

Canada - BILC National Report – 2007



CONTEXT

This report is submitted to the Bureau for International Language Coordination (BILC) and covers the period from Jan – Dec 06. It briefly describes the principle activities and accomplishments in a variety of training programmes within the various training establishments under the responsibility of the **Canadian Defence Academy (CDA)**.

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INTRODUCTION

The mission of the CDA Language Programmes cell is to provide all Canadian Forces' (CF) members opportunities to acquire and maintain language proficiency by means of effective, efficient, and adaptable educational programs within the context of the CF Professional Development System.

http://www.cda-acd.forces.gc.ca/dpd/engraph/services/language_e.asp

PROGRAMMES

Three major language education and training programmes are discussed in this report: the Official Language programme, the Foreign Language Training Programme (FLTP) and language training in support of the Military Training Assistance Programme (MTAP).

SUMMARY – Official Languages

The primary language education and training challenge facing the Canadian Forces is compliance with the Official Languages Act. The constitution of Canada stipulates that English and French are the official languages of Canada and have equality of status and equal rights and privileges as to their use in all institutions of the Parliament and Government of Canada. <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showdoc/cs/O-3.01///en?page=1>. To meet this fundamental obligation, the CF must train large numbers of members to various levels of second language proficiency. In addition, operational requirements demand that selected members achieve different levels of proficiency in both official languages.

The **April 1st 2005 to March 31st 2006** Fiscal Year (FY) annual review revealed that **2578 members were provided with education and training in both official languages**

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(1780 in French and 599 in English); in addition, 199 cadets at the Royal Military College (RMC) received education and training in their second official language. The types of courses range from Superior continuous (one year full-time intensive), to Superior modular (five-week full-time intensive modules), to Intermediate continuous (one year full-time intensive) and modular (five-week full-time intensive), based on initial level of proficiency. Other courses include basic courses for recruits (33-weeks), and language maintenance programmes either in-group for NCM and officers and/or occasionally one-on-one maintenance for senior officers.

Comparison between years show that the CF trained **2798 in 03-04, 3633 in 04-05 and 2379 in 05-06**. The bulk, 56.5% of the training taken, is in part-time modules. The *Official Language Transformation Model* (2007) http://vcds.dwan.dnd.ca/vcde-exec/pubs/canforgen/2006/179-06_e.asp, a revised CF policy on Official Languages within the Department of National Defence, will shift the focus of training from modular to continuous courses in order to better comply with the Official Languages Act and provide improved operational efficiencies.

The **2006** report was changed from a FY to a calendar year. Only a partial collection and reporting could be effected to meet the altered deadlines (¾ of a year vs. a full year). This year, Jan-Dec 2007, will be the benchmark-year from which number comparison will be made. Candidates on modular courses, delivered in 5-week blocks, account for 32% of the **2059 students taking courses**. The linguistic breakdown was 1575 anglos (75.5%) and 484 francos (23.5%), which corresponds roughly to the linguistic ratio in the CF and the Canadian population.

Language training is provided across Canada, but is concentrated in major operational areas. Courses are offered at a central school (Canadian Forces Language School) with three detachments (in Borden just north of Toronto, in the National Capital Region, and in St-Jean, just south of Montreal); at four Language Training Centers (LTCs) - in Esquimalt on the Pacific, Shearwater on the Atlantic, Winnipeg in Manitoba, and the Royal Military College in Kingston; as well as at six bases where language training is provided by contracted agencies: Edmonton, Gagetown, Greenwood, Kingston, Petawawa and Trenton. National Standards are followed so that any education and training started in one institution can be resumed in another seamlessly (operations requiring). Other courses are provided on contract at bases where need demands.

Distance Learning (DL) is supported by a DND-created platform called ALLIES, which offers training in French and English based on the same curriculum used for in-class training. A lab version (23 labs across Canada) and CD-ROM version allow members to have their completed assignments reviewed and corrected by local or distance tutors over data and telephone lines. The CD-ROM version is also distributed in a stand-alone version (without tutor) for members completing a continuous course for maintenance purposes and to candidates in the language-at-work pilot-project for language maintenance. DL is deemed equivalent to classroom training for the first two progress levels (introduction). ALLIES (French version) is in the process of being migrated to the Internet for the end of 2007. Work is still needed to upgrade the English version, under

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curricular review, to match the French version. The French version consists of 15 modules and 5 language maintenance modules. It includes text, audio, video, speech recording and tools like an inline grammar, dictionary, idiomatic dictionary, phonetic exercises and text-to-speech recognition. It has a built-in email, whiteboard, chat and control capability for the tutor.

Canadian Forces Language School (CFLS)

The Canadian Forces Language School (CFLS) consists of the National Capital Region Training Company (NCR Trg Coy), the Saint-Jean Detachment, the Borden Detachment and a School Headquarters comprising an Operations & Standards Section. http://www.cfls-elfc.forces.gc.ca/hq/engraph/home_e.asp. The mission of the Canadian Forces Language School (CFLS) is to provide French and English Second Language and Foreign Language Training to members of the Canadian Forces and, on a cost recovery basis, to members of various federal government departments and Crown Corporations, as well as French and English as a Foreign Language to Partnership for Peace (PfP) countries participating in the Military Training Assistance Program (MTAP).

In addition, CFLS is currently responsible for the design, development, maintenance and distribution the instructional material and accompanying tests that constitute the Canadian Forces French and English curricula used with the Military Second Language Training Program of the Canadian Forces, as well as the French and English curricula used with the students participating in MTAP. It also produces, validates and administers (according to the NATO STANAG 6001) French and English as foreign language tests for Foreign Nationals on language training participating in MTAP.

CFLS National Capital Region Training Company

Summary - Foreign Language Training Programme (FLTP)

The objective of the FLTP is to provide Canadian military personnel such as Communication Research linguists, Canadian Defence Attachés (CDAs) and their Administrative Assistants (CDA AAs), Arms Control Verification Officers, and Exchange Officers with the required foreign language proficiency needed to accomplish their duties.

In addition to specific foreign languages teaching, the FLTP section is also responsible for the **Language Teacher Training Course (LTTC)** in support of MTAP. The aim of the LTTC is to train new foreign language teachers to teach English using various approaches to their own personnel, in order to facilitate interoperability with other allied nations and to familiarize them with the Canadian Forces and Canadian culture. Thirty-two teachers attended the LTTC in 2006.

Numerous development projects were undertaken and executed in the Foreign Language (FL) Standards section this year, ranging from curriculum to test development.

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List of Foreign Language Students - From Jan – Dec 06

LANGUAGE	NUMBERS
ARABIC – SYRIAN	1
ARABIC- EGYPTIAN	1
GERMAN	5
KOREAN	5
THAI	2
HUNGARIAN	1
DUTCH	3
JAPANESE	2
HEBREW	1
POLISH	3
RUSSIAN	9
SPANISH	19
PORTUGUESE	4
PERSIAN	7
PASHTU	13
NORWEGIAN	2
INDONESIAN	2
CHINESE	2
ITALIAN	5
TURKISH	1
Total # of Languages = 20	Total # of FL students = 88
MTAP-Language Teacher Training Course	32

Test Administration. Apart from the administration of certification tests to CFLS foreign language course graduates, the greatest demand for test administration originated from the need to test external military members. The highest number of oral proficiency interviews was administered in English as a Foreign Language to the civilians considered for deployment in Afghanistan as interpreters, as well as to the foreign national students attending the Language Teacher Training Course. Testers from **CFLS Det St-Jean and Det Borden** conducted this testing. The civilians recruited for Afghanistan were also tested in Pashtu. Other languages in which testing was requested for external military or civilian members included Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Dari, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, German, Italian, Korean, Turkish and Ukrainian.

Test Development. Achievement tests (ATs) in Egyptian, Italian, Korean, Portuguese (Brazilian), Spanish, and Syrian were modified. ATs in Chinese, Russian, Pashto and Persian were developed. All developed or revised achievement tests are constructed in several parts measuring mastery of course material in four to six skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing, transcribing and translating) depending on course objectives. Apart from the ATs, a Progress test was developed in Pashto in order to measure if the students have reached level 2, general proficiency.

Curriculum Development. Within the period encompassed by this report, the greatest effort was invested into the development of the Pashtu curriculum. Modules 1-2 were

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completely reconstructed, and Modules 6-10 were partially revised. Supplementary activities were also developed, especially listening comprehension exercises.

In April 2006, a new need for course development and delivery was identified and analyzed. It concerned an operational requirement to train civilians deployed as Pashtu interpreters in the field, in the techniques of consecutive interpreting. A training manual was developed and a 5-day course is now delivered twice a year.

CFLS Detachment Saint-Jean :

CFLS Det Saint-Jean conducted Language Training for 751 students at the Canadian Division. As part of the MTAP, the Foreign Division of the CFLS Det Saint-Jean provided English courses to 115 students and French courses to 61 students for **a total of 166 students and this, from 29 countries**. These students received 530 hours of in-class language training complemented by a 12-day socio-cultural program. This program included cultural visits in Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec, and sightseeing visits to places such as the Botanical Gardens, a sugar shack, and various cultural sites.

CFLS Standards Coy conducts English and French curricular and test development activities for our national programmes and our language programmes for foreign nationals, on a continuous basis in St-Jean.

CFLS Detachment Borden:

CFLS (Det) Borden successfully conducted a full schedule of English as Second Language (ESL) training for **229 students from Europe, Asia and South America**, as part of MTAP. The schedule included two 19-week courses and four 10-week courses. During their course at Borden, the students, like their counterparts at CFLS det St-Jean, participated in socio-cultural activities, field trips and immersion training.

CONTACTS

Richard D. Monaghan, PhD
Senior Staff Officer
Language Programmes
Canadian Defence Academy
P.O./C.P. Box 17000, Stn Forces
Kingston, ONTARIO, CANADA
K7K 7B4

Tel: 613-541-5010 (3870)
Fax: 613-541-6908
E-mail: monaghan.rd@forces.gc.ca

Julie J. Dubeau
National Standards Officer
Language Programmes
Canadian Defence Academy Det Ottawa
285 Coventry Road, 4A14
Ottawa, ONTARIO, CANADA
K1A 0K2

Tel: 613-996-2526
Fax: 613-992-1324
E-mail: dubeau.jj@forces.gc.ca