



Linguist Review

LINGUIST NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1 No. 1 December 2000

300th Military Intelligence Brigade (Linguist)

Brigade Launches Language Newsletter

The Brigade Language Support Section is refreshing an initiative to publish a newsletter. This newsletter will only be published twice a year initially. Publication frequency may increase based on need and reader interest. The intent of the newsletter is to be a forum for all language related issues within the Brigade. We will publicize training opportunities, recognize deserving individuals, share successful methods of language study and communicate other language issues. Anyone in the brigade is welcome to submit entries for the newsletter which are language related and of value to fellow linguists. Please submit entries in electronic format to SFC Glover at the Brigade S-3 section. He can be reached via e-mail at: todd.glover@ut.ngb.army.mil.

INSIDE

<i>Linguist Newsletter</i>	1
<i>CLP Goes on Line</i>	1
<i>CLPM's Corner</i>	2
<i>CSM's Viewpoint</i>	2
<i>Brigade Language Council</i>	3
<i>FLPP</i>	3

Command Language Program Goes on Line

In November the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade (Linguist) launched its Command Language Program (CLP) web site. It is a work in progress, however, and we are looking for your assistance to make a viable and valuable tool. You can access it on the World Wide Web at <http://www.ut.ngb.army.mil/300mi/CLP/clp.html>.

The purpose of this site is to be a resource for linguists and Command Language Program Managers (CLPM) in the brigade.

Linguists of various languages will be able to find links to locations on the Web where they can access authentic language materials, such as newspapers and audio broadcasts, for study; links to web sites containing general information and resources for linguists; and information about local organizations or places where linguists might find opportunities to practice their language skills.

CLPMs will find useful tools, such as pertinent language regulations, inspection checklists, agendas and minutes of language council meetings, etc. Both linguists and CLPMs can visit the site to find out the latest language news.

In order to make for this web site to be of most value, however, WE NEED YOUR HELP! There are three ways you can assist us in making this web site a valuable resource and, in the process, help your fellow linguists.

1. Web Links. Is there a language web site that you regularly visit? Do you know of a good place on the Web to read or listen to the news in your language? Have you run across a good on-line dictionary or glossary? Is there a place from which you've ordered good language materials? **If so, provide us links to the best language-related web sites that you know of for your language.**

2. Local Opportunities. Are you a member of a language club on a college campus? Is there a restaurant you go to where the owners, waiters, and/or waitresses are willing to speak your language with you? Do you know of stores, markets, video stores, etc. where you can find language materials (books, newspapers, videos) or contact people who are

Command Language Program

300th MI Bde (Linguist)
12953 Minuteman Drive
Draper, Utah 84020-1776

For questions, comments, or
contributions (written, not financial)
contact:

CLPM
SFC Todd Glover (801) 523-4258
DSN 766-4258

Brigade Language Officer
MAJ Steve Stevens (801) 620-1907
DSN 766-3907

*Comments or opinions
expressed here are not
necessarily those of the
Department of Defense or
Utah National Guard*

willing to talk to you in your language? Is there a religious congregation, civic group, or other organization that holds meetings or activities that you might attend where you can hear the language spoken or, better yet, engage others in conversation? **If so, please share with us information on local opportunities you know of for using the language.**

3. Web Page. Are you good at web page design? Do you have the time and interest in helping your fellow linguists? Are there language content, cultural information, graphics, and/or links you would like to see added to the web page for your language? **Let us know if you would like to volunteer to maintain the page for your particular language.**

Neither the Brigade Language Officer nor the Command Language Program Manager can hope to find the best links for all 24 MTOE languages in the brigade. One reason is that we simply don't have the time to do all that surfing and sorting. Another obvious reason is that we don't know all 24 languages, hence we can't judge the content of the sites even if we did find them. What we propose is that the subject matter experts, you linguists, in the various language send us the links and information that find beneficial. We can and will make the time to compile lists of these sites that you provide so your peers can benefit from them.

Please send your links to SFC Todd Glover (todd.glover@ut.ngb.army.mil) and MAJ Steve Stevens (stevens@jltc.army.mil). Be sure to include the following information: complete URL, brief description of the site, your name and unit. We would like to recognize you for your contribution by listing your name next to the links you provide that get listed. We want this to be your web site. Most importantly, we want it to have the links that will help our linguists maintain or improve their language skills.

CLPM's Corner

Hello everyone. I'm SFC Todd Glover, the new Brigade Command Language Program Manager (CLPM). I moved to this position last February. I had served the previous 10 years as the Readiness NCO of HHSC 141st MIB.

I'm very enthusiastic with the challenges of this new position. I hope to make some significant impacts on language training in the Brigade.

If you had attended the most recent USR briefing to COL Snowball, I think you would have no doubt of how he feels about the importance of language training.

There was some fervor over the MOS qualification status of sub 20/20 linguists. This is a problem we must address and solve. It won't be easy and there are no immediate fixes. Providing support and training opportunities will not accomplish the task alone. It must begin with a desire by the individual linguist to improve his/her abilities. The linguist soldier must have a love for his language and then take advantage of all the help offered.

Some years ago the Brigade was referred to as a "National Treasure." Back then we were kind of a novelty. We were able to perform on missions, beyond the expectations of host units, with the most rudimentary skills. We were sometimes guilty of looking down our noses at purely

Army trained linguists. Those days are over. The standard has been raised significantly. Instructional technology has vastly improved those linguists we formerly scoffed at. To some extent we coasted along on our reputations while everyone else was improving.

I'm not saying that there has been no improvement among brigade soldiers. There are many linguists among us who continually improve their skills. The JLTC projects for example, have provided opportunities for the linguists there to improve dramatically and to maintain high-level skills. Others do it on their own as students taking language classes or simply because they have a desire to improve.

As the Brigade CLPM, it is my intention to keep language training at the forefront. Language skills earned us a national reputation. It is my opinion that our language skills are equally if not more important than our MI skills. When I sat before a North Korean defector earlier this year, it was my language abilities that were tested. An instructional briefing and a couple hours of practice were all I needed to write the report correctly, but there was no last minute language spin up. It was assumed that those skills were inherent. Rusty MI skills can be refreshed much more quickly than rusty or non-existent language skills.

I believe we still have the best linguists in the Department of Defense. Undoubtedly we have the greatest potential of any linguist organization. We must be in the

business of capitalizing on that potential and raising the value of our "Treasure."

CSM's Viewpoint

Foreign language proficiency is extremely perishable and, as such requires great effort and considerable resources just to maintain existing skills. Experience and numerous studies have shown that language skill attrition is rapid when a linguist does not engage in a broad spectrum of continued language work or study. This can only be accomplished by being pro-active in your particular language. Take the time you need to stay proficient.

The Army standard for language is 2/2. This means you need to take the time on your own to stay at that proficiency level. Your sustainment program need not be elaborate, expensive, and time-consuming to provide effective language maintenance. But it's only going to work if you keep at it consistently. Reasonable results can be obtained from programs that devote an hour a day to language maintenance. Generally speaking, 20 minutes is the minimum amount of time per day that will do any good. The key is to continue to work at your language skills on an individual basis.

For further ideas on how to maintain and sustain your language skills refer to DLIFC Pam 350-9. Chapter 4 describes some simple programs for study.

Brigade Language Council

Brigade Language Council meetings are now being held the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Brigade office area. Battalion CLPM's should be in attendance. Company-level CLPM's are also invited as is anyone else who is interested. Significant training and policy issues are discussed at these meetings, so if you want to be "in the know," show up.

"Foreign language proficiency is a mission-critical skill. Units with documented TDA/MTOE requirements for linguists are not fully mission-capable unless assigned linguists possess adequate foreign language capability." (AR 350-16, page 6)

Foreign Language Proficiency Pay (FLPP)

Most of you are aware that the FLPP program changed effective April 1st 2000. It has been a major undertaking to convert everyone in the Brigade to the new system. Approximately 99 of the new FLPP orders have been published. This doesn't mean that your back pay is automatic. Each soldier should check with his unit to ensure the process has been initiated. Below is a summary of new FLPP terms and their meanings:

Career Linguist: A soldier who occupies a paragraph and line on an MTOE which has a language code assigned to it. For example a 97E, 98G, 97L and 97Bsin this Brigade.

Non-Career Linguist: A soldier who has proficiency in a foreign language but is not in a language-coded paragraph and line on an MTOE. An example is a clerk/typist who speaks Spanish

FLPP I: Proficiency pay for career linguists.

FLPP II: Proficiency pay for non-career linguists.

F1: FLPP I pay at \$100.00 per month based on a either a Listening or reading score of 20. For example a soldier scoring 20/26 in Persian/Farsi only qualifies for F1.

F2: FLPP I pay at \$150.00 per month based on a either a Listening or reading score of 26. For example a soldier scoring 26/30 in Turkish qualifies for F2.

F3: FLPP I pay at \$200.00 per month based on a either a Listening or reading score of 30. For example a soldier scoring 30/30 in Japanese qualifies for F3.

F4: FLPP I pay for a soldiers second language at \$50.00 per month with a score of 20/20 or above. Soldier MUST be qualified at 20/20 or above in his MTOE language to qualify for F4. Non-career linguists do not qualify for F4.

F5: FLPP I pay for a soldiers third language at \$50.00 per month with a score of 20/20 or above. Soldier MUST be qualified at 20/20 or above in his MTOE language to qualify for F5. Non-career linguists do not qualify for F5.

L1: FLPP II pay at \$50.00 a month for a non-career linguist who scored at least a 20 on both listening and reading.

L2: FLPP II pay at \$75.00 a month for a non-career linguist who scored at least a 26 on both listening and reading

L3: FLPP II pay at \$100.00 a month for a non-career linguist who scored a 30 on both listening and reading.

Remember that the above quoted dollar amounts are for active duty pay. FLPP pay for M-day soldiers is pro-rated at 1/30th of the monthly rate times the number of UTAs performed each drill weekend.

"The DA Form 7383-R (Individual Linguist Record (ILR)) will be used to track a soldier's foreign language skills...It will be maintained and filled out at the unit level by the CLPM or a designated representative if none exists." (AR 350-16, page 5)