

Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Detention and Removal Operations Spanish Language Training Program

Newly appointed DRO Law Enforcement Officers who are required to attend the Basic Immigration Law Enforcement Training Program will also attend a five-week Spanish Language Training Program, unless otherwise exempted.

The Spanish Language Training Program incorporates the most effective instructional strategies to reinforce four skills:

- Listening;
- Speaking;
- Reading; and
- Writing.

Emphasis is placed on speaking and listening; the two skills most needed by DRO Law Enforcement Officers. The training environment is highly interactive and students will be given many opportunities to apply and reinforce what they are learning throughout the course. Please consider the following suggestions in preparation for Spanish language training:

- Review English grammar;
- Listening to Spanish language television and radio; and
- Purchase commercially available Spanish language training materials such as CDs and DVDs

If you speak Spanish, you will be given an opportunity to take a Spanish language proficiency test. You are strongly encouraged to take the proficiency test. The Spanish Language Training Program will be waived for those applicants who score a Speaking 2+ (Limited Working Proficiency, Plus) on the Interagency Language Roundtable proficiency scale. A detailed description of this skill level is found below. It can also be viewed at <http://www.govtilr.org/ILRscale2.htm>. If you take and fail the proficiency test, you will be required to complete the entire Spanish Language Training Program.

Speaking 2+ (Limited Working Proficiency, Plus)

This skill level is described as being able to satisfy most work requirements with language usage that is often, but not always, acceptable and effective. The individual shows considerable ability to communicate effectively on topics relating to particular interests and special fields of competence. Often shows a high degree of fluency and ease of speech, yet when under tension or pressure, the ability to use the language effectively may deteriorate. Comprehension of normal native speech is typically nearly complete. The individual may miss cultural and local references and may require a

native speaker to adjust to his/her limitations in some ways. Native speakers often perceive the individual's speech to contain awkward or inaccurate phrasing of ideas, mistaken time, space and person references, or to be in some way inappropriate, if not strictly incorrect.

Examples: Typically the individual can participate in most social, formal, and informal interactions, but limitations either in range of contexts, types of tasks or level of accuracy hinder effectiveness. The individual may be ill at ease with the use of the language either in social interaction or in speaking at length in professional contexts. He/she is generally strong in either structural precision or vocabulary, but not in both. Weakness or unevenness in one of the foregoing, or in pronunciation, occasionally results in miscommunication. Normally controls, but cannot always easily produce general vocabulary. Discourse is often incohesive.