INSTRUMENT FOR A SURVEY OF ARMY LINGUISTS

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INDIVIDUAL TRAINING AND SKILL EVALUATION TECHNICAL AREA

U. S. Army

Research Institute for the Behavioral and Social Sciences

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INSTRUMENT FOR A SURVEY OF ARMY LINGUISTS

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Research Memorandums are informal reports on technical research problems. Limited distribution is made, primarily to personnel engaged in research for the Army Research Institute.
INTRODUCTION

In January 1976 the ad hoc Army Linguist Personnel Study group issued a staff study called the ALPS investigating the Army's linguist needs and programs. The Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (DCS PER) initiated the ALPS in response to tasking by the Army Chief of Staff.* The ALPS recommends new programs and procedures, or changes to old programs, to meet Army linguist requirements. The major issue reported in the ALPS is the need to increase both initial and subsequent enlistment rate of linguists. This implies a second issue: how can the Army insure that linguists retained have the language proficiency to meet job performance requirements. To follow-up the ALPS, the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence (ACSI) formed the Linguist Consulting Board (LINCOB). The survey is part of the LINCOB followup.

SURVEY OF ARMY ENLISTED LINGUISTS

The ALPS received input from Army Staff Agencies, the U.S. Army Security Agency, the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), the U.S. Army Military Personnel Center (MILPERCEN), National Security Agency/Central Security Services, Defense Intelligence Agency and the Defense Language Institute. The data are primarily from staff sources and comprise manpower figures, extracts from staff studies, and personnel management information. A survey of Army enlisted linguists goes directly to the critical population itself. Because Army linguists are assigned to widely dispersed locations and often in small groups, the best approach to them was a mail survey.

The survey focuses on two major issues. The first concerns the relation of the linguist's reenlistment plans to language utilization, career options, job satisfaction and language training. The second issue concerns language skill retention versus language use and type of learning. A small team of ACSI and ARI staff analyzed the ALPS and other staff materials, and conducted interviews to develop questions for the survey. During the developmental interviews, the team uncovered a third issue: some soldiers enter the linguist program for language training or benefits with clear plans for leaving the Army after their first enlistment. The team developed questions for these issues, drafted a questionnaire, and field tested it on linguists at a CONUS post.

The questions cover nine topics which fall into three major categories (see Table 1). The first, target issues, includes career plans and factors that influence initial or subsequent enlistment. The second comprises characteristics of the work and the linguist's training. The last includes more unvarying characteristics: for example, personal background, time in service, and MOS.

Because people change their minds or are uncertain, the data in the first two categories are subjective. Nonetheless, the LINCOB needs this information to suggest the personal factors that underlie the numbers in the ALPS. The data will suggest why a soldier becomes a linguist, what makes the program attractive or

* Chief of Staff Memorandum CSM 75-5-3, dated 29 May 1975, continued by CSM 76-52, dated 28 January 1976.
Table 1. Focal Topics: Survey of Army Linguists

Career Plans: (items 9, 36, 37, 39, 40, 41)

Key questions: How certain does the linguist feel about reenlisting—in the same MOS or in a different MOS? What are the perceived civilian job prospects? What were the preenlistment career plans?

Retention: (27, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35)

What motivates the linguist to stay in the linguist program? What current factors or changes would encourage reenlistment?

Initial Recruitment: (9, 10, 11, 12, 17)

Where did the soldier find out about the linguist program? What were the factors motivating joining the program?

Job Factors: (21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 32, 42, 43, 45-51, 52)

What use has been made of the soldier's PMOS and language training? What satisfaction does the linguist get?

Language: (64, 55, 56, 58, 62, 63)

What is the linguist's primary language skill and what were the last proficiency scores in it?

Language Training: (17, 32, 44, 57, 60, 61)

Where did the linguist learn the primary language, how well, and how much has it been used in the Army?

Military Characteristics: (13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 20, 38)

What are the linguist's PMOS and DMOS? What are the time in service, time in grade and time left in enlistment?

Assignment: (19, 53)

To what geographical area and type of unit is the linguist assigned?

Personal: (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 59)

What is the linguist's marital and dependent status, age, education and contact with foreign culture and language?
unattractive as a career, and what kinds of linguists have lost their language proficiency.

PRODUCTS

ACSI staff, with ARI technical assistance, have provided the LINCOb a survey instrument and plan. The ARI contribution centers on research design and translating issues as defined by ACSI staff into a questionnaire. The questionnaire is appended. The design calls for one-time use of a mail questionnaire on one or two populations. It will be sent to all soldiers with duty or primary MOS of 96C or 98C. If the LINCOb requires, the questionnaire will also go to those former active duty linguists who have entered the reserves.

UTILIZATION

Survey Branch within MILPERCEN administered the survey for ACSI. It adjusted item order and phrasing to fit format requirements, collected the data, and reduced it for processing. MILPERCEN conducted analysis based on ACSI requirements. MILPERCEN administered it in second quarter, FY 77 with analysis begun in third quarter FY 77.
ARMY LINGUIST PERSONNEL SURVEY
28 FEBRUARY 1977
RCS CSGID-(OT) 144

Prepared by: US Army Military Personnel Center
Personnel Management Systems Directorate
HQ DA (DAPC-MSF-S) Hoffman II Building
200 Stovall Street Alexandria, Virginia (Autovon 221-9680)
MEMORANDUM FOR: SURVEY PARTICIPANT

SUBJECT: Army Linguist Personnel Survey

1. The Vice Chief of Staff, United States Army, on 28 January 1977 approved a series of actions to implement the recommendations of the Army Linguist Personnel Study (ALPS). As a result of that decision the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence has developed the enclosed questionnaire.

2. You will realize, when you read these questions, that the Army has a deep interest in the necessity to "hold on" to its linguists. The very nature of the hard questions you will find in this survey reflects the depth of that interest. Your cooperation will help policymakers solve what is rapidly becoming a major problem for today's volunteer Army.

3. I am personally interested in finding a solution to this problem of retention of linguists because of the critical necessity to maintain language capabilities for military intelligence operations. You know as well as I that we cannot function without the language ability you represent. Your totally open response to these questions will hopefully give the Army Staff the necessary insight to devise policies that will keep persons of your background on active duty.

4. As you complete the questionnaire please exercise caution. Reflect upon the question and then answer it as objectively and accurately as you can. Please feel free to state exactly what is in your mind. Your answers will be held in strict confidence. They will be used only for study purposes. Army regulations and current policies prohibit the linking of any individual's name to a specific response. You are also reminded that we do not want you to answer any question which you find objectionable. If there is any such question in this survey, please leave it blank.

5. Remember the Army needs the best information possible to solve the problem. You possess that information. Both the Army Staff and I will appreciate whatever help you can give us in this regard. Thank you.

John A. Smith, Jr.
Brigadier General, CS
Deputy ACoS for Intelligence
GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO RESPONDENTS

The questions in this survey are directed to individuals who meet the following criteria: (1) Have a Primary MOS or Duty MOS of 96C (including recently reclassified 04B and 04C) and 98G, (2) Have completed all basic language and MOS related training, (3) Have been assigned to duty in a non-training status for at least one month.

If you do not meet all three of the above criteria, please do not complete the questionnaire, but return it and the answer sheet in the inclosed envelope.

Thank you.

1. Use ONLY No. 2 PENCIL when filling out the answer sheet.

2. DO NOT place your name or Social Security Number (SSN) anywhere on the answer sheet. This will assure the anonymity of your responses.

3. Enter Survey Number 135-S in the space provided at the top of the answer sheet.

4. Be sure that the question number on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question you are answering.

5. Select only one response to each question. Mark the box on the answer sheet that has the same letter or number as the response you selected from the questionnaire. Do not write on the questionnaire.

6. Fill in the box with a heavy mark, but do not go outside the lines of the box. Look at the examples below:

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7. Answer all questions as of 28 February 1977 even though you may be filling out the answer sheet before or after that date.

8. If you make a mistake, erase the mark completely before entering a new one.

9. Do not staple or fold the answer sheet.

10. You are not required to answer any question which you find objectionable.

When answer sheet is completed place it (unfolded) inside the questionnaire and put them both in the inclosed self-addressed envelope.

Mail as soon as possible, but not later than 5 days after receipt.

Thank you for your help. Your answers will be kept in confidence and used only for statistical purposes.
The questions in this survey are directed to individuals who meet the following criteria: (1) have a Primary MOS or Duty MOS of 96C (including recently reclassified 04B and 04C) and 98G, (2) have completed all basic language and MOS related training, (3) have been assigned to duty in a non-training status for at least one month.

If you do not meet all three of the above criteria, please do not complete the questionnaire, but return it and the answer sheet in the inclosed envelope.

Thank you.

1. What is your current grade?
   A. E-3
   B. E-4
   C. E-5
   D. E-6
   E. E-7
   F. Other

2. How old are you?
   A. 17-21
   B. 22-26
   C. 27-31
   D. 32-36
   E. 37-41
   F. 42 or more

3. What is your sex?
   A. Male
   B. Female

4. What is your marital status?
   A. Married
   B. Other than married (e.g., single, separated, divorced, annulled, widowed)

5. Do you have dependents?
   A. Yes
   B. No

6. If you have dependents, are you serving in an unaccompanied tour?
   A. Yes
   B. No
   C. Does not apply, I have no dependents

7. While you were growing up, say until you were 18, what kind of community did you live in most of the time?
   A. A rural area or farm or village
   B. A town or small city
   C. A suburban area near a large city
   D. A large city

8. What is the highest level of education you have achieved?
   A. Attended high school but did not graduate
   B. High school diploma or equivalent
   C. Some college
   D. Bachelor’s degree
   E. Master’s degree
   F. Doctorate degree
9. Were you working or going to school when you decided to enter the Army?
   A. I was not working or going to school
   B. I was working and going to school
   C. I was working full time only
   D. I was working part time only
   E. I was going to school full time only
   F. I was going to school part time only

10. When you first enlisted, did you ask the recruiter about the language training programs in the Army?
    A. Yes, I asked the recruiter
    B. No, but the recruiter talked to me about it
    C. No, we didn't talk about the program

11. How did you first hear of the Army linguist program?
    A. The recruiter
    B. I saw an advertisement for the language program on the television
    C. I heard an advertisement for the language program on the radio
    D. I read an advertisement for the language program in a newspaper or magazine
    E. A teacher, professor or counselor suggested I look into the Army language program based on my language skills
    F. A friend who was in the Army program told me about it
    G. During my MOS training
    H. Other

12. What was your main reason for joining the linguist program?
    A. To obtain language training
    B. To use language skills I already had
    C. To get into intelligence
    D. Travel
    E. Interested in a language and culture
    F. Assigned into the program
    G. I want the training to use in the future as a civilian
    H. Other

13. Are you on your first enlistment?
    A. Yes
    B. No

14. How many years of active federal military service (AFMS) have you had?
    A. Less than 2 years
    B. At least 2 years, but less than 6 years
    C. At least 6 years, but less than 10 years
    D. At least 10 years, but less than 20 years
    E. 20 years or more

15. What is your primary MOS?
    A. 96C (including recently reclassified 04B and 04C)
    B. 98G
    C. Other

16. What is your duty MOS?
    A. 96C (including recently reclassified 04B and 04C)
    B. 98G
    C. Other
17. **What type of unit or organization were you first assigned to for duty, other than training, after award of a linguist PHOS?**

A. Security Service (ASA, NSA, etc.)
B. Strategic Military Intelligence (theater, joint command, DIA, etc.)
C. Tactical Military Intelligence (units organic to or assigned to corps or divisional units)
D. Military attaché or advisory groups
E. Not an intelligence unit

18. **How much longer do you have to serve in your present enlistment?**

A. Less than 3 months
B. At least 3 months, but less than 12 months
C. At least 12 months, but less than 3 years
D. At least 3 years, but less than 4 years
E. 4 years or more

19. **What type of organization are you assigned to now?**

A. Security Service (ASA, NSA, etc.)
B. Strategic Military Intelligence (theater, joint command, DIA, etc.)
C. Tactical Military Intelligence (units organic to or assigned to corps or divisional units)
D. Military attaché or advisory groups
E. Not an intelligence unit

20. **How long have you served in your present position?**

A. Less than 3 months
B. At least 3 months, but less than 12 months
C. At least 12 months, but less than 3 years
D. At least 3 years, but less than 4 years
E. 4 years or more

21. **To what extent does your duty MOS match what you were trained for in your primary MOS?**

A. To a very great extent
B. To a great extent
C. To a little extent
D. To a very little extent
E. Not at all

22. **To what extent do your actual day-to-day duties match your duty MOS?**

A. To a very great extent
B. To a great extent
C. To a little extent
D. To a very little extent
E. Not at all

23. **How many hours a week, on the average, do you work in your primary MOS (doing language-related work)?**

A. Less than 1 hour
B. At least 1 hour, but less than 6 hours
C. At least 6 hours, but less than 10 hours
D. At least 10 hours, but less than 20 hours
E. 20 hours or more

24. **In general, how would you rate your DLI or FSI language training in preparing you for your present language work?**

A. Outstanding
B. Satisfactory
C. Unsatisfactory
D. Does not apply, I have not had DLI or FSI language training
E. Does not apply, I am not doing language work
25. Which of the following do you consider to be the best aspect of Army service?

A. Pay and allowances  
B. Adventure, travel, and new experiences  
C. Army benefits (medical/dental, PX/Commissary, government housing, etc.)  
D. Job satisfaction  
E. Job security  
F. Promotion system based on individual merit  
G. Pride in service to country  
H. Unit esprit, sense of belonging, group/team efforts  
I. Social status or prestige  
J. Professional challenges and opportunities  
K. Other

26. Which of the following do you consider to be the most unfavorable aspect of Army service?

A. Frequent moves  
B. Isolated duty locations; unaccompanied tours  
C. Duty hours too long/irregular  
D. Lack of adequate medical/dental care  
E. Pay and allowances too low  
F. Inability to control one's own life or environment  
G. Lack of job stability (that is, "UP" or "OUT" policy)  
H. Inadequate family or bachelor housing provided by the Army  
I. Inadequate family or bachelor housing in the civilian communities  
J. Other

27. Which of the following programs would you like most as a reenlistment incentive?

A. Guaranteed assignment to one of three duty location choices  
B. Formal language training and guaranteed utilization in that language  
C. Reenlistment bonus  
D. Career program leading to WO or officer ranks  
E. Advanced language/area studies at civilian institutions for those who qualify  
F. Utilization in a country where I can use my linguist skills

28. Where should the Army place its primary emphasis for recruiting new linguists?

A. From civilian sources, by providing direct enlistment options in foreign area studies  
B. From within the current military establishment as a new foreign area career program  
C. From the Army Reserve and National Guard  
D. From major ethnic areas in the US where native language fluency is likely to be found

29. What is the major factor that causes the Army to lose its trained linguists?

A. Not utilized in the language they were trained for  
B. Advancement possible only in other career specialties (i.e., no long-term career opportunity as a linguist)  
C. Inadequate basic language training  
D. Inadequate refresher language training  
E. Not enough opportunities to retrain into a different language (cannot retrain)  
F. Too many requirements to retrain into a different language (must retrain)  
G. Dissatisfaction with Army life  
H. Other
30. What would be your main motivation to stay for an additional enlistment as a linguist?

A. Money
B. Advanced language training
C. Utilization of the language
D. Challenge of the work
E. Job security
F. In-country language utilization
G. Travel or chance to live overseas
H. Reducing housekeeping duties and infantry training to no more than 25% of duty
I. Other
J. Nothing

31. If the Army developed a new foreign area enlisted program as a career, would you be interested in joining?

A. Yes
B. No

32. After you received a linguist MOS how many of your permanent assignments have involved linguist duties?

A. Does not apply, I do not have a linguist MOS
B. All
C. Not all, but over half
D. About half
E. Some, but less than half
F. None

33. What improvement in the linguist program would make the program more attractive to you?

A. Allow me the choice between technical or supervisory assignments in grades E-6 and above
B. Allow me a greater choice in my assignments (Europe, Far East, CONUS, etc.)
C. Increase the opportunities for formal refresher and advanced language training
D. Increase the opportunities to learn a second language in order to broaden my skill base and expand assignment opportunities
E. Allow me to use my language at least 30% of the time
F. Nothing would make the program more attractive to me

34. Which of the following is most important to you in further developing your language skills?

A. Assignment to a country where the language is used
B. Assignment to duties requiring use of language
C. Assignment to formal language training course
D. A long-term career in foreign area specialization
E. None of the above

35. What career incentives would most enhance your interest in the language program?

A. Proficiency pay
B. Reenlistment bonus
C. Normal career progression for linguist MOS through the highest enlisted grades
D. Accelerated promotions in recognition of special skills
E. Progression to Warrant Officer or officer grades
F. None of the above
10. What do you think about staying in a linguist MOS for a full career?

A. I plan to stay in as a linguist for a career
B. I plan to stay in as a linguist for a time, but change to a non-linguist MOS later in my career
C. I plan to change to a non-linguist MOS as soon as possible
D. Does not apply, I plan to get out of the Army

11. How long do you plan to stay in the Army?

A. Until I complete 20 years or more
B. I plan to complete my current obligation and reenlist or extend temporarily, but don't plan now to stay in 20 or more years
C. Until the end of my current obligation, and get out
D. I am uncertain about staying in or getting out at the end of my current obligation

12. Have you ever served in the Army, Air Force, Navy or Marine Corps and gone back to civilian life?

A. Yes
B. No

13. If you have looked for civilian employment in the last year, what do you think your job prospects are?

A. Does not apply, I have not looked
B. I have accepted a job
C. I have received a job offer
D. I have interviewed with some prospective employers
E. I think there are job prospects although I have not been interviewed, received an offer, not accepted a job
F. I found no prospects

40. If you plan to leave the Army at the end of your current enlistment, what is the major reason?

A. Does not apply, I do not plan to leave at the end of my current enlistment
B. Never got to use the language I was trained for
C. Never planned to stay in the Army beyond initial tour
D. Promotions too slow
E. Duty assignments not stimulating or challenging
F. I found a better opportunity in civilian life
G. No career opportunity for a linguist in the Army
H. Lost my language fluency due to assignment to other duties
I. While everyone says how important Army linguists are, we certainly aren't handled as if we are important to the Army's mission
J. Pay is too low, and there are no monetary incentives to reward people who obtain this special skill
K. Not permitted to change my present language (can't retrain)
L. Not permitted to keep my present language (must retrain)

41. How do you compare civilian life and Army life?

A. I like Army life much better
B. I like Army life a little better
C. I do not like one more than the other
D. I like civilian life a little better
E. I like civilian life much better
42. How well does the person who supervises your work on a day-to-day basis really understand the job that you are doing?

A. I do not have a day-to-day supervisor
B. Knows the job very thoroughly
C. Knows the job fairly well
D. Knows fairly little about the job
E. Knows very little about the job

43. To what extent do you like performing the actual day-to-day activities that make up your job?

A. I like it very much
B. I like it more than I dislike it
C. I like it and dislike it about equally
D. I dislike it more than I like it
E. I dislike it very much

44. How relevant do you think your military language training has been for the day-to-day work which you are now doing?

A. Not relevant, the job I have does not require any language abilities
B. Relevant to a very little extent
C. Relevant to a little extent
D. Relevant to a great extent
E. Relevant to a very great extent
F. Does not apply, I have not had military language training

45. To what extent does your working atmosphere (people, policies, conditions) encourage you to work hard?

A. It encourages me a lot
B. It encourages me more than it discourages me
C. It encourages me and discourages me about equally
D. It discourages me more than it encourages me
E. It discourages me a lot

46. To what extent do you gain a sense of accomplishment from the day-to-day activities that make up your job?

A. I feel a lot of accomplishment
B. I feel more accomplishment than frustration
C. I feel about as much frustration as accomplishment
D. I feel more frustration than accomplishment
E. I feel a lot of frustration

47. How important is the day-to-day work your unit does?

A. Always important
B. Usually important
C. Important as often as not
D. Seldom important
E. Never important

48. How important is the day-to-day work you do?

A. Always important
B. Usually important
C. Important as often as not
D. Seldom important
E. Never important
9. How interested are you in the day-to-day job you are performing in the Army?
   A. Always interested
   B. Usually interested
   C. Interested about as often as not
   D. Seldom interested
   E. Never interested

10. How much of your time is spent on meaningless tasks?
    A. All
    B. Most
    C. Half
    D. Little
    E. None

11. All in all, how satisfied are you with your job?
    A. Completely satisfied
    B. More satisfied than not
    C. About equally satisfied and dissatisfied
    D. More dissatisfied than satisfied
    E. Completely dissatisfied

12. Which of the following is the most satisfying aspect of your job?
    A. Challenging work
    B. Military pay, allowances, and benefits
    C. Career development and opportunities
    D. Sense of accomplishment
    E. Job security
    F. None of the above

53. Where are you currently assigned?
    A. CONUS (including Alaska and Hawaii)
    B. Europe
    C. Middle East
    D. Asia
    E. Latin America (including Canal Zone and Puerto Rico)
    F. Duty locations other than the above

54. What listening proficiency rating did you receive as a result of your most recent language proficiency test in your primary language?
    A. 1
    B. 2
    C. 3
    D. 4
    E. 5
    F. Do not know

55. What reading proficiency rating did you receive as a result of your most recent language proficiency test in your primary language?
    A. 1
    B. 2
    C. 3
    D. 4
    E. 5
    F. Do not know
56. When did you take your last language proficiency test in your primary language?
   A. 1977
   B. 1976
   C. 1975
   D. Previous to 1975

57. What kind of civilian training have you had in your primary language?
   A. High school classes only
   B. College classes only
   C. High school and college classes
   D. Commercial programs (e.g., Berlitz)
   E. Other
   F. None

58. How would you rate your proficiency in your primary language right now?
   A. Outstanding
   B. Satisfactory
   C. Unsatisfactory

59. If you were born in a country where your primary language is the everyday language, when did you leave that country permanently?
   A. Does not apply, I was not born in a country where my primary language is the everyday language
   B. I left before I was 6 years old
   C. I left when I was 6 - 11 years old
   D. I left when I was 12 - 18 years old
   E. I left when I was over 18 years old

60. Where did you first learn your primary language?
   A. Army (or other government) schools
   B. Civilian schools
   C. From living in a country where the language is spoken
   D. From family alone
   E. From family and neighbors, but outside the country where the language is spoken

61. How much DLI or FSI language training have you received in your primary language? (Select the highest level completed.)
   A. No DLI nor FSI training
   B. Basic Course
   C. Intermediate Course
   D. Advanced Course
62. Which of the following is your primary language?

A. Albanian  
B. Amharic  
C. Arabic - Egyptian  
D. Arabic - Iraqi  
E. Arabic - Saudi  
F. Arabic - Syrian  
G. Bulgarian  
H. Burmese  
I. Cambodian  
J. Chinese - Amoy  
K. Chinese - Cantonese  
L. Chinese - Mandarin  
M. Czech  
N. Danish  
O. Dutch  
P. Finnish  
Q. French  
R. German  
S. Greek, modern  
T. Haitian - Creole  
U. Hausa  
V. Hebrew, modern  
W. Hindi  
X. Hungarian  
Y. Icelandic  
Z. Indonesian  

0. My primary language is not one of the above

63. Which of the following is your primary language?

A. Italian  
B. Italian - Sicilian  
C. Japanese  
D. Korean  
E. Leo  
F. Lithuanian  
G. Norwegian  
H. Persian  
I. Polish  
J. Portuguese - Brazilian  
K. Portuguese - European  
L. Romanian  
M. Russian  
N. Serbo-Croatian  
O. Slovenian  
P. Spanish - Castilian  
Q. Spanish - Latin American  
R. Swahili  
S. Swedish  
T. Thai  
U. Turkish  
V. Ukrainian  
W. Vietnamese - Hanoi  
X. Vietnamese - Saigon  
Y. Yiddish  

Z. My primary language is not one of the above