BILC   CONFERENCE   2010
NATIONAL REPORT - GERMANY

A.   General

The emphasis in 2009 lay in the further development of technology supported training, testing and administration. A distance learning course for air force technicians was piloted and a new, more economical test for "re-certification" of candidates has been devised and is about to be implemented.

The new centralized Bundeswehr data-based course management system is being rolled out in order to optimize course administration and the joint use of training resources.

Training capacity has been further increased. For example, the new language teaching component in Aachen, which was mentioned in last year's report, has since been established permanently.

Professional exchanges and cooperation have been intensified.

B.   Language Training

English
The new course for munitions technicians has been established at the School of Land Systems Engineering and Army School of Engineering in Aachen.

There has been an exchange of experience in the fields of technical-logistical Aviation English and English for Armaments Negotiations (Teachers specialising in these fields visited the Austrian Armed Forces Language Institute in November 2009).

In February 2010, SHAPE Language Testing Center visited the Bundessprachenamt for a professional exchange.

French
A regular exchange of teaching personnel with the Centre de Formation InterArmées au Renseignement (CFIAR) France has been established and takes place twice a year in each direction.

German as a Foreign Language
The Bundessprachenamt currently supports German language training programs at the military language institutes of 35 countries. Demand for German as a foreign language is consistently high.

Slavonic and Seldom Taught Languages
No new developments.

C.   Materials Development and Projects -- Teaching, Learning and Testing

Interactive Materials

English: Basic MEMO (Basic Military English for Multinational Operations)
The interactive mission-oriented learning materials called "Basic MEMO," which were mentioned in the last two years' reports, have been produced and tested on CD and USB-stick and in a reduced form (as a vocabulary trainer) for mobile phone.

Distance Learning/Training

<u>Training for Aircraft Mechanics</u>
The first pilot distance training course for aircraft mechanics in cooperation with the German Air Force was – on the whole – successful. However, the use of the virtual classroom failed entirely due to technological problems. This was made up for to a certain extent by the use of SKYPE for synchronous communication. The use of MOODLE as a learning management system was found very successful indeed both by students and tutors. This year, the course structure will again be based on MOODLE, the virtual classroom will be provided by VITERO, and the students will have access to fast internet connections during working hours. In addition, they will be equipped with a notebook including a mobile broadband contract (UMTS) to access the study materials online from home.

External Projects

<u>German Federal Employment Office</u>
The project in cooperation with the German Federal Employment Office is still continuing. The new multiple choice C items (MC C-items) trials show a good discrimination even at the higher SLP levels. The German Federal Employment Office is now putting its C-tests into use as a tool for assessing and counselling job applicants. The BSprA hopes to start using MC C-tests for screening and assessment on a large-scale by the beginning of 2011. A first small-scale test run is planned in May.

<u>International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) - Language Proficiency Certification</u>
Bundessprachenamt is writing ICAO tests for Bundeswehr flight control officers in cooperation with the Bundeswehr Air Traffic Services Office. These tests will be administered by BSprA teachers at the corresponding Bundeswehr language teaching centres.

Product database

The BSprA is continuing the development of a product database which can electronically catalog, document, administer and give information about its products and services to users in the BSprA domain. At the heart of this system is a database which can be accessed via the intranet homepage of the BSprA. Using a "role concept," the system can distinguish between visitors – who can only access information – and authorized users, who can order materials from the catalog provided. Among the functions which this technology provides are so-called "semantic nets" which are able to group products according to semantic categories. The English and French language teaching, learning and testing materials are already available via this database. German and other languages will follow. The logistical processes will be further improved this year.

Language Testing

In view of the large numbers of personnel who need to take the full battery of SLP exams in order to be certified for three years, BSprA has devised a new, more economical test for "re-certification" of candidates whose last certification has expired or is very near the expiration date. The format being proposed will consist of MC listening and reading sections as well as a section using MC C-items. Upon expiration of the re-certification after three years, candidates will again be required to pass the standard SLP exams.

D. Languages taught during the reporting period:

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Albanian	Greek
Amharic	Hungarian
Arabic	Indonesian
Algerian Arabic	Italian
Egyptian Arabic	Ivrit
Gulf States Arabic	Japanese
Moroccan Arabic	Kiswahili
Saudi Arabic	Korean
Standard Arabic	Latvian
Syrian-Jordanian Arabic	Malay
Tunisian Arabic	Norwegian
Bosnian	Pashto
Bulgarian	Polish
Chinese	Portuguese
Croatian	Romanian
Czech	Russian
Danish	Serbian
Dari	Slovak
Dutch	Slovenian
English	Spanish
Farsi	Swedish
French	Thai
Georgian	Turkish
German as a foreign language	Uzbek