

## **NATIONAL REPORT: HELLAS (GREECE)**

### **Foreign Language Training in the Hellenic Armed Forces**

In each of the three Branches of the Greek Armed Forces (Army, Navy and Air Force) there is one independent school of foreign languages for the military personnel of the Armed Forces as follows:

- a. Army Language School:
  - English, Turkish, French,, German as well as military terminology are taught today at all levels of training, ranging from elementary to advanced.
  - The school also provides afternoon tutorial lessons in English and French.
  - The length of training, in all languages, is equal to one academic year from September to next July (10 months).
- b. Navy Language School:
  - Testing and assessment of personnel in English is compulsory and it is provided on a regular basis.
  - Testing and assessment of personnel in French, German and other foreign languages, is optional and it is provided on request.
- c. Air Force Language School:
  - Intensive training in English, as well as French, German, Turkish and Italian is provided on request.
  - Intensive training in English for special purposes is also provided.
  - Testing and assessment of personnel in English, French, German, as well as in other foreign languages is provided on request.
- d. All the above mentioned military schools can organize and conduct:
  - Intensive preparatory seminars for career assignments or missions abroad in foreign languages.
  - Written and oral testing for career personnel so that they can acquire language proficiency in most of the widely spoken European languages.
- e. English is taught primarily at the military academies and NCO Schools of the Armed Forces. As a second language, French, German, or Italian are also taught. Foreign languages training is extended to the STANAG 6001 level 3 for officers and the STANAG 6001 level 2 for non – commissioned officers.

- f. Facilities and financial aid are provided to the personnel for the study of foreign languages, as well as for the acquisition of diplomas at all levels of the widely spoken European languages.
- g. The General Staff Training Directorates are responsible for the coordination and cooperation of the military academies and language schools of the Armed Forces.

### **Perspectives of the Armed Forces Foreign Language Training in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.**

In general, the effort is orientated towards the following directions:

- a. To define the requirements and provisions for the essential material, technological and financial facilities for the schools of the Armed Forces. The aim of this effort is the mastery of at least two widely spoken foreign languages by cadets at level 2+ and 3+ accordingly.
- b. To potentially extend the teaching of additional foreign languages to a higher level of language proficiency at the Military Academies and NCO Schools.
- c. To encourage the personnel to achieve language proficiency in one or two languages so that the General Staff Officers will be able to speak at least two foreign languages at level 3 or 3+.
- d. To determine the level of language proficiency as a criterion for the personnel to be admitted to seminars or other schools.
- e. To achieve a closer and more substantial cooperation mostly between Greece and the other NATO member countries and secondly between Greece and other neighboring countries with regard to language training in general, as well as to specialized training. Such cooperation can be achieved by exchanging visits, by attending international conferences or by setting up electronics network connection between the Language Schools and their respective institutions abroad.

Summing up, the overall perspective in language proficiency of the Greek military personnel, in view of the demand for cooperation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, must not be limited to the general language proficiency. Language proficiency must be necessarily extended to specialized training in the special fields of the three Branches, offering the necessary general diplomatic, economic, and technical knowledge, required by contemporary Armed Forces.