

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

UT-300TH

19 July 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Brigade Command Language Program Council Minutes, July 2002

1. The Brigade Command Language Council met at 1800 hours on 18 July 2002 in Draper, Utah. Attendees included MAJ Steve Stevens (300th), CW2 David Miles (300th), LTC Wayne McArthur (300th), MAJ Derek Tolman (142nd), and SSG Carol Hopkins (142nd).

2. Topics discussed from the agenda included:

a. Linguist Database. CW2 Miles provided an update on the status of the brigade linguist database. He reminded the battalions that the first module, which allows input of data from the DD Form 330 and queries on information, was completed months ago. Recently, he has had it off line while he worked on other modules. Upon hearing that battalions were starting work on their own database, MAJ Stevens directed that the brigade database be brought back on line to prevent this useless duplication of effort and future problems integrating the data. This issue primarily effects the Utah battalions. Out-of-state battalions should continue using whatever databases they are using until all the modules of the brigade database are completed, at which time we will look at the feasibility of having them convert too. On Monday CW2 Miles will begin searching for where the database will be hosted, so the 141st and 142nd can resume their access to it.

b. Instructor Certification Course (ICC). MAJ Stevens reminded the battalions that the ICC will be conducted in Draper from 5 to 16 August via an Mobile Training Team (MTT) from DLI. There are still slots available. It is open to (and in the future will be mandatory for) contract language instructors, who will be paid to attend. Soldiers, particularly CLPMs and those who would like to become Military Language Instructors (MLI) can also attend. Battalions need to get the names to CW2 Miles and MAJ Stevens ASAP, so we can inform DLI can tailor their preparation to fit our participant profile.

c. Language Technology/Machine Translation. The brigade has received a request from INSCOM for input on the multi-language text and speech translation technology. This document will accompany these minutes. Battalion feedback is required by 15 August to allow for brigade consolidation and response by the INSCOM suspense of 20 August.

d. Linguist Doctrine. LTC Mitchell has forwarded the draft of Appendix C, Linguist Support, to FM 2-0 from Fort Huachuca for review by the brigade and battalion commanders and staffs. This

UT-300TH

19 July 2002

SUBJECT: Brigade Command Language Program Council Minutes, July 2002

document is also enclosed. The suspense for input is COB 26 July. All feedback should be forwarded to MAJ Stevens for consolidation and submission to LTC Mitchell on 28 July.

e. MTT Forecast. Each year in August DLI requires that we provide a forecast of the language MTTs we plan hosting in the upcoming FY, so they can plan their teaching schedules. Battalions should provide a list of the languages they would like to see taught by DLI in FY03 by 25 August to MAJ Stevens. Please indicate the number of PAX you would anticipate sending .

f. MLI Program. MAJ Stevens has acquired DLI's regulation governing their MLI program and is preparing to use that as a foundation to draft an MLI program for the brigade. This program will be initiated for FY03, but will have to be phased in. Such a program will provide units with more flexibility in their CLPs, allow quality language instruction to occur when TALP funds aren't available for contract instructors, and provide an excellent incentive for good linguists. Units can begin identifying potential MLIs to take the ICC next year, potentially as their AT. Only the best linguists should be considered. Units should also focus on the languages in which they have the greatest need for improvement (probably CATs III and IV) first. (DLI's reg can be viewed on the brigade CLP Web site at <http://www.ut.ngb.army.mil/clp/clpm/regs/helpful/MLI%20Program.pdf>)

g. Remedial Language Training Detachment.

(1) The bulk of the meeting was spent exploring the merits of establishing a Remedial Language Training Detachment in the brigade. COL Ainscough directed that MAJ Stevens present the proposal from Brigade S-3 Section that we create a Language Training Detachment at brigade to consolidate the sub-2/2 linguists and solicit feedback from the battalions.

(2) The perception is that the status quo isn't working very well in terms of sub-2/2 linguists reaching the standard. They just don't have enough "time on task." The gist of the idea behind a language training detachment is that providing more time for language training by eliminating distracters and non-language requirements, centralizing the management, pooling the training resources, etc. will give our sub-2/2 linguists a better chance to improve their skills and meet or exceed the standard. Another significant consideration is that our organization is under increasing scrutiny and pressure to fix this 2/2 problem and to show a return for the expenditure of TALP funds in terms of improving scores. We can't do that very well right now. This plan would allow us to show a direct correlation, should there be one.

(3) From our lengthy discussion, we came to the following "take away" items:

(a) Given the additional details from the discussion and slides from MAJ Stevens, MAJ Tolman will address the topic with the 142nd this weekend during drill and provide feedback.

(b) MAJ Stevens will make arrangements to present the briefing to LTC Scot Olsen and his key staff members in the 141st ASAP.

UT-300TH

19 July 2002

SUBJECT: Brigade Command Language Program Council Minutes, July 2002

(c) The council members present concurred that as an organization we need to find a different approach to resolve the sub-2/2 problem. We determined that the recommended course of action to create this detachment be modified to allow for a trial option. Under this modified course of action, only a select number of languages would be looked at for inclusion in the detachment and commanders would be asked to volunteer individuals to participate in a proof of concept rather than jumping into full implementation. We agreed that commanders would most likely be more receptive to this approach and that it would put the organization at less risk should the results not be as positive as expected. Additionally, we recommended that the test be initiated in January 2003 and NOT at the beginning of the FY in October 2002. First, this will allow more time to work out the details of the program. Second, historically speaking, it is unrealistic to expect to see funding during the first quarter of the FY.

3. Additional items:

a. Concerns were expressed over what has been perceived to be a “unilateral decision” to remove the language coding from key positions in the battalion and brigade MTOEs. One concern is that leadership will become disconnected from the troops. It will become a matter of soldiers being told to “do as I say, not as I do.” We discussed some of the rationale behind this change as being the pressure to reduce our percentage of ZZ slots and to improve our readiness vis-à-vis USR reports. The bottom line from this discussion is that many people feel this topic should be revisited and perhaps even reversed in future MTOEs. Those interested in more specifics of the dialog on this topic may contact MAJ Stevens.

b. If the actual language coding is not revisited, a request was made that COL Ainscough consider drafting a policy letter placing command emphasis on key leadership positions at battalions and the brigade being filled by linguists. MAJ Stevens will relay this proposal to COL Ainscough in more detail.

4. Next Meeting. The next Brigade Command Language Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 15 August 2002, at 1800 hours in Draper.

5. Any questions may be directed to the Brigade Language Support Officer at (801) 620-1907 (DSN 766-3907) or Brigade Command Language Program Manager at (801) 523-4258.

3 Encls

1. Language Technology
2. Linguist Support
3. Language Training Detachment

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UT-300TH

19 July 2002

SUBJECT: Brigade Command Language Program Council Minutes, July 2002

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