

UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
Headquarters, 300th Military Intelligence Brigade (Linguist)
P.O. Box 1776
Draper, UT 84020-1776

UT-300TH (15-1A)

8 January 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Brigade Command Language Program Council Minutes, January 2001

1. Members of the Brigade Language Council met on Thursday, 4 January 2001 in Draper at 1800 hours. Attendees included MAJ Steve Stevens, SFC Todd Glover, CPT Paul Rice, CPT Mark Hult, SFC Durrell Wheatley, CW2 Jeff Hansen, and LTC Kit Mantz.

2. Topics discussed from the agenda included:

a. December Minutes. We reviewed the minutes from the December council meeting and followed up on "to do" items and pertinent issues.

(1) Newsletter. CPT Rice and CPT Hult will follow up on dissemination in the companies. MAJ Stevens and SFC Glover will work together to put a PDF version for the Web site. We will make the newsletter a quarterly endeavor. Submissions for the next issue are due 1 March.

(2) CLPM Course MTT. The 141st and 142nd provided rosters of company language representatives. The battalion language officers will report by the end of next week which individuals would be available for the course in early August. If we have at least six individuals commit, SFC Glover will submit the request for this MTT.

(3) DLI Language Olympics. MAJ Stevens provided additional information on the concept of making the Language Olympics a 2-week AT. The council still needs to develop a time line and criteria for determining participation.

(4) CD-ROM. The 142nd requested 50 copies of the Learning Resource Disk per company (250 total) and are prepared to use TALP to have the copies made. CPT Rice asked for assistance in finding a place to have the disks made. SFC Glover will send demo copies to the out-of-state battalions before the next council meeting.

(5) YTC. The 141st provided the dates, times, and locations for battalion CLPC meetings for the remainder of FY01.

(6) Language Incentives. We discussed issues remaining on some of the ideas for incentive programs from November's brainstorming session. These proposed incentives include:

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(a) Language Book Bag. CPT Hult has the mandate of reviving the 141st's program. CPT Rice asked for more information on it. MAJ Stevens has placed the requirements for the bag on the brigade's CLP Web site.

(b) Awards. The council recommends that a letter be drafted for the brigade commander to company commanders encouraging them to reward their soldiers but not tying awards to specific criteria. MAJ Stevens will draft that by next council meeting.

(c) Honor Roll. MAJ Stevens presented a draft proposal for discussion. Overall, the council approved of the idea and would like to implement it by posting it in the next edition of the brigade's linguist newsletter. SFC Glover has been tasked to gather some statistics by next council meeting to determine the final criteria.

(d) Linguist of the Year. Basically, the council determined to continue using the basic Department of the Army (DA) criteria, perhaps with some modification, for the brigade's Linguist of Year award. MAJ Stevens will present that criteria at the next council meeting. However, the council would like to add a second Linguist of the Year award to be presented to an enlisted E7 or above, warrant officer, or officer, because the DA criteria only allows for E6 and below.

(e) Most Improved Linguist of the Year. MAJ Stevens presented a draft proposal for discussion. The council offered some ideas for improvement. MAJ Stevens will revise the memorandum and brigade will implement the award.

(f) Linguist Certification. SFC Glover will provide additional information on DLI's four-tiered linguist certification program next council meeting.

(g) Linguist Tab. MAJ Abram (through MAJ Stevens) and LTC Mantz provided some organizational memory knowledge on the previous attempt to establish a linguist tab or badge. SFC Glover was tasked to find hard copy facts on that proposal. LTC Mantz encouraged the council to pursue this endeavor, noting that not very many years ago the proposal to institute FLPP was rejected before it finally passed after being resubmitted.

(i) Missions. The council may seek to provide recommendations on the philosophy behind how missions are assigned – sending the best linguists, sending less proficient linguists so they can improve, or sending a combination; however, S-3 input reminded the council that mission assignments are a command decision..

(j) Additional Training UTAs and Tuition Reimbursement. MAJ Angie Abram provided input prior to the council meeting that both additional training UTAs and tuition reimbursement may already be used as incentives through the allocation of TALP funds.

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(k) Brigade Language Olympics. MAJ Stevens and SFC Glover will prepare a survey to determine the interest among linguists for holding Brigade Language Olympics. Tentatively, they will look at March as a target date for preparing the survey.

(7) TALP. MAJ Stevens provided the battalions with their TALP budget figures.

(8) Accountability. We set a suspense for units to conduct an inventory of language materials by 1 March and for brigade to draft a policy letter or SOP governing the checkout of language materials by the same date.

(9) NCS Courses. MAJ Stevens and SFC Glover will make the copies of the NCS Arabic and Russian courses to be able to distribute them at the next council meeting.

(10) Web Site. Because the distribution of the linguist newsletter has not been completed, most soldiers in the brigade do still not know about the CLP Web site. Battalions are to ensure that the URL (<http://www.ut.ngb.army.mil/300mi/CLP/clp.htm>) disseminated before the next council meeting.

b. New Items. The council also addressed the following topics.

(1) Communication. MAJ Stevens expressed concern over communication breakdowns and encouraged battalion language officers to more aggressively follow up to ensure that information is making it down to the companies and out to the troops. A recent example was COL Snowball's guidance on developing plans for sub-2/2 linguists. The memorandum was distributed over a month ago via two channels, yet a company commander called because he hadn't seen it yet. CPT Hult cited another example that most of the linguists in the 141st had still not heard of the language resource disk that had been copied and distributed among all the companies.

(2) Sub-2/2 Linguists. We spent a substantial amount of time reviewing COL Snowball's requirement to evaluate each sub-2/2 linguist in the brigade and to determine what it would take to get him or her up to the 2/2 standard. Some people still had questions regarding whether to include officers or not, whether the recommendations for the plans had to be executable or not, and what to do with individuals of whom it is believed will not achieve the standard.

(3) DLI Language Olympics. Battalions were asked to begin ascertaining interest in and availability for the DLI Language Olympics to be held in May. At this point, we want to know by next council meeting how many individuals are interested in making the Language Olympics their AT, so we can determine if there is merit in pursuing that endeavor. By this we mean, if there is sufficient demand we will try to put together an AT schedule and arrange for trainers to prepare the participants for the Olympics. If there is not enough interest, we will continue doing business as usual—just using TALP funds to send people done to the Olympics without significant preparation.

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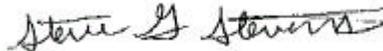
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(4) LTC Mantz's comments. LTC Mantz addressed the council for a half hour, encouraging members to feel empowered in their jobs, recommending diversity in language training, promoting the fostering of a new culture in the brigade, and recommending that we find a way to provide large-scale linguist support to the 2002 Winter Olympics.

3. Next Meeting. The next Brigade Command Language Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 1 February 2001 at 1800 hours in Draper.

4. Any questions may be directed to the Brigade Language Support Officer at (801) 620-1907 or Brigade Command Language Program Manager at (801) 523-4258.



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