The digital poster depicts test design differences between STANAG 6001 testing and English for Specific Purposes (ESP) assessment.

STANAG 6001 general proficiency tests are designed to assess each of the four skills, listening, speaking, reading and writing, separately and results for each skill are reported in a Standardized Language Profile (SLP). The STANAG 6001 descriptors, on a 0-5 scale, are widely understood in NATO. As a general proficiency test, STANAG 6001 tests are not related to any particular course or curriculum. STANAG 6001 tests do not include discrete point test items, such as grammar or vocabulary. STANAG 6001 testing is high-stakes. Test developers should be trained by attending BILC testing seminars and workshops. Testers should be periodically normed to ensure the standardization of test results across the NATO and Partner nations,

On the other hand, English for Specific Purposes (ESP) assessment is either course or job-specific (English for Occupational Purposes.) Because ESP tests assess the achievement of the course objectives or real-world on-the-job language tasks, they have good face validity. There can a great deal of flexibility in ESP test design. For example, ESP test design may include integrated skills testing, tasked-based testing of domain-specific communication skills and testing of technical vocabulary and jargon, not possibilities in STANAG 6001 testing. ESP assessment has a wide range of scoring options such as pass/fail, scores on a numerical scale, or ratings based on a rubric. ESP assessment can be formative or summative, high stakes or low stakes. One challenge of ESP testing is to determine the proper balance between technical content and language.