



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY JOHN F. KENNEDY SPECIAL WARFARE CENTER
FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA 28307

June 13, 1983

DEST
Pls prepare reply
wed
19/6

General William R. Richardson
Commander
U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command
Fort Monroe, Virginia 23651

Dear General Richardson:

Several weeks ago when we briefed you on the Special Operations Mission Area Analysis, the placement of foreign language training surfaced again as a matter of mutual concern. I indicated that we would provide you with a Fact Sheet describing our views. It is attached.

I would add one further point. Long term experience tells us that Special Operations Forces have unique, mission-particular vocabulary needs. On the one hand, they have little need for much of the standard Defense Language Institute vocabulary because it deals with conventional transactions -- frequently social -- not of the type to which my soldiers are exposed; on the other hand, the Defense Language Institute vocabulary inventory fails to include those words, phrases and idiomatic expressions or sentences particularly important to deployed Special Operations Forces. Now that we have placed language training in the Training and Doctrine Command schoolhouse, we have begun a detailed foreign language training development program which both identifies and then trains on these specific Special Operations language vocabulary needs.

For the reasons described herein, we believe that foreign language training should be part of the Training and Doctrine Command structure at Fort Bragg. In the area of foreign language training, the Training and Doctrine Command simply does it better.

Respectfully,

[Signature]
Joseph C. Lutz
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Commandant

Enclosure

DEST
Maybe this is what we should do. coord w/ DLI & let's make a major move to bring foreign language into the 20th Century for mil applications programs in 19/6

*Also notes re language training
DLI are rec. Get back to me later on how.*

FACT SHEET

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SUBJECT: TRADOC-Based Foreign Language Training at USAJFKSWC

1. Background:

a. The FORSCOM-authorized 1st SOCOM Command Language School (CLS) was established in 1963 to provide preliminary foreign language training for SOCOM operational units (SF, PO, CA) at Fort Bragg.

b. Management responsibilities were assigned from G3, SOCOM to SIS, USAJFKSWC on 1 July 1982.

c. Current language training includes "enhanced level one" preparation for SO units (12 languages), and full "Basic Course" training for certain FAO students (2 languages).

d. FAO language training is conducted under a one-year pilot test as part of the larger FAO Enhancement Package which dramatically improves the Specialty's educational development pattern while saving the US Army an estimated one million dollars annually by eliminating unnecessary repetitive PCS moves.

e. All DLIFLC language training supporting SO and FAO are directly supervised and evaluated by DLIFLC, Monterey (Nonresident Division).

f. Current DLIFLC evaluations of our language training vary from satisfactory to outstanding and collectively exceed the DLIFLC median.

2. Discussion:

a. In theory, language training can be conducted as individual training or unit training, under TRADOC or FORSCOM.

b. More than 18 years of Fort Bragg-based experience clearly demonstrates that language training is better presented and received when done in the "schoolhouse." In the day-to-day reality of competing influences on the SO units, languages lose to other unit demands.

c. The disciplined structure of an organized language school promotes language success.

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d. The SOMAA has identified as the singular most severe training shortfall the unit commander's failure to obtain and maintain soldier and unit language proficiency.

e. Since the FAO and SOCOM foreign languages both are required and since prospective assignees are otherwise located at Fort Bragg, common sense dictates that these two needs be administered collectively in order to enjoy economics of scale while insuring quality control.

f. Recent FORSCOM correspondence suggests that FORSCOM would favorably support transfer of the SOCOM/FORSCOM-resourced languages program to SWC/TRADOC. (An explicit FORSCOM statement that the spaces and resources also would transfer has not been made.)

3. SWC Position: The Army has been "kicking this Fort Bragg horse" for nearly 10 years (as long as FAO, and its predecessor program, MAO has been here). It's time to stop. The permanent placement of language training within SWC/TRADOC, supporting only SOCOM operational needs and the FAO specialty, makes eminent good sense. No wider charter is desired. It saves many times the dollars spent in sustaining it, since this action eliminates the forced displacement of personnel already assigned at Fort Bragg to other sites for required language training. And, it frees unit commanders from doing a bad job by providing a local schoolhouse which now is doing a good job.

*Let's
take
it.*

Gauer, COL/67809