

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

APPENDIX II

United States Air Force Audio Comprehension Course (Chinese Mandarin), Basic.

Duration: Thirty-two (32) weeks (30 weeks' instruction, 2 weeks' vacation)

I. OBJECTIVES

- A. The basic objective of this course is the aural comprehension of the Mandarin dialect. The most frequent structural features of the language are taught together with a vocabulary of approximately 4000 items of which well over 1000 constitute the specialized military terminology normally associated with air-military procedures. Students are taught to distinguish and comprehend two or more conversations conducted simultaneously in Chinese Mandarin and to distinguish and comprehend Chinese Mandarin when simultaneously mixed with conversations in other languages or dialects. In addition, other common Chinese dialects are covered in "exposure" situations, and students are trained to understand Chinese in situations simulating field conditions.
- B. Although spoken Chinese Mandarin is not the main emphasis of instruction, students are taught to converse to some degree of fluency within the scope of the vocabulary introduced. Throughout the course, classroom contact hours with native instructors emphasize the exclusion of the English language in class, and students are encouraged (particularly during the last eight weeks of the course) to prepare short speeches for presentation to the entire class. In general, however, conversational Chinese is utilized in the course basically for the reinforcement of aural comprehension.
- C. All students are introduced to the Chinese system of character writing and taught to read and write 300 basic characters. An incentive program is conducted in which highly motivated students may progress beyond this point on an elective basis and, in so doing, acquire additional college credits (some of the latter learn in excess of 1500 characters.)
- D. The fundamentals of simplified characters are also taught, and the student is familiarized with the usage of the Chinese-English dictionary.

E. The Yale romanization system is emphasized during the first 24 weeks of the course. Thereafter, the Wade-Giles system is introduced and used exclusively throughout the remainder of the course. Finally, the student is familiarized with the conversion of both the Yale and the Wade-Giles systems of romanization into the Pinyin (New Latin) form of romanization.

F. The ability to take dictation in Wade-Giles romanization is emphasized continually until the required speed in transcribing is attained.

G. The main emphasis of the course is placed upon the student's ability to attain maximum speed and accuracy in writing English "hand-gists" of Chinese material given at high speed, under any and all conditions.

II. PROFICIENCY LEVELS

A student successfully completing the USAF ACC course designed to meet the above objectives will attain the following proficiency levels:

General Language Ability

A-2

S-2

R-1 (300 characters)

W-1 (300 characters)

Specialized Vocabulary Language Ability

C-4

S-2

R-4 (Phonetic script)

W-4 (Phonetic script)

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A. Duration:

The course is scheduled for thirty-two (32) weeks and is divided into three semesters, each of which corresponds to the language texts covered during the specified period. Classes are scheduled for six hours a day, five days per week, with an approximate total of 900 class hours. Students get a two-week vacation mid-way through the course.

