

BILC CONFERENCE 2006 NATIONAL REPORT - GERMANY

A. General

Parallel to the downsizing of the civilian component of the defence establishment by a cross the board cut of 16% the requirement for language training continues to increase. This is no small challenge to our planning and co-ordination department, charged with analyzing and working out solutions for meeting the language training requirements of the Bundeswehr and the Civil Service, including the recruiting of teaching staff as well as supervising and promoting the ongoing process of Bundessprachenamt reorganization.

In addition, approximately 50,000 language tests were administered nationwide by the Department and new regulations for language examinations were developed and subsequently implemented.

B. Language Training

English Aviation Language for Naval Aircraft maintenance Personnel

Courses in aviation language for Bundeswehr naval aviation personnel are being conducted at the newly established Naval Technical School at Parow. Courses prepare personnel for carrying out maintenance on the Lockheed P3-Orion whose technical manuals are written in English by expanding and activating specialist terminology in the fields of aircraft construction, aircraft engines, electricity and electronics, general aviation and basic meteorology.

English for Explosive Ordnance Disposal Staff

A new language training capability has been established in Stetten am kalten Markt to accommodate the demand for English for explosive ordnance disposal personnel.

English for the Bundeswehr Airmobile Division

Towards the end of 2005 a two-week operations-oriented English course for members of the Airmobile Division was conducted at short notice, initially as a pilot project, with four more courses scheduled for this year.

Federal College of Public Administration (Defense Administration department)

As of October 2005, an SLP 2221 in English has become part of the mandatory course requirements for students of the Federal Defense Administration department of the Federal College of Public Administration in Mannheim, offering mandatory as well as voluntary English Language training. The first group of students recently received their certificates with more than half achieving level 3332 and higher.

Intragovernmental English and French Courses in Berlin and Bonn

With the German EU-presidency beginning in the second half of 2006, there has been an increased short-term demand for shorter intensive courses to prepare staff who would not normally be able to attend regular weekly lessons or participate in one- or two-week intensive block courses. As a result seven 3-day courses have been implemented, including one week-end course, all of which were met with great enthusiasm.

An offer by the Institut Français to support intragovernmental French courses for two years (limited to 2006 and 2007) has enabled us to offer more courses in an area where the demand has grown in recent years. Especially at the beginners' level we have been able to expand our offer. The organization of the courses remains in the hands of the Bundessprachenamt, while the Institut Français provides teachers and in some cases the facilities.

German as a Foreign Language

The Bundessprachenamt continues to support German language training at the military language institutes of 39 countries, in order to reduce training time in Germany. A recent addition has been the initiation of German Language Training in Afghanistan. The programme includes professional seminars for German teachers from these countries.

C. Projects and Materials Development

General

Members of the materials development department organized and carried out a workshop on "Computer-supported Language Exams" as part of the second Bundeswehr "Distance Training Convention", conducted in Hamburg in September 2005. The next conference will take place from September 19th to 21st in Hamburg, and BILC members are welcome to participate. Please consult www.fernausbildung.org for details. All major presentations in German will be simultaneously translated into English.

New guidelines for examinations

New examination guidelines aimed at making testing more realistic and efficient particularly in assessing candidates' oral and written skills in accordance with STANAG based evaluation criteria were promulgated in December 2005. Seminars to familiarize staff members with the new procedures were conducted at 19 Language training centers.

French

The interactive course materials for the self-study phases of our level 1 Kombi-course in French, "Kombi Campus Französisch 1," are now complete and are available on CD-ROM.

Seldom taught languages

In the seldom taught languages the following projects and learning materials were initiated, are currently being developed or have been completed:

Moroccan Arabic for Military Attachés

including audio files, have been completed and are now being used and revised in a course for attachés.

Iraqi Arabic for Military Attachés

Materials are under development.

Korean for Military Attachés

New course materials were completed in April 2005 and are currently being tested in the course which began in October 2005.

Georgian for Military Attachés and Staff personnel

The course materials for **Georgian for Military Attachés and Staff Personnel** in the Embassy in Tiflis have been completed and will be evaluated during the six-month course which is scheduled to begin in October of 2006.

Uzbek for Military Attachés and Staff Personnel

Course materials in the **Uzbek language for Military Attachés and Staff Personnel** in the Embassy in Tashkent will be completed in autumn 2006 and will be tested in the course which begins in October 2006.

The **Interactive Survival Materials for Swahili for out-of-area missions** have been completed and are now available on CD-ROM and on the LMS server of the Bundeswehr.

The master version of the **Interactive Survival Materials for Dari** will appear in a CD-ROM version in June. The PDA-Version is currently undergoing testing in Afghanistan.

The **Interactive Survival Materials for Pashto** will soon follow.

The new **Phrasebook for Uzbek** for Termez Airbase personnel was completed in April 2006.

Swahili Materials – Dialogs for Daily Life, should be completed late this summer.

Course materials for Pashto are being developed following the pattern on the basis of the Dari materials.

Materials developers are increasingly using authoring programs like "Hot Potatoes" to create needs-oriented exercise materials in the seldom taught languages.

BILC Conference 2006

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Languages taught during the reporting period:

(total student throughput of 17,350)

Afrikaans	Spanish
Albanian	Swedish
Arabic	Thai
Algerian Arabic	Turkish
Egyptian Arabic	Ukrainian
Gulf States Arabic	Urdu
Maghreb Arabic	Vietnamese
Syrian-Jordanian Arabic	
Tunisian Arabic	
Bosnian	
Bulgarian	
Chinese	
Croatian	
Czech	
Danish	
Dari	
Dutch	
English	
Farsi	
Finnish	
French	
Georgian	
German as a foreign language	
Greek	
Hungarian	
Indonesian	
Italian	
Ivrit (modern Hebrew)	
Japanese	
Kiswahili	
Korean	
Latvian	
Macedonian	
Malay	
Norwegian	
Polish	
Portuguese	
Russian	
Serbian	
Slovak	
Slovenic	