

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

**NATIONAL REPORT ON LANGUAGE TRAINING 2005**

**Language Courses**

In the Defence system of Latvia mainly 3 foreign languages are taught for the Military personnel and civil servants. Other languages (Arabic, Swedish, Polish and Norwegian) have been taught on irregular bases in accordance with the necessity.

Mainly intensive ELT courses are conducted in the National Armed Forces (NAF) Language School's Training Sections. Courses are divided into:

- LEVEL 1 Course- 4 months (beginners up to SLP 1-1-1-1);
- LEVEL 2 Course- 5 months (SLP 1-1-1-1 up to SLP 2-2-2-2);
- LEVEL 3 Course- 6 months (SLP 2-2-2-2 up to SLP 3-3-3-3).

Every year there is 1-2 groups of intensive German Language Training (40 hours per week; 10 months) and usually 4-6 groups of non-intensive French Language Training (4 hours per week; 7-8 months) classes (including MoD groups).

Non-intensive ELT courses take place in NAF LS Ādaži TS (Specialized Military English-Mission-oriented language) and NAF LS Lielvārde TS. At the MoD there are groups of civil servants completed for non-intensive ELT and FLT every year.

**Number of Graduates**

In general, each year there are approximately:

- 450-500 (intensive courses) and 100-150 (non-intensive) graduates in ELT;
- 10-20 graduates in German Language Training (intensive courses);
- 20 graduates in French Language Training (non-intensive courses).

**New Material Development**

Starting from July, 2004 there are two positions introduced at NAF LS, specially for materials development. The task of the two employees is to develop new language training materials pursuant to common curricula. Special emphasis is put on movies and specialized military themes.

**Special Projects- US**

All LS Training Sections have 10 to 15 position US language laboratory systems with video capability. There is one 12 position and one 10 position CD-ROM software established in Riga Training Section. It is planned that 3 more CD-ROM laboratories will be purchased in the near future and established in 3 different Training Section of the Language School.

**Special Projects- UK**

There are 5 Resource Centers established in different Training Sections of the Language School with the necessary equipment (1 PC, 1 printer, 1 photo copier) and materials (books, audio and video tapes). There is a Self-Access Center consisting of 6 separate computers in NAF LS Rīga Training Section. All the projects are supported by the Peace-keeping English Project, British Council Latvia.

### **Other Special Projects**

Latvian foreign language programs have been also supported by the governments of the Canada (Military Training Assistance Program- MTAP) and Germany and their representatives in Latvia. Several English, French and Teacher Training courses abroad were funded for the Latvian military and civil servants.

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Sincerely yours,

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