

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
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PAGE	DTG/RELEASER TIME			PRECEDENCE		CLASS	SPECAT	LMF	CIC	ORIG/MSG IDENT
	DATE-TIME	MONTH	YR	ACT	INFO					
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BOOK	MESSAGE HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS 404-130 744									

FROM: SSO DA

TO: USSOUTHCOM

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USSOUTHCOM FOR GEN GALVIN, CINCUSSO

FROM: **LTG MAHAFFEY, DCSOPS DA**

SUBJECT: FOREIGN AREA OFFICERS {FAO}

- I APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE BRIEFINGS GIVEN YOU BY DR MANWARING, COL ALCALA, AND COL BAKER. I NOTICE THAT YOU HAVE SOME RESERVATIONS CONCERNING REVITALIZING THE FAO PROGRAM. LET ME GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF WHAT WE HAVE IN MIND.
- FAO IS NOT IN NEED OF A TOTAL OVERHAUL. THE PROGRAM IS PROVIDING COMPETENT, HIGHLY-MOTIVATED ARMY OFFICERS FOR SERVICE IN POSITIONS THAT REQUIRE AREA KNOWLEDGE, LANGUAGE ABILITY, AND POLITICO-MILITARY SENSITIVITY. WE CAN, HOWEVER, MAKE THE PROGRAM BETTER. MY PEOPLE

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SIGNATURE <i>Fred Mahaffey</i>		SECURITY CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED	

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ARE LOOKING AT FOUR AREAS: OFFICER QUALIFICATIONS, LANGUAGE TRAINING, IN-COUNTRY TRAINING, AND CIVIL SCHOOLING.

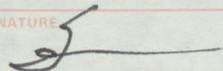
3. WE ARE SETTING MORE DEFINITIVE CRITERIA FOR THE OFFICERS THAT WE BRING INTO THE PROGRAM, SPECIFICALLY THEIR LANGUAGE APTITUDE AND GRE SCORES. WE ARE ALSO BEING MORE SPECIFIC IN THE CRITERIA USED TO DESIGNATE AN OFFICER AS A QUALIFIED AREA SPECIALIST.

4. WE INTEND TO SELECT AND TRAIN OFFICERS WHO CAN SPEAK A FOREIGN LANGUAGE COMPETENTLY. EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE CONUS ASSIGNMENTS FOR FAO'S WHERE THE DAILY USE OF THE LANGUAGE IS NOT REQUIRED, LANGUAGE IS AN ESSENTIAL WORKING TOOL FOR THE FAO AND IS AN ESSENTIAL VEHICLE FOR DEVELOPING REGIONAL EXPERTISE. THIS MEANS THAT THE OFFICER'S INITIAL LANGUAGE TRAINING SHOULD BE REINFORCED BY IMMERSION IN-COUNTRY IN A FOREIGN MILITARY SCHOOL, AN EXCHANGE POSITION, OR A STRUCTURED LANGUAGE STUDY. NOT EVERYONE HAS THE CAPACITY TO LEARN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE. WE INTEND TO DROP FROM THE PROGRAM AN OFFICER WHO IS UNABLE TO OBTAIN A MINIMUM LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY AT THE END OF HIS INITIAL TRAINING.

5. WE WOULD LIKE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE GRADUATE EDUCATION

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THAT FAO'S RECEIVE BY SENDING THEM TO THE BEST GRAD PROGRAMS THAT WE CAN. IN ORDER TO RESOURCE THESE KINDS OF PROGRAMS WE NEED TO ESTABLISH A TRAINING BASE FOUNDED ON A REALISTIC DETERMINATION OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR FAO'S. ODCSOPS IS CONDUCTING A SCRUB OF THE FAO POSITIONS IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY THOSE THAT ARE VALID.

6. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE FAO BE AN ARMY OFFICER FIRST. IF WE START WITH SMART, MOTIVATED OFFICERS, AND TRAIN THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER BRANCH QUALIFICATION, WE CAN PROVIDE THE OFFICER WITH FAO EDUCATION AND ALLOW THE OFFICER TO DEVELOP IN HIS/HER BRANCH AND IN FAO.

7. THE FAO PROGRAM IS AN IMPORTANT ONE. THESE OFFICERS REPRESENT THE PRINCIPAL ASSURANCE OF CONTINUED U. S. MILITARY INTEREST IN MANY AREAS. I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING YOUR IDEAS.

8. WARM REGARDS.

SSO NOTE: DELIVER DURING NORMAL DUTY HOURS

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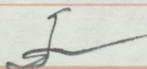
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