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**ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPREHENSION LEVEL (ECL) AND ORAL PROFICIENCY INTERVIEW (OPI) EXEMPTION LISTS FOR CONUS AND IN-COUNTRY TESTING:** [The following is a reprint of SECDEF Washington DC, message 021125Z Dec 98, subject as above.]

1. The following provides the FY98 ECL and OPI country exemption lists based on review by the Unified Commands, MILDEPs, DLIELC, and DSCA.

2. The following 21 countries are exempt from in-country and CONUS ECL testing:

Antigua	Australia	Bahamas
Barbados	Belize	Brunei
Canada	Dominica	Grenada
Guyana	India	Ireland
Jamaica	Malta	New Zealand
Singapore	St. Kitts	St. Lucia
St. Vincent	Trinidad	United Kingdom

3. The following 37 countries are exempt from in-country ECL testing:

Austria	Bangladesh	Belgium
Botswana	Denmark	Fiji
Finland	France	Gambia
Germany	Ghana	Iceland
Israel	Italy	Kenya
Luxembourg	Malawi	Malaysia
Netherlands	Nigeria	Norway
Pakistan	Papua New Guinea	Philippines
Sierra Leone	Solomon Islands	South Africa
Sri Lanka	Swaziland	Sweden
Switzerland	Tonga	Uganda
Vanuatu	Western Samoa	Zambia
Zimbabwe		

4. The following 48 countries have a 55-ECL exemption:

Albania	Algeria	Angola
Armenia	Azerbaijan	Belarus
Benin	Bosnia	Bulgaria
Burundi	Cambodia	Cape Verde
Central African Republic	Comoros	Congo (Brazzaville)

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Congo (Kinshasa)  
Estonia  
Georgia  
Haiti  
Latvia  
Madagascar  
Moldova  
Niger  
Rwanda  
Slovenia  
Ukraine

Croatia  
Ethiopia  
Guinea  
Kazakhstan  
Lithuania  
Mali  
Mozambique  
Romania  
Sao Tome  
Togo  
Uzbekistan

Eritrea  
Gabon  
Guinea-Bissau  
Kyrgystan  
Macedonia  
Mauritania  
Namibia  
Russia  
Slovakia  
Turkmenistan  
Yemen

5. The following policy guidance is provided for the English language Comprehension Level (ECL) test and the Test of English-as-a-Foreign-Language (TOEFL):

A. Students from countries listed above that are exempt from all ECL testing requirements or in-country ECL screening must continue to demonstrate successful English language performance during training or country exemption will be withdrawn.

B. Cancellation charges will be applied when students fail to meet the prerequisite ECL on CONUS direct entry ECL test which results in rescheduling or cancellation of the direct entry training due to language deficiency.

C. Countries exempt from the minimum 55 ECL score for DLIELC entry should make every effort to establish a minimum 55 ECL capability. Countries that are not able to purchase appropriate English language equipment and materials to develop an in-country ability to reach a 55 ECL due to a small IMET program or other considerations where it would not be economically feasible will remain on the exemption list. Unified commands are required to present NLT 30 October each year, a proposed plan of action to update the exemption lists for CONUS and in-country testing NLT 30 October each year. This plan will be submitted to DLIELC and forwarded to DSCA. The goal is the eventual graduation of countries from the exemption list or the development of appropriate justifications for countries remaining on the exemption list.

D. Students from countries not reflected on the above exemption lists must have the minimum 55 ECL before attending English language training at DLIELC.

E. SAOs have the option of conducting ECL testing regardless of country exemption if concerned with the student's capabilities.

F. All students from countries listed in paragraph 2 are exempt from TOEFL when they attend postgraduate courses at the Naval Postgraduate School. Students from all other countries must meet the direct entry TOEFL score of 540 in order to be eligible for postgraduate education. Students with scores below 540, but above 500, are eligible to attend the DLI TOEFL preparatory academic writing course, MASL P177022, prior to attending postgraduate education. The TOEFL institution code for the Naval Postgraduate School is 4831.

G. Requests for additions and deletions should be forwarded by the unified commands to DSCA with info to DLIELC and the MILDEPs.

6. The following 21 countries are exempt from an OPI requirement:

Antigua  
Barbados

Australia  
Belize

Bahamas  
Brunei

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Canada	Dominica	Grenada
Guyana	India	Ireland
Jamaica	Malta	New Zealand
Singapore	St. Kitts	St. Lucia
St. Vincent	Trinidad	United Kingdom

7. The following 17 countries are exempt from an in-country OPI testing:

Austria	Belgium	Botswana
Denmark	Finland	France
Italy	Luxembourg	Netherlands
Norway	Portugal	Spain
Germany	Greece	Israel
Sweden	Switzerland	

8. The following policy guidance is provided for the Oral Proficiency Interviews (OPI).

A. Students from countries listed above as exempt from an OPI requirement must continue to demonstrate successful proficiency skills during training or country exemption will be withdrawn.

B. Countries exempt from in-country OPI testing need to ensure their students are language qualified. The appropriate cancellation charge will be applied to the training when students fail to qualify on direct entry OPI testing which results in a rescheduling or cancellation of training.

C. SAOs for countries not reflected in above exemptions need to schedule a telephonic OPI with DLIELC.

D. As with ECL testing, SAOs have the option of requiring OPI testing regardless of country exemption if concerned with student capabilities.

9. DSCA POC is Sherry Reckler at commercial (703) 604-6620, DSN 664-6620 or Rita Verry at commercial (703) 601-3672, DSN (329) 601-3672. Commercial fax (703) 604-6542, DSN Fax 664-6542.

## **DISAM RETIREMENT**

On 30 November 1998, Lieutenant Commander Nels E. Berdahl, of DISAM's Directorate of Management Studies, retired after serving 25 years in the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Navy. On this occasion he was awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal by Colonel Judy-Ann Carroll, USA, DISAM Commandant. While a classroom instructor at DISAM since 1996, Commander Berdahl excelled in providing well-prepared presentations in a highly interesting and interactive mode, earning extensive praise and comments concerning his effectiveness from students. Commander Berdahl demonstrated exceptional ability and initiative in fulfilling the teaching and research requirements for the academic rank of Assistant Professor in just over one year after arriving at DISAM; such recognition is rarely granted in less than two years on station. In addition to his superlative achievements in the classroom, he made monumental contributions to the Defense Security Cooperation Agency's (DSCA) multi-million dollar project known as the Defense Security Assistance Management System (DSAMS). Shortly after arriving at DISAM, Commander Berdahl's exceptional systems and automation