



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, G-3/5/7**  
**400 ARMY PENTAGON**  
**WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0400**

4 JAN 2013

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MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, U.S. ARMY HUMAN RESOURCES COMMAND,  
AHRC-OPB-E (PLANS AND POLICY BRANCH), 1600 SPEARHEAD DIVISION AVE.,  
FT KNOX, KY 40121

SUBJECT: Military Education Level 4 (MEL 4) Qualification Criteria for Functional Area  
(FA) 48 (Foreign Area Officer (FAO)), Effective Immediately

1. References:

- a. DoD D 1315.17 Military Department FAO Programs, 28 April 2005
- b. DoD D 1315.20 Management of FAO Programs, 28 September 2007.
- c. AR 611-60 Assignment of Army Personnel to the Defense Attaché System, 12 April 2006.
- d. DA PAM 600-3, Commissioned Officer Professional Development and Career Management, 1 February 2010.

2. The Army awards MEL 4 / Intermediate Level Education (ILE), Command and Staff College graduate, and Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) I qualification based upon successful completion of ILE Common Core (CC) and Branch / Functional Area credentialing course(s).

3. Current MEL 4 ILE and JPME I qualification for FA48 officers is successful completion of ILE CC from any HQDA G-3/5/7 approved source.

4. Effective immediately, in order to achieve MEL 4 ILE and JPME I qualification, FA48 officers must complete ILE CC and the following FA48 credentialing training and education courses:

- a. Completion of Joint Foreign Area Officer Course Phase I (JFAOC Phase I),
- b. Demonstrated language capability at the 2 level (Defense Language Proficiency Test),
- c. Completion of in-region training or equivalent credit for experience,

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d. Completion of a master's degree in a FAO-approved subject from an accredited University, nominally through the Advanced Civil Schooling program.

5. Officers transferring to FA48 that are MEL 4 qualified will retain the designation. However, such officers may require additional FA48-specific credentialing training and education. The FA48 officers MEL 4 qualified under previous standards will retain the designation.

6. Waivers and exception to this guidance must be approved by the Director of Strategy, Plans and Policy (HQDA G-3/5).

7. The HQDA G-3/5/7 point of contact for this action is LTC Matt Smith, G-35-F, at commercial: (703) 545-4379, or email: matthew.p.smith20.mil@mail.mil.



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