

## National Report – Hungary

### Language training

The Hungarian Defence Forces has one basic integrated language teaching institution, which belongs to the Miklós Zrínyi National Defence University, its new name is,

The Institute for Foreign Languages Studies,

On January 1<sup>st</sup> 2004, the Institute of Foreign Language and the PfP Military Language Training Centre merged and an integrated language institute was established. Now the Institute for Foreign Language Studies comprises two centres: PfP Military Language Training Centre (MLTC) and Centre for Training General and Special Military Language (CTGSML). The two language training centres have a staff of 62 with 55 permanent teachers and 5-30 part-time teachers. Approximately 1500 students are provided with language training every year. This year we have 11 groups for intensive language studies, 40 STANAG courses at level 2 and 3, and 8 non-intensive courses in 6 different foreign languages.

The primary mission of the two centres is to ensure the language training of both commissioned, and non-commissioned officers, civil servants, and public administrators of the Hungarian Defence Forces in commonly taught European languages.

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## Centre for Training General and Special Military Language

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There are various forms of training at the Centre for Training General and Special Military Language. Full-time students learn foreign languages in a way similar to other institutes of higher education.

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In addition to this there are ten-month-long intensive courses, 300-class courses preparing for NATO STANAG 6001 language examinations at STANAG levels 2222 and 3333, and eight-class per week – basic, intermediate and advanced level – in-service courses where English, French, German, Russian, Italian, as well as some of the languages of the neighbouring countries such as Croatian and Ukrainian can be learned. Hungarian as a second language is taught to foreign officers and cadets.

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Both centres have a very close co-operation with the Testing Centre of the Zrínyi Miklos National Defence University and prepares students for the ARMA military language examinations in English, German, French, Russian and Italian and STANAG 6001 exams.

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## **The present situation**

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The importance of language skills is gaining wide spread recognition both in the military and in the public sector in general. NATO-compatible military English instruction is top priority as the Hungarian Defence Forces has announced it. The field of language training co-operation with foreign and domestic partners has always been regarded important, therefore native speakers and advisors from the UK, USA as well as from Germany and France provide assistance to our staff and students to achieve good results in language training.

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The Future¶  
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The growing participation of Hungary in different UN and NATO-led missions, Peace Support, Humanitarian, and Search and Rescue Operations increases the language requirements in teaching and quality control of NATO compatible military language.

Due to the downsizing of the Hungarian Defence Forces and the increasing involvement of the HDF in international missions, students find it increasingly difficult to get away from their regular assignments in order to spend time on language training.

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Therefore English courses should be adapted to the needs of students by intensifying classroom training with the aid of enhanced technological standards and focusing on self-study phases during and after courses.

In the field of teaching material development, projects ought to be designed to provide general and mainly military language self-study materials. Distance language learning should be encouraged as well.

## The Partnership for Peace Military Language Training Center

At the MLTC intermediate or higher level students are taught in only three languages: the two official languages of NATO, (English and French) and German.

Students who study with us fall into three main categories:

1. The majority of the Hungarian students come from Regional Military Language Centres. In the Regional Military Language Centres, the students study general English for 26 hours per week in small groups of 7-12 students with a standard course length of ten months during which the students have approximately one thousand contact hours a year. After a year of language studies they take a state exam at STANAG 2222 level. In case of a successful language examination, these students are allowed to continue their language studies at the MLTC for additional three months. The MLTC also introduces them to the most basic military language material.
2. The MLTC also receives students from the Zrínyi Miklós National Defense University (ZMNDU) Centre for Training General and Special Military Language. These students have studied general and military English either in an intensive course for a year or in a non-intensive language course for two-years. They have passed a specialised military state exam and possess basic military English language so the MLTC can teach them advanced military language skills.
3. The third group of students comes from NATO and PfP countries. The number of international students is constantly growing and now half of our three hundred students arrive from PfP countries.

Certain courses are tailored to the specific needs of the students. We offer students NATO-oriented military English in the following fields:

### NATO STUDIES

- Origins and history
- Command, organisation and structure
- Strategic concept
- Infrastructure, administration and financial control
- Communication and information systems
- Tasks of Alliance-availability and readiness of forces
- Support services and preparedness
- Scientific and environmental factors
- National defense policy, planning and management
- Indigenous factors applicable to the host country

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## OTHER MILITARY STUDIES

- General information on land or air forces
- Command, organisation and structure of each of the above forces
- Administration, support services and logistics of each of the above
- Courses focusing on any speciality to be designed as needed

The classes are based on the use of authentic materials dealing with NATO related subjects. Students concentrate on developing the interactive communication skills required by their future assignments.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: Students must have a high school diploma from a school in their own country and an intermediate or higher level of proficiency in the language to be studied.

At the end of the course both our Hungarian and international students are provided with the opportunity of taking a STANAG 6001 language examination. The usual STANAG level is 2222 but a number of our students reach STANAG level 3333 and pass their language examinations at this level.

THE FUTURE: The MLTC is increasingly focusing on the teaching of specialised military English. This year the Centre offers the students the following courses:

- Staff Officers Military Terminology Training Course (under NATO code);
- Teacher Training Course (under NATO code);
- Advanced Teacher Training Course (under NATO code).
- Military Medical English;
- Teacher Training Seminar for the Language Trainers of Military Schools in PfP Countries;
- Air Force English for Prospective Gripen Personnel (air/ground crew) – for Hungarian military only.

As it can be seen, both the CTGSML and the MLTC do their best in order to meet the new challenges resulting from Hungary's NATO accession, focusing on the increased language teaching requirements and quality control of NATO compatible military language.

### Military teaching materials in English:

#### Tool for STANAG

Political And Military Issues STANAG 3.3.3.3.

#### Tool for STANAG (Teacher's Book)

#### Border Line

Textbook for Border-Guard Officers

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**Basic Military English**

Textbook

CD-based multimedia self-study material – STANAG level 1.1.1.1.

CD-based multimedia self-study material – STANAG level 2.2.2.2.

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NATO STUDIES¶

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Origins and history¶  
Command, organisation and structure¶  
Strategic concept¶  
Infrastructure, administration and financial control¶  
Communication and information systems¶  
Tasks of Alliance-availability and readiness of forces¶  
Support services and preparedness¶  
Scientific and environmental factors¶  
National defense policy, planning and management¶  
Indigenous factors applicable to the host country¶

OTHER MILITARY STUDIES¶

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General information on land or air forces¶  
Command, organisation and structure of each of the above forces¶  
Administration, support services and logistics of each of the above¶  
Courses focusing on any speciality to be designed as needed¶

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The classes on campus use authentic materials dealing with NATO related subjects. Students concentrate on developing the interactive communication skills that their future posts will require.¶

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ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:  
Students must have an intermediate or higher level of proficiency in the language to be studied.¶

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At the end of the course we offer a STANAG level 2222 or a STANAG level 3333 exam.¶

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THE FUTURE: The MLTC is focusing more and more on the teaching of specialised military English. This year we are offering our students the following courses:¶

¶  
Air Operational English (Under NATO code)¶  
Peace support Operations ¶  
Military Medical English¶

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As can be seen both the Language Institute and MLTC try to meet the new challenges resulting from Hungary's admission to NATO. ... [12]

## Language Testing Centre

The Testing Centre was established in 2001. It operates within the framework of the National Defence University.

The permanent staff of the Testing Centre consists of 8 people (a director, a deputy director, 3 section leaders who work for the Centre on a permanent basis, 3 administrators, and in addition 54 accredited testers who work for the Testing Centre on a contractual basis).

The Testing Centre operates 3 different types of language examination systems:

We conduct:

- general language examination in 5 languages (English, French, German, Italian, Russian).
- ARMA bilingual military language examination in 9 languages (English, French, German, Italian, Russian, Croatian, Serbian, Slovak, Ukrainian).
- NATO STANAG 6001 language examination in English.

In case of a successful language examination the Testing Centre has the right to issue state language examination certificates, which are recognized everywhere in Hungary, outside the military, too.

We obtained the right to conduct ARMA bilingual military language examinations and issue state language certificates in October 2001. We got accreditation of STANAG exams in January 2005.

To meet graduation requirements, the Hungarian university system stipulates that students must sit and pass a language exam at the intermediate level. The same holds true for students at the National Defence University. They have to pass ARMA intermediate level or STANAG 2222. One exception is that students of Security and Defence Policy Department are required to pass an advanced language exam in English or French or STANAG 3333 in English and an intermediate exam in any other languages.

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We organise three types of examinations: ¶  
<#>STANAG 6001, ¶  
<#>General language exams (English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Hungarian as a foreign language), ¶  
<#>Military language exams (which we call ARMA) in English, French, German, Italian, Russian, Croatian, Serbian, Slovakian and Ukrainian. ¶  
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Since January 2002, 4393 candidates have taken STANAG exams and more than 700 candidates applied for the STANAG exam in June, 6319 candidates have taken the ARMA military examinations and 377 candidates applied for the ARMA exam in June, and 4200 candidates have taken the general language exams and 107 candidates applied for the general language exam in June. The number of candidates for STANAG exams has been remarkably increasing since January 2005, the accreditation of the exam.

Last November every testing centre was assigned a new task by the Hungarian Accreditation Board. We have to relate our examination systems to the Common European Framework. The goal is to achieve mutual recognition of different examinations in European countries. Recently we have been working on it.

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In January 2005 the STANAG 6001 exam was accredited by the National Accreditation Board and was recognized by the Ministry of Education. The STANAG 6001 exam became a state exam. Besides ARMA exams students can take STANAG 2222 to meet graduation requirements. STANAG exam is compulsory for the military students.¶
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which proved to be successful.

Now special attention is paid to specific professional and especially linguistic skills. Due to the growing involvement of the Hungarian Defence Force in international peace support operations the need for English for Special Purposes has increased.

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Hungarian Defence Force

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The PfP Military Language Training Centre

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Hungarian Defence Force

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The Partnership for Peace Military Language Training Center (PfP/MLTC) instructs military and civilian government personnel who need to refresh or improve their skills in English, French or German.

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The MLTC is a part of the Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University (ZMNDU).

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These centres are part of a network, which provides a convenient location for Hungarian military personnel to learn English in different areas of our country. The regional centres are organised where we have both military units and language teaching facilities.

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In 2006 further special courses are to be launched. These are as follow:

Staff Officers Military Terminology Training Course (under NATO code);  
Teacher Training Course (under NATO code);  
Advanced Teacher Training Course (under NATO code).

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Membership in the Alliance further

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## NATO STUDIES

Origins and history  
Command, organisation and structure  
Strategic concept

Infrastructure, administration and financial control  
Communication and information systems  
Tasks of Alliance-availability and readiness of forces  
Support services and preparedness  
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## OTHER MILITARY STUDIES

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Military Medical English

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General language exams (English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Hungarian as a foreign language),

Military language exams which we call ARMA exams in English, French, German, Italian, Russian, Croatian, Serbian, Slovakian and Ukrainian.

To meet graduation requirements, the Hungarian university system stipulates that students must sit and pass a language exam at the intermediate level. The same holds true for students at the National Defence University. One exception is that students of Security and Defence Policy require to pass an advanced language exam in English or French and an intermediate exam in any other languages.

Since October 2001, we have tested some 1800 candidates using the ARMA military examinations, approximately 1300 candidates took STANAG exams, and about 1000 candidates sit for the general language exams.

Number of permanent staff of the Language Testing Centre is 7 people including administrative personnel. Teachers both from the Language Institute and MLTC take part in the examination process.