



DEFENCE STAFF

## **BILC CONFERENCE 2006 BUDAPEST**

### **NATIONAL REPORT FINNISH DEFENCE FORCES**

**Risto Kuokkanen**  
**Chief of Language and Translation Branch**  
**Defence Staff**  
**Finland**

#### **1. Languages taught**

The Defence Forces offer regular language programmes in **English, French, German and Russian**. A compulsory course in **Swedish**, the second official language of the country, is also organized. In addition, short-term and ad hoc task-based language training is organized or outsourced. Staffs, staff divisions and units organize and support individual language training for their personnel.

#### **2. Language programmes during the academic year 2005 - 2006**

Regular language programmes are run in three military schools according to the training level: the Army Academy, the Air Force Academy and the National Defence College. The Navy cadets receive their language training mainly at the National Defence College.

The language training is based on extensive general language studies in the comprehensive schools. The Defence Forces language programmes concentrate for the most part on **military/operational language**.

**1 credit = 20 class hours + 20 hours of self-study**

##### **Reserve Officer Course**

- NDC: English 35 students/0,5 cr./STANAG level 2

## **2<sup>nd</sup> year Cadet course**

Army Academy: English 121 students/ 1 cr./STANAG level 2-3

## **3<sup>rd</sup> year Cadet Course**

- Army Academy: English 161 students/ 1 credit
- NDC: English 140 students/2 credits  
German 25, French 4, Russian 2/ 2 credits/STANAG level 2-3

## **4<sup>th</sup> year Cadet Course**

- NDC: English 102 students/2 credits  
German 12, French 2, Russian 4/2 credits/STANAG level 3-4

## **Air Force**

### **Total class hours for the 4-year officer training:**

#### English

- Pilot Programme 17 students/130 hrs/STANAG level 3-4
- C4IS Programme, signals 6 students/30 hrs/ STANAG level 3-4
- Basic Course for Pilots: 38 students/20hrs

#### Russian

- 5 students/220 hrs/STANAG level 1-2

#### Swedish

- 8 students/12 hrs/STANAG level 2-3

International co-operation training has been given and International Staff exercises of various lengths have been carried out at home and abroad entirely in English.

## **Staff Officer Course**

- NDC: English 48 students, German 4, French 1, Russian 2/1 credit/STANAG level 3
- NDC: Post graduate course English 13 students/2 credits/STANAG level 3

## **General Staff Officer Course**

- National Defence College: International co-operation training has been given and International Staff Exercises of various lengths have been

carried out at home and abroad entirely in English during the General Staff Officer Course.

### **Warrant officer language training**

- Army School: Warrant officer continuing course - English 107 students /0,5 credits/STANAG level 2-3

## **3. Language Testing**

The 6-level National Language Proficiency Test organised by the National Board of Education is used by the Defence Forces for all other languages except Russian.

The Defence Forces have their own Russian military language test in three levels covering the STANAG 6001 levels 1, 2 and 3-4.

An Operational English Language Test is organized by the Defence Staff for officers to be posted in international staffs/HQs and multinational operations

## **4. Continuing and Special Training**

As previously in various forms, continuing and special language training has been outsourced by units, schools and branches at home and abroad for a large amount of personnel and specialists at STANAG levels 2 – 4.

A Military Russian Special Language Course for officers has been organized (23 credits, 9 officers, STANAG level 3-4) by the Defence Staff International Division.

## **5. Organizational development**

The Defence Forces Advisory Board for Language Training during its second year of operation has continued its work under the Chief of the Defence Staff. All structures and bodies within the Defence Forces that may have interests and needs in language training are represented in this Advisory Board chaired by the Chief of the Language and Translation Branch.

