



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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DAMO-SSF

12 July 2013

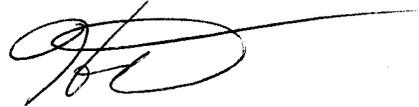
MEMORANDUM FOR ALL ARMY FOREIGN AREA OFFICERS

SUBJECT: Foreign Area Officer (FAO) MEL-4 Training and Education Standards

1. FAO-specific MEL-4 training and education includes basic language training, graduate school education, and in-region training (IRT). Each of the aforementioned phases is critical in ensuring that FAOs are able to attain the core competencies needed to successfully operate in the joint, interagency, intergovernmental and multinational (JIIM) environment. FAO training and education is both resource and time intensive representing the longest training pipeline of functional areas. Thus, it is critical for FAOs to meet established training and education standards in the allotted time. Successful completion of each phase is required to move to the next phase of training and education. Failure to meet training and education standards in one phase will preclude advancing to the next phase and will result in the FAO being returned to his or her basic branch.
2. Standards for each phase of training and education are as follows:
 - a. Basic Language Training. FAOs are expected to take the DLPT after finishing basic language instruction, whether at DLI or at a contracted institution. Passing the DLPT for a FAO consists of earning a minimum of "2" in at least two of the three tested modalities (listening/reading/speaking) while the FAO must earn a minimum of a "1+" in the third modality. Failure to attain these standards will result in a return to basic branch.
 - b. Graduate School Education. FAOs attending graduate school to attain a Master's degree must depart/PCS from the institution with the completed degree. Officers who fail to complete all degree requirements during the allotted time or prior to PCS are subject to being returned to their basic branch. FAOs who in lieu of graduate school participate in an internship or non-MEL fellowship program and do not receive a successful AER, are also subject to being returned to their basic branch.
 - c. IRT. FAOs must successfully complete IRT resulting in an OER that recommends further service in Functional Area 48. Referred OERs or OERs that indicate that an officer would best serve the needs of the Army outside of the FAO career field will result in the officer being returned to his or her basic branch.
3. FAO Proponent, in close consultation with HRC's FAO Branch, will make recommendations for returns to basic branches. Exceptions to the established training and education standards will be considered, but will be exceptionally rare and in the

interests of the Army. Examples may include compelling personal reasons such as death or serious illness in the immediate family.

4. The Point of Contact for this action is the undersigned at Heino.Klinck.mil@mail.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. Klinck', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

HEINO KLINCK
Colonel, GS
Chief, Strategic Leadership Division