

UNITED KINGDOM NATIONAL REPORT: BILC 2005

1. Developments in UK Defence Language Policy. The UK has endorsed its Defence Language Policy, which spearheads a departmental approach to the management of the UK Defence language capability. Having been approved, this policy has already generated an updated Defence Language Training Policy, reflecting the UK's commitment to improving language training and delivery in the future.
2. Defence Training Review. The future delivery of all MOD specialist training, including language training will be in partnership with industry. The future Defence School of Languages (DSL) is now being considered as part of this extensive Public Private Partnership (PPP) programme
3. Management of Language Training. The Defence Language Customer Executive Board (DLTCEB) is already providing a taut process for the management of training delivery and the prioritisation of resources to meet demand.
4. Developments in Language Testing.
 - a. Foreign Languages. Ministry of Defence Languages Examination Board (MODLEB) examinations at SLP3333 and SLP4444 continue to be delivered by the University of Westminster under contract. Lower level examinations at SLP1110 and SLP2222 are being developed for delivery by contract also.
 - b. English Language. EFL testing is about to be incorporated into the MODLEB system and a series of mono-lingual examinations is being developed. These examinations will be endorsed by MODLEB and applied to all students undergoing training funded by the UK MOD.
 - c. Master of Arts in International Liaison and Communication. The take-up of the post-graduate degree is rising as students realise the advantage that it presents to them in seeking a second career on completion of military service.
3. Defence School of Languages (DSL).
 - a. Development. Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Rabbitt remains in post as Commanding Officer. The DTR timetable suggests that language training operations will continue at Beaconsfield until the end of the decade. The competing 'partner' consortia are considering future locations as part of their bid.
 - b. Foreign Language Training. Operational commitments continued to generate high demands for foreign language capability. Throughput in Arabic, Pashto and Farsi has increased in the past year by 350%. However limitations on resources mean that serious consideration is being given to removing the capability to deliver training in some other languages.
 - c. English Language Teaching. DSL is modernising its range of EFL courses aimed at foreign military personnel and foreign MOD civilians to reflect changes in requirements. DSL offers training in English to enhance the student's

knowledge of military English, equip them to work with NATO/UN, teach students about the diverse culture of the UK and to prepare those attending commissioning or command and staff courses in UK at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst or the Defence Academy. In the past year, DSL has also provided courses specifically designed for the Italian Carabinieri, the Spanish Officer Training Schools, Kuwaiti and Saudi Armed Forces.

4. Miscellaneous. There are a number of miscellaneous items worthy of mention:

a. Defence Language Trainers' Seminar. The annual Defence Language Trainers' Seminar was held at the Defence School of Languages in March. This seminar brought together a broad mix of policy makers, trainers, linguists and commercial partners and discussed a broad range of policy and delivery issues.

b. Pan-Government Language Training Working Group. A serious review of all language training delivered for government departments is being undertaken to scope the potential for collaboration and cooperation to maximise the effect produced from the limited resources available.