Funds in the amount of \$165,000 were requested for language training in civilian and overseas schools.

3. Personnel and Costs.

a. While the rejection of MISLS by CINCPAC requires the retention of an army language training agency, costs of the present language training system as compared to the contemplated plan, favors the latter.

b. To compare costs in personnel and monies between the present instruction system and the contemplated plan, it is necessary to divide students into two groups; one, the four-year language and area training, and two, the shorter language courses. At present, four-year language and area students attend one year at a civilian institution and three years at an overseas school. The new plan contemplates a three-year course with approximately one year at the army language school, nine months at a civilian institution, and the remainder of the three years overseas. Insufficient short courses have been available during the past year and with the reorganization of MISLS it is planned to make language training available in all strategic languages and of length and completeness to meet demands.

c. Average instruction costs under the four-year plan for the several languages as compared to the proposed three-year plan is indicated below:

<u>4 Year Course</u>			
<u>Present Training System</u>		<u>Proposed Training System</u>	
1st Year (U.S. University)	\$1,000	1st Year Army Language School	\$400
2nd Year (Overseas)	900	2nd Year Civilian University	800
3rd Year (Overseas)	900	3rd Year (Overseas)	900
4th Year (Overseas)	<u>800</u>		
TOTAL	\$3,700	TOTAL	\$2,100

d. A saving in personnel in the student pipe line can be shown as a result of reducing the four-year language and area courses to three years in length. As an example, the maximum number of officers attending the four-year Russian Language and Area Courses under the four-year plan, builds up to 40, whereas the three-year plan would only have 30 in the pipe line or, a net saving of ten officers.

e. Short Language Courses.

(1) Assuming all 50 instructors to be civilians, the average cost per instructor will be \$4,000 per year or \$16,666 per month to pay instructors. This figure would mean that each student (total 50) would cost the Government \$33.33 per month for instruction. Using present hours of instruction received at MISLS (104 hours per month) as a standard, civilian institutions, Navy, and Berlitz figures for similar instruction compare as follows:

Proposed Army School	104 hrs per month	\$ 33.33 per month
Civilian Institutions	76 hrs per month	100.00 per month
Naval Intelligence School	100 hrs per month	100.00 per month
Markets of similar course	(\$3.75 per hr - Army rate)	390.00 per month

2. It is difficult to determine the proportionate share of Post maintenance costs that should be charged against a student body present on an established Post. However, assuming the overhead created by ten officers and 50 enlisted men, the pay and allowances of this personnel is calculated at \$200,000 per year. The best information available places other incidental expenses for the student group at about \$100,000. Total \$300,000 per year or \$50.00 per month per student for overhead costs.

3. Retaining the instructional figures of \$33.33 and the \$50.00 maintenance figures totals \$83.33 as the monthly cost per student in school.

4. No attempt has been made to consider travel costs since it is believed movement of an equal number of individuals to MISLS or to other schools would be equal.

5. The instructional costs have been calculated as \$89.24 per month per student for the fiscal year attending MISLS during the past year.

6. Summary of total costs per student appears below:

<u>School</u>	<u>Cost/Month/Student</u>
Civilian	\$100.00
NA	\$ 83.33
MISLS	\$ 89.29
Proposed Army School	\$ 83.33

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k. Considering present and planned 4 year courses, a total of 224 officers would be enrolled in the 4th year. If reduced to a three year program, 168 would be involved, as a top figure in the pipe line at any one time.

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