

DTRA Fact Sheet for Prospective Russian Interpreters



The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) Headquarters is located at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. DTRA has more than 100 active duty enlisted military Russian interpreters from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force, who provide critical support as consecutive interpreters for arms control missions. DTRA is the nation's primary implementer of Arms Control treaties. At DTRA we conduct the official U.S. Government inspections of foreign facilities and units that are subject to arms control treaties and agreements; coordinate and escort foreign inspectors to U.S. facilities and units; plan and prepare for future treaties and agreements; and accomplish other missions in the arena of international security cooperation requiring our unique skills. The DTRA interpreters also regularly attend language training classes both in the U.S. and in countries of the former Soviet Union. Additionally, once assigned to DTRA, interpreters may have the opportunity to augment DTRA's staff at U.S. embassies in countries such as Bucharest (Romania), Astana (Kazakhstan), and other locations.

The Hiring Process:

DTRA selects active-duty Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines in any specialty who can speak, read, and write in Russian language. The minimum rank requirement is E-5 and above, however, we will consider an E-4, on a case-by-case basis. To initiate the recruiting process, the candidate must meet the minimum requirement of three years' time in service, and two years of time on station. To qualify for an assignment to the DTRA Interpreter Program, the recruiters will conduct a personal interview/language assessment with each candidate, both in English and in Russian. The interviews/language assessment will last approximately 60-90 minutes and can be conducted in person or over the phone. The DTRA interpreter recruiters will then evaluate the candidate's eligibility to proceed through the screening process, based on the results of the interview/language assessment. Upon favorable review of all qualifying documentation, DTRA will request for the branch of Service release the candidate to the DTRA Interpreter Program and place the successful candidate on assignment to the DTRA Interpreting Course at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California.

The DTRA Course at the Defense Language Institute:

DTRA conducts three, 47-week (1 year total) courses each year at the Defense Language Institute (DLI). The DTRA Course starts in February, June, and October of each year. Courses begin with a 15-week grammar refresher block. Throughout the entirety of the course, students will focus on speaking and basic consecutive interpreting, with an increasing emphasis on interpreting as the course progresses. Students will plan, organize, and execute various interpreting exercises in the Monterey Bay area, to practice the interpreting techniques learned in the classroom, in real life scenarios as a practical examination of interpreting skills. While these practical exercises are structured to be difficult, but not impossible, they are designed to prepare the student for what he/she could face as an Arms Control Interpreter. Another practical speaking tool that is used in the program is the "round table." Each student will be responsible for picking a debate topic, and after preparation, his/her class will debate the selected topic for several hours. Instructors will be on hand to facilitate the discussion, evaluate the students, and assist if the conversation stalls. The courses and activities while at DLI support our primary focus of speaking in both Russian and English.

Upon completion of the DTRA Course, the graduate will be assigned to either Fort Belvoir, VA; Kaiserslautern, Germany; or Travis AFB, CA. At DTRA, we will make every effort to assign an individual to their preferred location, however, final assignment location is primarily based on the needs of DTRA.

For an overview of the On-Site Inspection and Building Capacity directorate mission, please see the official DTRA website at: [On-Site Inspection and Building Capacity \(dtra.mil\)](http://dtra.mil)

DTRA Linguist Recruiters can be reached at (571) 616-5549 / (571) 616-6449
dtra.belvoir.ob.list.linguist-recruiting@mail.mil

To ensure proper routing and a timely response, e-mail is the preferred method of contact.