SRILE PRESENTATION SUMMARY - BILC CONFERENCE

LORETO / ITALY - MAY 2022

The health crisis we have experienced has had an unprecedented impact on training and the need to adapt to a degraded context.

Training is one of the six capability pillars of the Air and Space Force. The goal is indeed to maintain a high level of expertise, while evolving in a context of restructuring and modernization and above all, operational requirements.

Major challenges then arise:

- The aviator, by definition, must be able to serve at all times and in all places,

- More than a soldier, he is a true specialist,

- The new generations of aviators have specific requirements that must be met.

Digital Learning fits naturally into the traditions of the Air and Space Force (FASF) as well as into its modernization process.

The FASF is currently working on the development of an innovative and attractive distance learning tool for younger generations: the SMARTSCHOOL project.

Integrated into the DRHAAE 4.0 project, its objective is in particular to reduce the student attrition rate per course module, but also to reduce the time spent in training for students as well as the duration of theoretical courses.

Finally, the SMARTSCHOOL project should allow more modularization of course programs.

In addition, it is part of the palliative solutions when face-to-face teaching is no longer possible. Due to its own qualities such as the maintenance of a training continuum, the individualization of the training offer, the development of creativity, innovation, and finally the optimization and simplification of the supports, it allows moreover the resilience of the training tool whatever the circumstances.

With a service portal now open only to FASF schools, it tends to eventually reach out to all airmen. The SMARTSCHOOL project is supported by the Digital Factory, an entity which is responsible in particular for the management and animation of the internal and external ecosystem, project management, educational monitoring, and communication.

The use of new technologies, such as augmented reality, digital tools, is strongly publicized within the training of flight personnel, mechanics as well as the initial training of non-commissioned officers through the SMARTSCHOOL project portal.

In addition, two other remote training and assessment tools were presented: Airlearning and PIX.

Airlearning is a training tool open to all airmen, allowing them to have access to qualifying training.

PIX, meanwhile, is a tool developed by the government to overcome, first of all, the digital divide. It allows you to test your digital skills, and to develop them in a fun way via an individualized and rewarding learning concept. Initially used for students in schools, it will also be extended to all airmen.

In the second part, the SRILE presented the training and assessment tool relating to foreign languages, on its digital component. Remote training in general English (via TELELANGUES) and English dedicated to student non-commissioned officers (service provided by the company MYCOW) are supplemented by an e-learning course in Arabic (provided by ROSETTA STONE).

The English language teaching sections (SELA) of the FASF are all equipped with the ARIAL laboratory, a tool connected to INTRADEF and allowing modern learning solutions, in particular allowing the use of digital course materials.

Finally, certain limits or areas of effort should be noted:

First of all, certain limitations are naturally induced by the use of an internal network, particularly in terms of security. Access to the internet, essential today for this kind of tool, is sometimes too restricted on the aerial rights-of-way.

Then, the SMARTSCHOOL project is still recent and in an expansion phase.

The same is true for language laboratories, which require a technicality for the creation of course materials, which is more time-consuming than the creation of simple face-to-face courses.

Finally, another important parameter to take into account is the possible reluctance of certain users, learners or teachers in the face of new technologies.