



BILC NATIONAL REPORT 2012

<b>COUNTRY:</b> FINLAND
<b>INSTITUTION(S):</b> THE DEFENCE LANGUAGE CENTRE / THE NATIONAL DEFENCE UNIVERSITY / THE FINNISH DEFENCE FORCES
<b>1. TRAINING MANDATE:</b> <p>The Finnish Defence Forces offer professional refresher language training organized by the Defence Language Centre in English, French, Swedish, Russian, and German. In addition, beginners' courses are given in French, Russian, and German. Furthermore, short-term and ad hoc task-based language training in, for example, Arabic is organized by means of outsourcing. Apart from the listed language training options available, commands, staffs, and units organize and support outsourced language training for their personnel.</p> <p>Regular language programmes are run in four military schools: the National Defence University, the Army Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Naval Academy.</p> <p>The language training draws from the extensive overall foreign language studies available in Finnish comprehensive schools. Thus the Defence Forces language programmes concentrate for the most part on facilitating language skills development in military/operational language in particular.</p> <p>European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) units are used to describe student achievement / workload: a credit equals 26 hours of student work. The proficiency levels listed follow the STANAG 6001 -scale.</p> <p><b>NATIONAL DEFENCE UNIVERSITY</b></p> <p><b>English</b></p> <p>Cadet Course 98 (1<sup>st</sup> year), Military English: 157 students / 2 credits / level 1-3 Cadet Course 97 (2<sup>nd</sup> year), Military English continued: 155 students / 2 credits / level 1-3 Master of Military Sciences Program (1<sup>st</sup> year): 117 students / 3 credits / level 1-3 Senior Staff Officer Course, Professional English: 105 students / 1 credit / level 1-4</p> <p><b>French</b></p> <p>Cadet Course 98, Military French: 3 credits / level 1-3 Cadet Course 98 &amp; 97, Voluntary French: 3 credits / level 0-2 Senior Staff Officer Course, Professional French: 1 credit / level 1-3</p> <p><b>Swedish</b></p> <p>Cadet Course 98, Professional Swedish: 157 students / 2 credits / level 1-3 Cadet Course 98, Compulsory Online Modules: 157 students / 1 credit / level 1-2 Cadet Courses 98-97, Voluntary Swedish: 2 credits / level 1-2 Every cadet must pass the State Swedish Examination. Those who fail must take a complementary course: 1 credit / level 1-2 Swedish for Salaried Personnel: 20 hrs / level 1-3</p> <p><b>Russian</b></p> <p>Cadet Courses 98-97, Voluntary Russian 1-2: 3 credits / level 0-2</p>

#### **ARMY ACADEMY**

##### **English**

Cadet Course 98, Army Line: 2 credits / level 1-3  
Continuous Education Course for Warrant Officers 8: 1 credit / level 1-2  
Continuous Education Course for Warrant Officers, Voluntary Online Modules: 0,75 credits / level 1-2  
Presentation Skills: 0.5 credits / level 1-2

#### **NAVAL ACADEMY**

##### **English**

Naval Cadet Course 81: 2 credits ESP (Navigational English) / level 1-3  
Naval Cadet Course 80: 2 credits ESP (Navigational English) / level 1-3  
Continuous Education Course for Warrant Officers 8: 10 students / 1 credit / level 1-2  
Maritime English: 12 students / 1,5 credits / level 2  
Professional English: 25 students / 1 credit / level 2

#### **AIR FORCE**

##### **English**

Cadet Course 98, Air Force Line: 2 credits / level 1-3  
Cadet Course 97, Aircraft Technical English Course: 4 credits / level 1-3  
Cadet Course 96, Helicopter Operations English Course: 2.5 credits / level 1-3  
Cadet Course 96, Radio Communications Course IFR: 1 credit / level 1-3  
Cadet Course 96, Air Tactical English Course: 5 credits / level 1-3  
Air Tactical English Course: 2.5 credits / level 2  
Radio Communications Course VFR: 1 credit / level 2  
Air Tactical English Course: 4 credits / level 2  
English Course for International Operations: 2.5 credits / level 2-3  
Aircraft Systems and Maintenance Basic English Course: 2 credits / level 1-2  
Aircraft Systems and Maintenance Advanced English Course: 5 credits / level 2  
Helicopter Technical English Course: 2.5 credits / level 2

##### **Russian**

Russian for Reserve Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer Trainees: 21 credits / level 1  
Russian for Salaried Personnel: 7 credits / level 1

#### **DEFENCE FORCES INTERNATIONAL CENTRE / DEFENCE LANGUAGE CENTRE**

Military English Courses I-IV: 2 credits / level 1-3  
Military Terminology Course: 1 credit / level 1-3

#### **DEFENCE COMMAND / DEFENCE LANGUAGE CENTRE**

Preliminary Practice for the 15<sup>th</sup> Special Course in Russian: 13 credits / level 3  
Military English Update Courses 1-2: 1 credit / level 2-3  
Military Swedish Courses 1-2: 1 credit / level 2-3  
Military French Courses 1-2: 1 credit / level 1-3  
Basics in Arabic I-II: 2,5 credits / level 0  
Intermediate Arabic: 2,5 credits / level 1-2

Continuing and special language training for a considerable number of personnel and specialists at STANAG levels 2 - 4 has been organized by the Defence Language Centre and varying units both in Finland and abroad. Partly this training has been outsourced when applicable.

#### **2. TESTING MANDATE:**

The Finnish Defence Forces have their own Russian military language test organized by the Defence



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<p>Language Centre in three levels covering the STANAG 6001 levels 1, 2 and 3-4.</p> <p>As for the testing of other foreign languages, the Finnish Defence Forces rely on the CEFR-based six-level language proficiency tests organized by the National Board of Education.</p> <p>When necessary, the Defence Language Centre tests the operational language proficiency of officers to be posted in international staffs / HQs and multinational operations.</p>
<p><b>3. STANDARDS USED (IN ADDITION TO STANAG 6001):</b> Cf. 2 above</p>
<p><b>4. COURSES OPEN TO OTHER NATIONS: DEFENCE FORCES INTERNATIONAL CENTRE / DEFENCE LANGUAGE CENTRE</b></p> <p>Military English Courses I-IV: 2 credits / level 1-3 Military Terminology Course: 1 credit / level 1-3</p>
<p><b>5. RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO REQUESTING NATIONS:</b></p> <p>In case applicable, please contact the Director of the Defence Language Centre.</p>
<p><b>6. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES:</b></p> <p>In light of the organizational changes being implemented, the Defence Language Centre continues to be responsible for the planning of defence language training policy, guidance and management of all defence language training staff and programmes as well as translations, interpreter services and language testing.</p> <p>The Defence Forces Advisory Board for Language Training also continues its work under the Chief of the Defence Command. 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 Director of the Defence Language Centre.</p>
<p><b>7. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:</b> N/A</p>
<p><b>8. CONTACTS:</b> Risto Kuokkanen Director / Defence Language Centre <a href="mailto:Risto.Kuokkanen@mil.fi">Risto.Kuokkanen@mil.fi</a></p>