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Translations in the Netherlands

While stationed in the Netherlands, you will encounter situations where you need to understand official documents, read local correspondence, or communicate with non-English speakers. This handout outlines the translation and interpretation resources available to you, with a special focus on the services provided by Military OneSource.

Your First Stop: Military OneSource (Free & Unofficial Translations)

For many everyday needs, **Military OneSource** offers robust, free translation and interpretation services to active-duty service members and their families. This is the ideal resource for unofficial translation needs.

1. Document Translation

Military OneSource provides free, confidential translation of common documents to help you navigate daily life.

- **What's Covered:** Leases, personal letters, school records, rental agreements, car insurance policies, menus, and other non-governmental documents.
- **How It Works:** You can upload a document directly on the Military OneSource website. A professional translator will translate the document and return it to you, typically within a few business days.
- **Key Limitation:** This service is for **unofficial use only**. The translations are not certified and will **not** be accepted for official purposes by Dutch or U.S. government agencies (e.g., for residency permits, driver's licenses, or court proceedings).
- **How to Access:**
 1. Visit www.militaryonesource.mil
 2. Search for "Document Translation".
 3. Follow the links to submit your document.

2. Telephone Interpretation (Real-Time Translation)

If you need immediate help communicating over the phone, Military OneSource offers 24/7 real-time interpretation services in more than 150 languages.

- **When to Use It:**
 - Making appointments with a doctor or veterinarian.
 - Speaking with a Dutch landlord or utility company.
 - Clarifying information with a local business.
- **How It Works:** You call Military OneSource, and a consultant will connect a professional translator onto the line with you to conduct a three-way call.
- **How to Access:**
 - Call Military OneSource directly at **800-342-9647** (from the U.S.) or find the international dialing number on their website.
 - Tell the consultant you need a language interpreter.

When You Need an "Official" Translation: Sworn Translators

For official legal and governmental purposes in the Netherlands, you must use a **sworn translator** (*beëdigd vertaler*). These are professionals who are certified and registered with a Dutch court. Their translations are legally valid and are required by most official bodies.

1. When is a Sworn Translator Required?

- **Immigration/Residency:** Submitting documents like birth certificates, marriage certificates, or divorce decrees to the Dutch Immigration and Naturalization Service (IND) or your local city hall (*Gemeente*).
- **Driver's License:** Converting your U.S. driver's license, if applicable.
- **Legal Proceedings:** Any document intended for use in a Dutch court.
- **Official Contracts:** Certain legal or real estate contracts may require a sworn translation.

2. How to Find a Sworn Translator in the Netherlands: <https://ngtv.nl/en/search-for-a-translator/>

Request an appointment with our office at the below QR:

