

MOS 09L (Interpreter / Translator) Information Paper

Updated November 2006

This information paper has been put together to answer some of the more common questions you may have about this program. It is important that you understand the obligation and commitment you are about to undertake. While this appears to be a great deal of information, it does not cover everything. You may ask your Recruiter and Guidance Counselor any questions or express reservations you have about this Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) any time. Before your enlistment process continues, you must read and sign this document in 2 places: page 6 and again on one of the 3 annexes (A, B or C).

The MOS 09L is currently available in 3 separate enlistment options, the Active Component (AC), the Army Reserve (AR) and the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR). You must ask your recruiter what is available to you at the time of your enlistment. The initial training and duties of a 09L are the same for all enlistment options. The main differences between the enlistment options are the term of service and benefits. At the end of this fact sheet, the 3 separate enlistment options will be explained to you and you must sign below the option you are enlisting under.

- **Soldier First**

The 09L Soldier is first and foremost a Soldier in the US Army subject to a strict military code of discipline. You must dress accordingly (wear a uniform and keep a military appearance, including short hair for men and strict rules on facial hair), conduct military training involving both men and women, learn the proper use of a weapon to include firing and qualifying with your weapon, and be subject to drills and physical training under Drill Sergeants.

- **Training**

The 09L Soldier undergoes English language training as needed, Basic Combat Training (BCT) to become familiar with the basic requirements of serving in the US Army, and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) to learn the skills of translation and interpretation using English and your native language in performing your duties as an Interpreter / Translator.

Being a Soldier

What does it mean to enlist as a 09L Interpreter / Translator?

It means that you have joined the U.S. Army and that you have taken the first step in becoming a Soldier. As a Soldier, you are sworn to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies. You will serve at locations to support the needs of the Army in the United States and overseas in support of the Global War on Terrorism. This is the commitment that you have made. 09L Soldiers are a very important and integral part of the overall operational capabilities of the United States Army. The Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) 09L is a skill that you must earn and will use as a Soldier, but first and foremost, you are a Soldier in the United States Army.

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What does it mean to be a 09L Interpreter / Translator and what can they be expected to do?

Upon successful completion of your Advanced Individual Training (AIT), you will have been trained as a Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) 09L Interpreter / Translator. 09L is an Army MOS of which Military Intelligence is the proponent. Your duties may include oral interpretation such as low level escort missions to higher level liaison functions. You may also be preparing translations and sight translations from a foreign language to English and English to a foreign language. The commander of the unit you are supporting will determine what interpretation (i.e., spoken) / translation (i.e., written) assistance he or she needs, but those duties may cover a wide variety of tasks. They could range from assisting a military contracting officer with a local purchase to providing interpretation support at a military traffic control point. You may even be required to assist security personnel in screening the local population at military checkpoints. A major part of your duties will be to provide daily interpretation assistance to the commander in his or her dealings with the local leadership and population. Other duties may include translation of local newspapers or pamphlets. In addition, all 09L Soldiers are required to perform their Military duties as required by any other Soldier.

If I am qualified and enlist as a 09L, at what rank will I enter the U.S. Army?

All applicants enlisting into MOS 09L Interpreter / Translator will have an entry pay grade of E-4 or the rank of Specialist under the Army Civilian Acquired Skills Program (ACASP).

Incentives

Are there any enlistment bonuses or incentives for joining the U.S. Army as a 09L?

As with all MOS's in the Army, enlistment and re-enlistment bonus amounts change with the needs of the Army. Ask your Recruiter if there currently is an enlistment bonus and if so, what the amount is for MOS 09L. The bonus amounts are likely to be different in the IRR, AC and USAR. A Soldier must successfully complete the 09L training in order to receive the enlistment bonus. Should a Soldier not successfully fulfill their required Military Service Obligation, recoupment actions will be initiated on behalf of the Federal Government in accordance with Army Regulation AR 601-280, Army Retention Program – that is, you may be required to pay back any bonus you received if you do not fulfill your military service obligation.

Am I entitled to any benefits because I am able to speak a language that the Army needs?

While in Basic Combat Training (BCT) and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) you are not eligible to receive Foreign Language Proficiency Pay (FLPP). You will be eligible for Foreign Language Proficiency Pay once you are assigned to your first duty station. The amount is paid in addition to any other pay and allowances you receive. The amount you receive is dependent upon your proficiency, and the language spoken. Your FLPP can increase if you have tested and documented proof of proficiency in several different languages.

If I join the U.S. Army is it still possible to apply for and get my citizenship quicker than if I were just a civilian permanent resident?

All green card holders with at least one day of HONORABLE active duty service since Sept 11, 2001 are eligible for the EXPEDITED program, however, you do not need to be on Active Duty when your citizenship comes through. During Advanced Individual Training, your command will help

all green card holders fill out the appropriate forms and upon graduation will take Soldiers to CIS for fingerprinting. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services have final decision making authority on all cases. For more information consult "The Soldier's Guide to Citizenship Application." You can download a copy from the link below:

HYPERLINK <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/tagd/pssd/ins.htm>

What is "leave" and how do I go about earning it if I enlist?

Leave is an entitlement that allows you to be absent from your place of duty (i.e., vacation days). In order to use this entitlement, you must have already accumulated the number of days that you would like to be absent, then fill out and submit a Department of the Army Form 31 to your commander. This form must show where you will be going, for how long and how you may be contacted if needed. Your commander must approve this form before you can depart. Be aware that there are some countries that Soldiers, for their own protection, are not permitted to visit while on leave. In some cases, your commander may "advance" leave that you may not have earned. In this case leave is granted in anticipation of accruing leave during the remaining portion of active duty.

Soldiers on active duty earn leave at the rate of 2 1/2 days a month for a total of 30 days of leave per year with pay and allowances. This entitlement excludes any periods of unauthorized absence. As a Reserve Soldier (IRR or AR), you will accumulate leave only if you are active duty for training or active duty time is greater than 30 days. If it is less than 31 days, no leave is earned. You will be paid for accrued leave you don't use.

When can I use this leave?

If you are on orders that place you on active service for more than 30 days, you accrue leave. However, you must settle (i.e., cash in or use) your accrued leave at the end of the order that placed you on active duty. If you choose to use the leave, it must be used before the ending date of the same order. **HOWEVER**, if you have a follow-on order that places you on active duty, the leave you earned previously may be carried over to the new order providing there is no break in active duty (e.g., if your first order ends on 18 Feb 04, then the follow-on order must start on 19 Feb 04 for leave to be carried over). **You must be on continuous active duty to carry over leave.**

After completion of AIT, you may request leave before you report to your next duty assignment. Your commander must grant this leave. Soldiers are responsible for travel costs associated with leave.

Training

If I enlist into this program, how will I travel from where I currently live to where the training will be conducted? Can I bring whatever I want from home when I leave for training?

All transportation to and from Initial Entry Training (IET) (i.e., Reception Battalion, English as a Second Language, Basic Combat Training, and Advanced Individual Training) will be arranged by the Army from the Military Entrance Processing Center you depart from. You are not authorized to travel by privately owned vehicle, nor are you authorized to move your household goods or dependents during this Initial Entry Training, in accordance with TRADOC Regulation 350-6. Before you depart for training, you will be provided a packing list of items that you must bring and items you are prohibited from bringing. Soldiers are **not** allowed to have cellular phones while in a training environment. All three locations (ESL Training, BCT and AIT) are considered training environments. During AIT, you may possibly be allowed limited use of cell phones.

What kind of training can I expect to receive, how long will it last and where will the training take place?

Before being assigned to your job, the Army will provide you training to prepare you for your duties. All O9L training units and duty assignments are gender integrated however males and females will sleep in separate locations. Your training will take place at the following three locations. Also included is a brief description of the training you will receive at each of the locations:

a. **Reception Battalion:** Duration of stay is 4 - 6 days. At this location you will begin your in-processing into the U.S. Army. In-processing includes but is not limited to medical, administration, and uniform issue. You will also receive and are required to pass, a counterintelligence screening and background check. You must pass this screening in order to move on to Basic Combat Training and remain in the Army.

b. **English Language Training: (Defense Language Institute – English Language Center) (DLIELC):** Attended only by those who need to improve their English before attending Basic Combat Training.

i) Duration of stay varies from **6 to 24 weeks** depending on how long it takes to achieve the 80 English Comprehension Level Test (ECLT) minimum score required. Your Guidance Counselor at the MEPS can tell you the approximate time based on your initial ECLT score. Here you will receive training to speak and understand the English language.

ii) You must achieve the following scores while at DLIELC in order to remain in the program: an ECLT score of 80, and Listening (L2)/Speaking (S2) on the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) in English, and a minimum score of 10 on the ASVAB. If a Soldier fails to score at least a 10 on the ASVAB, but passes the ECLT and OPI, he or she will attend an ASVAB enhancement course at Fort Jackson, SC. Currently, only IRR Soldiers may enter English Language Training with an ASVAB score below 10. These tests will be given towards the end of the DLIELC training period. **Failure to meet the requirements above will result in discharge from the Army.**

iii) Applicants who score **80 and above** on the ECLT and at least an L2/S2 on the English OPI at the MEPS will not attend English Language Training. Instead, they will go to Fort Jackson, South Carolina to attend Basic Combat Training (BCT) and Advanced Individual Training (AIT).

iv) Applicants who score **80 and above** on the ECLT but less than L2/S2 on the English OPI at the MEPS will be at English Language Training from **6 weeks to 24 weeks** depending on the English OPI score.

v) While at DLIELC, you will be under the supervision of Drill Sergeants and when not undergoing English Language Training, you will begin learning Soldier skills such as customs and courtesies and will engage in physical training. Additionally, training at DLIELC is conducted in a co-ed (male & female) environment. All Soldiers are required to wear the standard Army Combat Uniform (ACU).

c. **Fort Jackson, South Carolina (BCT and AIT)**

i) Basic Combat Training (BCT) includes: Drill and Ceremony, Confidence Course, Values, First Aid, Individual Tactical Training, Land Navigation, Marksmanship (you are required to fire and become qualified with your standard issued Army weapon) and Nuclear Biological and Chemical (NBC) Training for self-protection. This is the standard **9-week** basic training that all new Army personnel (male and female) attend, regardless of MOS.

ii) Advanced Individual Training (AIT) is where you will learn the skills necessary to perform your duties in your MOS. The 09L AIT lasts for **6 weeks**. Training subjects include:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| (1) Low, and mid level interpretation | (5) Perform sight translation |
| (2) Translate a document to English | (6) Learn military terminology |
| (3) Translate a document to a foreign language | (7) Field Training Exercise |
| (4) Prepare translated notes | |

Will I have any free time to travel or go somewhere while I am training at these locations?

During English Language Training and Basic Combat Training there are no weekend passes and Soldiers are not authorized to leave the military installation. During AIT, Soldiers may earn passes on the weekends both on post and off post depending on the Soldiers' behavior and number of weeks in AIT.

What will happen to me if I fail to learn English well enough or cannot complete my training?

Soldiers who do not complete the training are separated from the Army and returned to their home like any other Soldier who fails to complete required training.

What will happen to me if I finish English training earlier or later than expected? How does this affect my schedule of training?

Depending on your graduation date from English Language Training, you will be rescheduled for the next available BCT class. If there is time between training, you may be able to participate in the 09L Hometown Recruiter Assistance Program. You may be able to return home in a paid status until the start of your training. While at home, you will be asked to assist your recruiter and his or her recruiting station. You may be asked to speak to local leaders, businesses, community centers, and schools about your experience since enlisting into the Army.

MISCELLANEOUS

Will I be allowed to wear my uniform without name tapes or other identifying markings while deployed?

The Army Uniform Regulation provides strict guidance to the proper wearing of an Army uniform. Soldiers are required to wear a name tape, rank, organization, and badges. However, the Soldier's AIT commander will write to your assigned chain of command requesting that the 09L Soldiers be allowed to wear the uniform without a name tape while deployed in theater. This exception is only permitted by the 09L Soldier's chain of command for security and tactical reasons.

For females: Will I be allowed to wear a religious head scarf (hijab) with the uniform?

A religious head scarf may be worn when the Soldier is off duty and in civilian clothes. At all other times, while the Soldier is in uniform, the wear of a religious head scarf is not permitted.

**IF YOU NEED MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE ASK YOUR RECRUITER
OR GUIDANCE COUNSELOR**

If you agree with the terms of the 09L Interpreter/Translator Information Paper (dated October 2006) in its entirety, then sign where indicated. The recruiter and guidance counselor will also sign. You must also sign one of the 3 annexes attached to this document stating which enlistment option you are enlisting under.

I have read and understand the foregoing information paper and agree with its terms.

Name: _____
(Print)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Recruiter: _____
(Print)

Signature: _____

Guidance Counselor: _____
(Print)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

ANNEX A ACTIVE COMPONENT

Service

09L Soldiers will sign a 4 year Active Component contract. As with all Soldiers in the Army, you are obligated for 8 years of Military Service Obligation (MSO) in your contract, the remaining 4 years will be in the IRR. You may be called up at a later date if the Army needs you. During these 4 years on Active Duty, you will be on a normal rotational deployment schedule like any other Soldier in the United States Army.

Is it possible for me to continue to serve on active duty after I have served all 4 years on my enlistment contract?

After your initial 4 year enlistment is complete, you may choose at this time to reenlist. 09L offers a full career in the Army. At this time, you may also transition to a different MOS if you meet all the requirements for that MOS to include ASVAB scores. 09Ls may also be eligible to become officers if they meet all the requirements.

Benefits

Health care benefits, both medical and dental for your dependents (i.e., spouse and children) are authorized. You are entitled to TRICARE Prime and dependent medical benefits and to join the TRICARE dental program. Your dependents are authorized additional health care benefits to include access to military facilities if space is available. Married Soldiers, are authorized Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) that is adjusted for the area where the Soldier resides (based on zip code). Contact your recruiter for specific information. You also will have other benefits and entitlements to include commissary and post-exchange privileges, Servicemen's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) for you as a Soldier and insurance for your dependents if you already have SGLI.

Montgomery GI Bill Education benefits and Tuition Assistance

AC Soldiers are eligible for the Active Duty MGIB and can elect to have \$100.00 taken out of their pay check for a year (total \$1,200.00). Soldiers may receive a total benefit of \$38,700.00 with a 4 year enlistment for college. All Soldiers on active duty are also eligible for Tuition Assistance of up to \$4,500.00 per fiscal year. See your servicing Education Center for details on applying for Tuition Assistance.

I have read and understand the terms of service and benefits of serving in the Active Component and choose to enlist into the Active Component as a 09L.

Name: _____
(Print)

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Recruiter: _____
(Print)

Signature: _____

Guidance Counselor: _____
(Print)

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

ANNEX B

UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE

Service

09L Soldiers will sign an 8 year Army Reserve contract. You are obligated for 8 years of Military Service Obligation (MSO) and are required to serve 6 of the 8 years in a Troop Program Unit (TPU). At the end of 6 years, you may elect to remain in a TPU or transfer to the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) for the remaining 2 years of your MSO. During your assignment to either a TPU or the IRR, you may be subject to involuntary mobilization. It is extremely likely that you may be called upon to deploy in support of the Global War On Terrorism shortly after completion of AIT. If this should happen your mobilization will most likely be for no less than one year and no more than two years, which is the maximum amount of time permitted by law (10 USC 12302) per presidential authority. The actual amount of time will be dependent on the needs of the Army at the time. You may request to extend on Active Duty on a voluntary basis, but you may not be involuntarily mobilized for more than two years over a five year period of time without having a new Presidential call up put into place.

How soon could I expect to be mobilized and placed on active duty?

Our Army is at war in many different locations of the world. If there is a requirement because of the language you speak, it is our intention to mobilize you upon completion of your initial entry training (i.e., language training, BCT and AIT). However, because of the world situation, this may change at any time.

What are the obligations that I will have as a member of the United States Army Reserve, and what can I expect to do during the monthly Unit Training Assemblies?

As a drilling Reservist in the 09L program you can expect to conduct training one weekend a month, as well as one, two week annual training. During these Unit Training Assemblies you can expect to perform interpreter/translator duties to support the United States Army. In addition, you may be required to assist other units in preparing to deploy by providing training in cultural awareness and language training. As a drilling reservist you will also complete mandatory training annually such as common task testing, basic soldier skills and attend mandatory briefings.

Will there be additional opportunities for active duty as a US Army Reserve Soldier in a Troop Program Unit (TPU)?

It is currently anticipated that there will be opportunities for both long and short tours to support various missions throughout the United States. The length of the tour will depend on the soldier's qualifications as well as the needs of the U.S. Army

Benefits

What are the benefits or entitlements that my family or I can expect to receive if I enlist into the US Army Reserve Troop Program Unit (TPU)?

As a drilling reservist soldiers can earn a monthly pay check after completing a Unit Training Assembly, up to 12 times a year plus two weeks annual training. Soldiers may also be eligible for FLPP and other bonuses. Depending on your status (Drilling reservist, active duty for training, active duty other than training, or activation) as a Soldier in a TPU, differing levels of health care benefits, both medical and dental for you and your dependents (i.e., spouse and children) may be authorized. Check Tricare Reserve Select for more details. As a drilling reservist your benefits and entitlements may include: Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB), MGIB Kicker, College Loan Repayment, tuition assistance, further job training, retirement savings plan, retirement pay, commissary and post-exchange privileges, Servicemen's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) for you as a Soldier and insurance for your dependents if you already have SGLI. Speak to your recruiter to discuss the eligibility requirements for these benefits and entitlements.

Montgomery GI Bill Education benefits and Tuition Assistance

The Selected Reserve GI Bill is currently \$11,124. A Full time student will receive \$309.00/month for 36 months of full time academic study; \$231.00/month for 48 months of three-quarter time academic study; and \$153.00/month for 72 months of half-time academic study. There are no individual contributions required.

Army Reserve Soldiers are also eligible for Tuition Assistance. Contact your servicing RRS Education Services Office for details on applying for Tuition Assistance.

I have read and understand the terms of service and benefits of serving in the United States Army Reserve and choose to enlist into the United States Army Reserve as a 09L.

Name: _____
(Print)

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Recruiter: _____
(Print)

Signature: _____

Guidance Counselor: _____
(Print)

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

ANNEX C

INDIVIDUAL READY RESERVES

Service

In the 09L program as an IRR Soldier, you are obligated for the 8 years of Military Service Obligation (MSO) in your contract. This does not mean that you will serve on active duty for 8 years. While you are a member of the U.S. Individual Ready Reserve, you may be **involuntarily** mobilized onto active duty for a period of up to two years. This is the maximum amount of time permitted by law (10 USC 12302) under the current presidential authority of partial mobilization. To date, 100% of 09L graduates have been mobilized and deployed to support the Global War on Terrorism, spending one year in theater and one year in the United States. The 09L Soldier cannot refuse orders to serve as assigned by the US Army.

How soon could I expect to be mobilized and placed on active duty?

Our Army is at war in many different locations of the world. If there is a requirement because of the language you speak, it is our intention to mobilize you upon completion of your initial entry training (i.e., language training, BCT and AIT). However, because of the world situation, this may change at any time. Currently 100% of Graduates have been mobilized onto Active Duty the day after graduation from AIT.

Is it possible for me to continue to serve on active duty even after being mobilized for two years? If so, how do I go about accomplishing this?

After the two years of mobilization, if there is a need, you may volunteer to extend and continue on active duty in a Contingency Operation Temporary Tour of Active Duty (COTTAD) for 365 days. A second option is to request an Extended Active Duty (EAD) status in support of contingency operations for a minimum of two years with an Army-initiated option for a third year. Soldiers approved for EAD will receive active duty pay and benefits. Both types of requests must be submitted through your unit and must include a memorandum stating that you want to extend on active duty and that you or your family will not suffer additional hardships. Another option, if there are positions available, you may be able to transition to the Active Component for 09L or a Drilling Reserve unit. At this time, you may also transition to a different MOS if you meet all the requirements for that MOS to include ASVAB scores. 09Ls may also be eligible to become officers if they meet all the requirements.

Benefits

Depending on your status (active duty for training, active duty other than training, or activation) as a Soldier in the IRR, differing levels of health care benefits, both medical and dental for your dependents (i.e., spouse and children) may be authorized. For example, if you are on Active Duty for training for more than 30 days, you are entitled to TRICARE Prime and dependent medical benefits and to join the TRICARE dental program. If activated by mobilization, your dependents are authorized additional health care benefits to include access to military facilities if space is available. Married Soldiers, during training and mobilization are authorized Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) that is adjusted for the area where the Soldier resides (based on zip code). Single Soldiers are not eligible to receive BAH during training. Once mobilized,

single Soldiers may receive BAH without dependents if they are maintaining a residence while mobilized. Both married and single Soldiers will receive Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS) once they are mobilized. Contact your recruiter for specific information. Depending on your duty status, other benefits and entitlements may include commissary and post-exchange privileges, Servicemen's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) for you as a Soldier and insurance for your dependents if you already have SGLI.

Montgomery GI Bill Education benefits and Tuition Assistance

A 09L Soldier who serves 24 continuous months of active duty will qualify for the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty (MGIB-AD). After 24 months of active duty, Soldiers would need to contribute \$1,200 in one lump sum toward the MGIB as well as complete the necessary enrollment forms to enroll into the program. Soldiers may receive a total benefit of \$38,700.00 for college. Your time spent on active duty for training does not count towards the 24 months of active duty for this incentive. You must be mobilized under Title 10.

All Soldiers on active duty are also eligible for Tuition Assistance of up to \$4,500.00 per fiscal year. See your servicing Education Center for details on applying for Tuition Assistance.

I have read and understand the terms of service and benefits of serving in the Individual Ready Reserves and choose to enlist into the Individual Ready Reserve as a 09L.

Name: _____
(Print)

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Recruiter: _____
(Print)

Signature: _____

Guidance Counselor: _____
(Print)

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

ANNEX D
NOTES FOR RECRUITERS AND GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

1. Currently English Language Training is located at Lackland AFB. Any 09L who needs English Training is sent to FT Sill for Reception and then on to Lackland AFB for training. 09L English Language Training will be moving to FT Jackson with an estimated implementation date of 2ND quarter 2007. At that time, all Soldiers will be sent to reception at FT Jackson. When the 09L English Language Training is moved to FT Jackson, USAREC will be immediately informed.

2. All Soldiers must score a 10 on the ASVAB to begin BCT. IRR 09Ls may score less than a 10 if they need English Language Training, and may be assessed into the Army with a score less than 10, but must achieve a 10 before they can begin BCT. Soldiers who access into the AC or the USAR, must achieve a 10 or better on the ASVAB to be assessed. Therefore if an applicant needs English Language Training and scores less than a 10 on the ASVAB, the only enlistment option is the IRR. Please encourage all Soldiers to do their best on the ASVAB as we want to get an accurate reflection of their scores. These Soldiers may also want to transition to a different MOS in the future and they will need to meet all requirements to include line scores.