

The Czech Republic National Report

Defense Language Institute, Czech Armed Forces

2007

Mission Statement

The mission of the Defense Language Institute is to ensure that personnel are adequately trained, standing by and ready to meet the foreign language requirements of the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic.

Purpose:

This report has a dual purpose: to provide a general account of the instruction in, and discussion of, matters relevant to the English language training of military personnel in the Czech Republic, and to summarize the Defense Language Institute's (DLI) progress to date within the context of our commitments to NATO.

Language Program

Although language instruction is conducted at various facilities, the DLI in Vyskov continues to operate as the pivotal entity. With its commandant, Colonel Ladislav Chaloupsky, the DLI is the central language training establishment, responsible for coordinating both MoD's requirements and new concepts for the foreign language educational systems within the Czech Military.

The largest intensive language training programs are undertaken at the Defense Language Institute in Vyskov, its satellite programs in Prague, Brno, Olomouc, Liberec, Namest n. Oslavou, Caslav and Zatec, as well as at the Education and Training Center in Komorni Hradek.

They consist of the following types of courses:

- a) full-time, longer-term, intensive courses in General English;
- b) full-time, shorter-term, specialized courses (e.g., military terminology, refresher);
- c) part-time, longer-term, non-intensive courses (e.g., enhancement, refresher).

Defense Language Institute

The DLI continues to maintain highly skilled teaching and testing departments, which supports: 12 intensive, longer-term, SLP-3 English courses (with eight students per course), 6 SLP 2 English courses (with ten students per course), and 17 English refresher courses per year.

DLI's resources are no longer allocated for lower level (e.g., SLP-1) language training of armed forces personnel. These very basic level courses are now handled by MoD-contracted agencies.

In accordance with NATO requirements, the DLI is now offering one-month refresher courses, tailored to personnel being deployed on NATO assignments (10 courses per year).

DLI also organizes methodological and testing seminars for all Czech Armed Forces foreign language teachers at Vyskov and at the British-founded Self-Access Center in Prague on a regular basis.

Courses in Arabic, Russian, German, French and Czech¹ are also offered at select locations within the DLI system.

In accordance with the STANAG 6001, DLI satisfies the linguistic requirements for our soldiers serving with multinational units abroad and continues to set the standard for military language education and testing.

Language Testing:

In line with BILC recommendations, the language testing is centralized at the moment. Since the beginning of 2005, multilevel English tests have been successfully used, both for levels 0 to 2, and for levels 2 to 3. The Personnel Directorate of the General Staff now recognizes “plus levels” (e.g., 0+, 1+, 2+, 3+, 4+). All the tests for STANAG 6001 are standardized, validated and scrutinized for their reliability.

New Courses

As language education is central to our role in NATO, special attention has been given to personnel selected for multi-national operations. Pre-deployment courses with a new methodology have been introduced in our curriculum.

In May 2007, new 2-week refresher courses, and in September 2007, more SLP-3 longer-term English courses will be introduced on many of the DLI-satellite campuses.

DLI Satellite Campuses

- Prague,
- Brno,
- Olomouc,
- Liberec,
- Namest nad Oslavou,
- Caslav,
- Zatec,

Other Czech Military Language Teaching Facilities (non-DLI)

Military sites:

- The Military Hospital in Olomouc,
- Oloumoc/Rescue Operations,
- Lazne Bohdanec,
- Prerov/Helicopter Base,
- Prerov/Training Base,
- Strakonice,
- Prostejov², and
- The Military Academy in Vyškov.

¹ Czech language courses are provided to foreign officers on assignment to the Czech Republic.

² Only Serbo-Croatian and Albanian are currently being taught here.

Military schools:

- Defense University (with faculties in Brno and Hradec Kralove),
- Military Technical High School, Moravská Třebová,
- Military High School, Roudnice n. Labem, and
- the Military Section of the Physical Education Faculty of Charles University, Prague

In spite of the different chains of command and parallel education requirements, DLI facilitates program quality and consistency. It does this by organizing testing seminars, so that teachers from all these installations are kept abreast of current language training requirements and recent amendments to the STANAG 6001 descriptors.

Komorní Hrádek Education and Training Center

The commandant is Colonel Pavel Voburka and the Center continues to maintain a good standard of language teaching. The capacity is the same as stated in last year's National Report. There are approximately 30 students in its SLP-2 English courses, and 8 students in its SLP-3 courses per training cycle. Both ALC and NATO materials are used for the English courses. In addition there are up to 10 students studying French each training cycle.

Conclusion

All in all, a very successful year in which we have gone from good to better and continued to build on the support that has been extended to us. It is only through the cooperation and assistance of our allies that we are able to do this.

Acknowledgement

Once again DLI-Vyskov would like to thank DLI-ELC (Defense Language Institute – English Language Center) in Texas for their materials and continued support of personnel in the field, especially to Ms. Sally Fenstermacher, US DLI Senior ESL/EFL Specialist, who returned to Texas in 2006.

Special thanks goes to Major General Jiří Halaška, PhD and Brigadier General Petr Mlejnek for their support.

The DLI also thanks Colonel Petr Špička for his efforts in implementing the “plus levels” in the military career management system and for his continuous support of all language educational activities.

For their assistance with specialists and in testing materials, we are also grateful to the countries of Great Britain, Austria, Germany, and France.

Data for this report:

See Tables 1, 2 and 3, following.

Table 1: Number of Students Tested by DLI from May 2006 through March 2007**English Language**

Level	Military Site	May	Jun	Jul	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
SLP 1	DLI	224	75	35	79	18	22	303	110	15	-	881
	Komorní Hrádek	-	3	-	-	6	1	-	4	-	-	14
	DU	24	16	-	-	-	12	20	6	-	13	91
	Others	53	71	-	51	6	39	38	6	28	16	308
SLP 2	DLI	186	154	45	63	63	140	176	172	71	97	1167
SLP3	DLI	-	68	33	18	13	37	4	5	54	40	272
Total		487	387	113	211	106	251	541	303	168	166	2733

SLP 2 and SLP 3 is tested by DLI only

DU – Defense University

Table 2: Number of Students Tested by DLI from May 2006 through March 2007**Other Languages**

Language	Level	May	Jun	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
German	SLP 1	25	12	-	9	-	2	-	11	3	16	78
	SLP 2	17	7	-	1	3	18	3	1	5	8	63
	SLP3	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	4
French	SLP 1	5	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	26
	SLP 2	-	11	1	2	3	1	2	1	-	2	23
	SLP 3	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	5	20
Russian	SLP 1	3	10	-	-	-	17	-	-	1	9	40
	SLP 2	14	1	-	1	3	3	3	2	-	3	30
	SLP3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6
Czech	SLP 1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	SLP 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
	SLP3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Polish	SLP 2	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
Hungarian	SLP 2	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4
Serbo-Croatian	SLP2	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	7
Spanish	SLP 2	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4
Romanian	SLP 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Total		66	69	1	14	12	59	9	18	16	49	313

Table 3: Number of Successful Candidates 2006 – English Language

Level	Total
SLP 1	1280
SLP 2	848
SLP 3	139
Total	2267