

**NATIONAL DEFENCE ACADEMY VIENNA
AUSTRIAN ARMED FORCES LANGUAGE INSTITUTE
AG Stiftgasse, A-1070 WIEN, AUSTRIA**

Tel.: +43 (01) 5200-40502, Fax: +43 (01) 5200-17104.

E-mail: sib.lvak.2@bmlv.gv.at

VIENNA, 10 May 2007

**BILC Conference 2007
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, USA**

NATIONAL REPORT

In 2006 there were no substantial changes regarding the basic concept of language training and the organization of the Austrian Armed Forces Language Institute.

For some years now, mandatory English language training to STANAG 6001 level 2 has been an integrated part of the NCO Academy's curriculum for Staff NCO training. For higher postings a Senior Staff NCO course is being developed with the aim of reaching English language skills at level 2+/2+/2+/2+ (STANAG 6001).

At the Theresian Military Academy the cadets receive their language training within the four-year Master studies with the goal to reach level 2+ in English according to STANAG 6001. Those who have language skills at this level already at the beginning have to choose another language, in which they have experience already (if not French is obligatory).

In 2006 not only workplace and mission oriented English language training was intensified but also the program of seldom taught languages and languages of the neighbourhood (Hungarian, Czech, Slovenian and Italian – training in Slovak also started in 2006) were expanded and the terminology work on East-Central and South-European languages was broadened and deepened.

The Tactical English Courses (TEC), one of which was conducted with a both national and international audience, were a great success as they were tailored to the specific needs of the respective units.

1,984 students received language training in centralized and decentralized courses and seminars. If we also include the students at the NCO Academy, the Theresian Military

Academy, and the National Defense Academy, as many as **3,300** students underwent some kind of language training.

Autodidactic English language training for beginners was introduced in 2001. About 30 percent of the beginners finished the program with positive results.

The German language courses for members of foreign armed forces were implemented for STANAG levels 2 and 3. The former preparatory course for international students at the National Defense Academy was integrated into the German language courses as a task specific element. In addition to these two courses, a Tactical German Course, which lasts four weeks, was developed. Training in other languages was mainly tailored to individual needs (e.g. those of defense attachés).

In 2006 more than **190** courses and seminars comprising a total of **1,984** participants were held, which does not include language training at the NCO Academy, the Theresian Military Academy and the other Institutes of the National Defense Academy. The languages taught were English, French, Russian, Italian, Ukrainian, Slovak, Czech, Slovenian, Hungarian, Romanian, Farsi, Mandarin, Spanish, Arabic, Croatian, Serbian, Bosnian and German as a Foreign Language.

With regard to testing, the number of examinees increased from 4,500 to 6,500 since 2000. In 2006 among the tests administered were **572** admission tests, **1,798** placement tests and **3,020** final exams (including **1,226** language proficiency level tests). Members of all service categories, including the reserve, were assessed, e.g. officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and civil servants.

Proficiency level	Officers	other ranks and civil servants
Proficiency level 0	19	39
Proficiency level 1	36	416
Proficiency level 2	134	347
Proficiency level 3	150	74
Proficiency level 4	8	3

Publications currently being worked on include military dictionaries for Slovak, Slovenian, Italian, French, Croatian, Romanian, Ukrainian, Finnish, Estonian and English. A second edition of the Hungarian Military Dictionary, a German-Croatian Grammar Book and a

German-English-French Glossary with counterterrorism terminology were published in the year 2006.

As far as terminology work is concerned, the "MILLEX" project of the Ministry of Defense is still supported, and the implementation of the second generation of the TRADOS program for PC-assisted translations and the establishment of a terminology database have been finished.

A new publication project was introduced in the year 2006: "SIB-TERM", a brochure dealing with military terminology, intercultural communication and military language training.

The innovations in 2006 we introduced:

- the establishment of a Tactical English Training Section
- the introduction of Intensive Seminars in languages other than English and French,
- the establishing of Technical Logistic English (TLE) Courses and workshops for airforce maintenance personnel

These are our plans for 2006/2007:

- two Technical Logistic Courses and six workshops
- more Military English Seminars for English teachers in the Austrian Armed Forces (permanent and contractual staff)
- intensified "military language training" at all levels
- German language training for non-native speakers of German
- forcing French as a third language for officers' language training
- forcing training in the languages of the neighbouring countries