

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Trip report, SCOLA Users Meeting

1. The meeting was conducted at the Doubletree Hotel, Omaha, Nebraska and SCOLA headquarters, McClelland, Iowa, 21-22 May 2015. Discussions included presentations from government, industry and academia.

a. Dr. Joyce Baker, training manager General Dynamics and representative for the National Language Service Corps (NLSC), talked about sound patterns found in languages and how they are sometimes similar. She also encouraged meeting participants to support the NLSC.

b. Mr. John Bird, Director Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) Culture Center and Supervisory Education Specialist Fort Huachuca, said SCOLA is used by linguists at Ft. Huachuca such as the HUMINT interrogators, which are becoming once again a language dependent military occupational specialty (MOS).

c. Dr. William Rivers, Executive Director, Joint National Committee for Languages, said we need to raise the profile for languages in the US and link them to national security issues by making English a requirement for residency. There needs to be a practical application of theoretical principles. Fortune 500 companies and other large corporations are seeking employees with a language background to meet growing international requirements that now have a demand equal to math and science. He also sent a request for a phonecon to ICI LangPro for Monday, 1 June.

d. Dr. Antonia Schleicher, Executive Director, National African Language Resource Center (NALC), She uses SCOLA as a tool for authentic language instruction. This instruction must be communicative and interactive to be effective.

e. Mr. Gregg Roberts, Teaching and Learning Utah State Office of Education and dual immersion specialist, emphasized importance of K-12 language immersion. Utah has provided a model that is being used by other states. Showed a video of two fourth grade students who had been learning Chinese for four years. The students demonstrated their proficiency with an interpreting demonstration before the Utah legislature. He also pointed out the importance of bringing government, industry and academia together to outline a roadmap for K-12 development. There are over 20,000 students in his iso-immersion programs of Spanish, German, Chinese, French and Portuguese. SCOLA is used to present authentic language and culture instruction. He and his team have raised the standard for foreign language instructors in Utah who are required to pass an oral proficiency interview (OPI) at the intermediate advanced level to be qualified as a foreign language instructor.

f. Dr. Richard Brecht, Co-director, American Councils Research Center and Senior Partner Global Professional Search, talked about the value of up-to-date, authentic, multi media, curated, re-usable and surge capable language programs. Blended and independent, job skill proficiency, cultural knowledge, and curated language learning objects are of high value to DoD. He opened the discussion of how SCOLA can improve marketing to DLI, DoD and be better than the competition such as CL 150, Joint Language University, and others. An improved learning management system (LMS) must be available for language

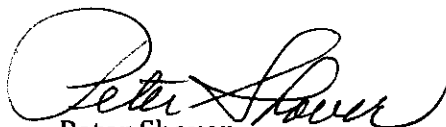
and culture learners that includes learner profiles and geographical domains. Other markets for SCOLA might include blended learning, K-12, pre-immersion, dual language programs, executive travel, tourism, job placement, NLSC, NGOs, learner pipelines, Peace Corps and Foreign Area Officer (FAO) programs. Finally, language professionals need to address Congress and speak often and emphatically about the value of SCOLA, there needs to be broader use of SCOLA among academia.

g. Dr. Amy Heaton, Managing Director, Lynchpin International, addressed the zone of potential development expressed as the distance between problem solving and potential development. Scaffolding and prior learning narrow the delta between these two areas. The controlled and effective use of SCOLA's authentic language and culture materials are essential for narrowing the gap between problem solving and potential development.

h. Talked with Jeff Mitchell, President Cub River Consulting and a former acquaintance from the 300th Military Intelligence (MI) Brigade (BDE) Linguist. He is developing Lingmeister, a learning management system (LMS) system, for language learning, which would support my language consulting service. We agreed to collaborate further as a possible partnership. Also visited with Sergeant First Class (SFC) Jason Shelton, Command Language Program Manager (CLPM) 301st MI BDE and will meet with him 29 June to explain ICI LangPro and how it can support foreign language instruction and learning. Participated in an informal discussion with Dr. Richard Brecht, Dr. Amy Heaton and SCOLA's Mr. Spencer Johnson about the importance of the human element in learning and teaching foreign language. For example, machine translation is valuable as a triage tool, but cannot be used for a final translation or interpretation.

2. Conclusion. The SCOLA meeting underscored the criticality of reliable and time-tested language learning and instructional methods. There was also collaborative discussions about the most productive way SCOLA may continue to receive government, private and academia support through more pro-active and competitive programs and presentations. Former Senator David Karnes, SCOLA chairman and spokesman is actively collaborating with congress to ensure the longevity of SCOLA and its valuable language training tools. Congressman Brad Ashford commented about the dangerous and often-neglected conditions that exist in the Middle East and the world and how SCOLA is an integral part of ensuring these conditions do not degenerate into an unmanageable conflict. Finally, language programs are receiving more recognition in spite of resource cutbacks. The National Committee on Language and International Studies (NCLIS) is one entity that is leading the way in collaborative efforts to ensure effective recognition of language and culture information and programs.

3. This memorandum was authored by the undersigned. Comments, views and opinions may be submitted to Mr. Peter Shaver, ICI LangPro, at peter@icilangpro.com , shaverpa1@cox.net or www.icilangpro.com



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