

A wealth of practical experience in everyday spoken English is being acquired by ~~students~~ Bolivian military and civilian students through the ~~duty of~~ ~~full~~ time assistance of US Army Mission members in Cochabamba, Bolivia. The Officers, ~~and~~ NCO's, and many of their wives help particularly the ~~junior~~ Bol Mil dependents practice English ~~speaking and following~~ learned in late afternoon classes. These classes are held at the US equipped language lab at the Escuela de Armas where, during the day, officers attending the career classes study English as part of their regular curriculum.

The after-hours classes are free to dependents of the Bolivian military residing in Cochabamba. ~~as well as~~ They are under the supervision of the ~~chief of~~ ^{Director} ~~Prof~~ the "Centro Militar de Idiomas de las Fuerzas Armadas de la Nacion", ^{Prof} Norman Pictor, who speaks both Spanish and English fluently.

Professor Pictor has been in charge of the Center since its inception as a separate teaching agency designed to instruct Bolivian military careermen in either English, French, German, or Portuguese. This instruction is carried on in three of the four different military schools located in Cochabamba: the Centro de Instruccion de Tropas Especiales, currently with 22 ~~students~~ regular military students; the Escuela de Comando y Estado Mayor, 25 language students; and the Escuela de Armas, where the fully equipped lab is located, with 18 Advanced Courses students (NOTE: This school, to the Bolivian Officer, is roughly comparable to Officers career courses in the US, but here covers all branches. A minimum of six years service is required before an Officer may attend this school).

Bolivian Army 7th Division, Cochabamba,
The ~~junior~~ Military Language Center, ~~with Professor Pictor as its head~~ was organized in 1959 according to orders to that effect from General Alfredo Ovando, then Commander of the Bolivian Armed Forces, and now President of the Republic of Bolivia.

Graduating an average of 120 students per year in its four languages, the Center this year has 18 unsalaried instructors which includes ~~US~~ members, &/wives, of the US Army Section, ~~USARMIS~~ USMILGP to Bolivia, in Cochabamba.

Recently, Bolivian Army Commander, Colonel David LaFuente directed the Escuela de Comando y Estado Mayor (Command and General Staff College) in Cochabamba to create within itself a Department of Languages to be under the direct supervision of Professor Pictor. Also, Col. LaFuente ordered the Military Language Center incorporated into the Table of organization of the Escuela de Aplicacion de Armas (School of Applied Arms).

Aside from their voluntary role as instructors, the mission personnel and most of their wives often join the students in informal conversation-practice sessions.

The 30-some after-hours students in English are Bolivian military Officers dependents, military civilian employees, NCO's, and Officers who want to supplement their regularly scheduled language training. These students attend 2 hours of classes per week, using the USARMIS lab facilities

In 1959, Gen. Alfredo Ovando, Commander of the Bolivian Armed Forces (now President of the Republic of Bolivia and also Commander of the Bolivian Armed Forces) issued Army orders indicating that a Language Center was to be organized in Cochabamba, 7th Division, under the official name of "CENTRO D^{ET} IDIOMAS MILITAR/DF LAS FUERZAS ARMADAS DE LA NACION". At the same time he appointed Prof. Norman R. Pictor the Director, giving him instructions to organize the army language school.

It was organized in compliance with Gen Ovando's instructions. The Army Language School not only supervises the instruction~~s~~ of English in the Bolivian Army Schools, but also offers courses to the families, and dependents of the officers; military civilian employees; NCO's; and officers who want~~to~~ to take courses outside their regular military language training.

The languages offered at the Centro Militar de Idiomas de las Fuerzas Armadas de la Nación are:

1. English

~~Int~~ a) Beginners
b) Elementary
c) Intermediate
d) Advanced
e) Conversation
f) Course for Grammar School age children.
g) Course for High School age youngsters.

2) French

a) General Course

3) German

a) Elementary
b) Advanced, Conversation

4) Portuguese

a) Elementary
b) Advanced, Conversation

Each year an average of 120 students receive Certificate of Completion.

All the instructors are persons of good will who devote their time and energy in the teaching of languages without receiving monetary compensation for their work. This group includes Members of the U.S. ~~Mexican~~ Army Mission and wives.

In recognition of the work performed by the "Centro Militar de Idiomas de las Fuerzas Armadas de la Nación", General Jvando honored the Director Prof. Norman R. Pictor by making him an Honorary Major of the Bolivian Army.

Also, due to the results obtained by the work performed by the "Centro Militar de Idiomas de las Fuerzas Armadas de la Nación", Col. David LaFuente, Commander of the Army, has instructed the "Escuela de Comando y Estado Mayor" (Command and General Staff College), in Cochabamba, to create in the School, the Department of Languages to be under the direct supervision of the Director of the Centro Militar de Idiomas de las Fuerzas Armadas de la Nación. Also, by order of the Commander of the Army the Centro Militar de Idiomas has been incorporated to the Table of Organization of the Escuela de Aplicación de Armas (School of Applied Arms).

The "Centro Militar de Idiomas de las Fuerzas Armadas de la Nación" functions at the Escuela de Aplicación de Armas, in Cochabamba, Bolivia, and makes use of the facilities of the Language LAB belonging to the United States Army Section, ~~MEXICO~~ Military Group to Bolivia.

Including Members of the U.S. Army Mission and wives, the total number of Instructors of the Centro Militar de Idiomas de las Fuerzas Armadas de la Nación for the School Year 1,966 is 18.