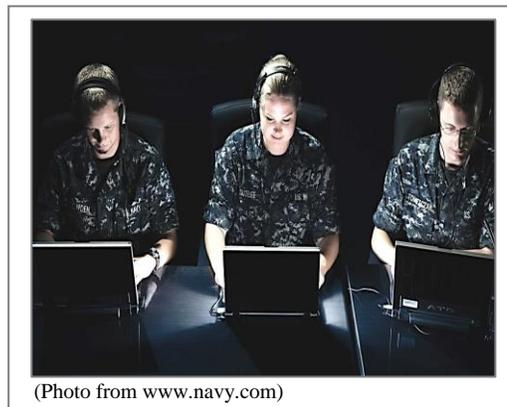


CRYPTOLOGIC TECHNICIAN (INTERPRETIVE) (CTI)



To All Prospective Cryptologic Technician Interpretive Personnel:

Have you ever wanted to learn a foreign language or about a foreign culture? Have you ever wondered what it would be like to learn a foreign language to very high or near-native proficiency, then use that ability for something more than leisure travel abroad, enjoying a foreign film, or impressing a business client in their native language? Do you desire to challenge yourself academically, beyond the level required to succeed in high school and/or college? If you answered yes to any of the above questions, and possess qualifying scores on both the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery and the Defense Language Aptitude Battery (DLAB), the Cryptologic Technician Interpretive (CTI) rating may be for you.



(Photo from www.navy.com)

What do CTIs do?

CTIs, commonly referred to as “cryptologic language analysts”, perform the following duties:

- operate sophisticated state-of-the-art equipment, which include computer terminals and associated peripherals in the communications signals environment;
- work with classified material translating, interpreting, and transcribing foreign language communications data;
- analyze and report highly technical information of strategic and tactical importance for use by fleet commanders and national intelligence agencies, impacting the fleet and national security of the United States;



(Photo by Patrick Bray, DLIFLC Public Affairs)

The CTI “A” school is at the Defense Language Institute (DLI) Foreign Language Center in Monterey, California. DLI is where Navy students, along with service members from the Air Force, Army, and Marines, are taught by native speaking instructors. Due to the intensive academic demands of the language school, students are expected to manage their time and workload in order to complete assigned homework assignments, while fulfilling their military duties. Developing effective study habits and implementing them early in the course are essential components of successfully completing any foreign language course at DLI.

After graduating from “A” school, CTIs report for technical training at a Center of Excellence for their respective language groups in Georgia, Hawaii, Maryland, or Texas. They are then assigned to a unit at those locations to begin their initial tour.

CTIs normally work in clean, comfortable office-type or small technical laboratory-type environments while on shore duty. Although CTIs are not permanently assigned to afloat units, they often serve in direct support roles on a variety of air, surface, and subsurface platforms, as well as Navy Special Operations.

What impact will you have as a CTI?

There are many misperceptions regarding technological advances in computer-based foreign language translation, also known as machine translation. The main misperception is that human interpreters are redundant at best, (or worse, obsolete). In fact, the opposite is true. The need for humans with proficiency in foreign language has never been greater. The irony is that the same increase in technology that made lower-level machine translations possible in the first place has exponentially increased the amount of materials requiring translation. When it comes to making tactical decisions such as whether or not to engage an adversary, launching a weapon, or repositioning task force elements, our military commanders realize that there is no substitute for a human being with the requisite training and language proficiency required in order to best influence those critical life or death decisions.

Am I qualified?

The languages taught at “A” school are Arabic, Chinese Mandarin, Korean, Hebrew, Persian Farsi, Russian, and Spanish. A DLAB test must be taken at MEPS or the nearest available test center, and a minimum score of 110 is required. Language assignment is based on school quotas and requirements. The languages are broken down into different categories (see chart), depending on the level of difficulty for an English speaker.

Category	Language	Length of Course
I	Spanish	9 months
III	Persian Farsi, Russian, Hebrew	12 months
IV	Arabic, Chinese Mandarin, Korean	18 months

Among the most important qualifications for CTI are exceptional moral character, ability to learn foreign languages, above-average writing and speaking skills, a good memory, intellectual curiosity, resourcefulness, and the ability to keep accurate records. Interest in technology and willingness to acquire computerized information processing skills are also helpful. Applicants, including all immediate family members, must be U.S. citizens and meet eligibility requirements for continuous access to Sensitive Compartmented Information. Eligibility for a Top-Secret clearance is determined by the results of a Single Scope Background Investigation followed by a reinvestigation every five years. Normal hearing is required.

Are there any benefits related with success at the “A” school?

Yes. Students will be automatically advanced to E-4 upon successful completion of “A” school as part of the Advanced Technical Field Program and will receive a Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus for maintaining proficiency levels. Sailors can be awarded upwards of \$1,000 per month, depending on their level of proficiency and number of foreign languages they are proficient in.

Top performing students have an opportunity to study abroad for several weeks during the course, where they will learn the target language and be fully immersed in the culture. Students will also earn both lower level and upper division college credits, which are recognized by the American Council on Education. All students, regardless of previous education level, are encouraged to apply for the DLI Associate of Arts Degree in their target language.