

BILC CONFERENCE 2005 NATIONAL REPORT - GERMANY

A. General

The reorganization of the Bundeswehr Language Service has been successfully implemented and has resulted in greater professional efficiency and co-operation between the 38 teaching establishments.

B. Language Training

Language Centre “West” in Münster

The long awaited renovation of student accommodation blocks in Hürth and Naumburg has led to the need to accommodate a large number of students elsewhere. Furthermore, the closure of the Bundeswehr School for Personnel Earmarked for International Assignment - including its language teaching component, in April 2004, left another gap that needed to be compensated. Altogether facilities had to be found to accommodate 195 students.

The solution was the takeover of the premises of a Bundeswehr Fachschule - school of general vocational education - in Münster, which in turn had been closed a while before. In April 2005 the school opened under its new name of “Sprachenzentrum West” - Language Centre “West”, creating eight new teaching positions to replace the positions lost after the closure of the School for Personnel Earmarked for International Assignment. The renovation measures can now be carried out without decreasing the number of student slots.

English Aviation language for Bundeswehr Naval aviation personnel

With a course in Aviation language for Bundeswehr Naval aircraft technicians a new course type was introduced to take place three times a year with a length of four weeks. Previously, this course was conducted on a commercial basis by a German airline company. The course objective is to develop English language skills in order to prepare naval aviation technical staff for training on the Lockheed P3-Orion. Course content includes the expansion and activation of specialist terminology in the fields of aircraft construction, aircraft engines, electricity and electronics, general aviation and basic meteorology. In addition there is a military component introducing course participants to the UK, US and Dutch navies.

English and French for Legal Advisors Abroad

After the successful pilot seminar course in English for Bundeswehr legal advisors, the decision has been taken to carry out two courses in English per year. In 2006 a pilot course will be conducted in French with a view to implementing one course a year in future.

These seminars focus on such topics as advising commanding officers on Rules of Engagement, and on multinational conferences and meetings either face to face or via telephone. An integral part is a visit to SHAPE where the course participants get a chance to familiarize themselves with matters arising in professional situations.

Intragovernmental English and French courses in Berlin and Bonn

With growing demand for proficiency in English and French the course program has been restructured to better suit the needs of the users. Three pilot courses will be on offer in English and French in the coming six months with two lessons twice a week. A two-week block of intensive language training precedes the course.

German as a Foreign Language:

With the addition of German as a foreign language programs in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Tajikistan and Vietnam within the past year, the Bundessprachenamt currently supports 39 countries in the instruction of German at their respective military language institutes.

Seldom taught Languages:

In 2003 we began to revise our teaching concept for Arabic languages. In the past, our students felt that the program failed to present enough of the language needed in everyday life in the countries where they were posted, since they found that almost no one actually spoke Standard Arabic.

Unlike earlier courses, which focused on modern Standard Arabic with elements of regional usage, our current courses are aimed at teaching national variants of the language. From the outset the spoken language of the respective countries receives major emphasis, using phonetic transcription throughout. (s. the modules mentioned below).

The emphasis in our current courses on Standard Arabic is placed on reading comprehension and listening comprehension of news broadcasts.

Based on the highly positive reactions from the military attachés serving in these countries, the decision to move away from Standard Arabic toward national versions of the language has proved to be very successful.

Slavic Languages

With the exception of Belorussian, the eleven most commonly taught Slavic languages are regularly taught at the Bundessprachenamt.

C. Projects and Materials Development

English:

The specialized interactive English learning materials for the Air Force "**Eurofighter**" were completed in 2004 and are now in use.

Seldom taught languages:

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

Tunisian Arabic for Military Attachés

Course materials for the spoken Tunisian language consisting of eight modules and including audio CDs were completed in December 2004 at the conclusion of a very successful 12-

month pilot course.

Moroccan Arabic for Military Attachés

developed in 2004 analogous to the Tunisian course materials, is currently being tested in a pilot course. Probable completion date for these course materials will be in winter 2005/early 2006.

Iraqi Arabic for Military Attachés

currently being developed analogous to the Tunisian course materials. Practical experience with these materials will be gained during a pilot course planned for fall 2005.

Korean for Military Attachés

was completed in April 2005. A pilot course using these materials begins in October 2005.

Basic Course in Korean (a revised version of the DLI Basic Course) was also completed in April 2005 and will be tested in October 2005.

A six-month course in the Georgian language for Military Attachés and Staff personnel in the Embassy in Tiflis

Since this course was conducted using improvised teaching materials, it was decided that course materials for **Georgian for Military Attachés** would be developed, starting in May, 2005. A pilot course is planned for fall of 2006 and completion of materials is expected in April 2007.

The **Interactive Survival Materials for Swahili for out-of-area missions** have been completed and will be published this summer.

The **Interactive Survival Materials for Dari** are scheduled for completion in October, 2005.

The **Interactive Survival Materials for Pashto** should be completed early in 2006.

The new **Phrasebook for Uzbek** for Termez is nearing completion (June 2005)

A small **Phrasebook of Medical Terms for Missions in Aceh/Indonesia** was published in February, 2005.

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

Course Materials for Pashto are currently being developed.

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Languages taught during the reporting period:

Afrikaans
Albanian
Arabic
Bosnian
Bulgarian
Chinese
Croatian
Czech
Danish
Dari
Dutch
English
Farsi
French
Georgian
German as a foreign language
Greek
Hindi
Hungarian
Italian
Ivrit (modern Hebrew)
Japanese
Kiswahili
Korean
Latvian
Macedonian
Malay
Norwegian
Polish
Portuguese
Russian
Serbian
Slovak
Slovenic
Spanish
Swedish
Thai
Turkish
Ukrainian
Vietnamese