



NATIONAL DEFENCE UNIVERSITY DEFENCE LANGUAGE CENTRE

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NATIONAL REPORT FINNISH DEFENCE FORCES

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1. Languages covered

The Defence Forces offer professional refresher language programmes in **English, French, Russian, and German** on a regular basis. In addition, beginners' courses are organized in **French, Russian, and German**. As for the second official language of the country, **Swedish**, a compulsory three-credit Swedish course is organized for officer cadets at the National Defence University. Furthermore, short-term and ad hoc task-based language training is organized or outsourced. Apart from the listed language course options available, commands, staffs, and units organize and support outsourced individual language training for their personnel.

2. Language programmes during the academic year 2009 - 2010

Regular language programmes are run in four military schools: the Army Academy, the Air Force Academy, the Naval Academy and the National Defence University.

The language training draws from the extensive general foreign language studies available in Finnish comprehensive schools. Thus the Defence Forces language programmes concentrate for the most part on facilitating language skills development in **military/operational language** in particular.

European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) units are used to describe student achievement/workload: 1 credit = maximum 15 class hours, plus an equal amount of self-study. The proficiency levels are described in the STANAG 6001 scale.

NATIONAL DEFENCE UNIVERSITY

English

Cadet Course 96 (1st year), Military English: 136 students / 2 credits / level 3

Cadet Course 95 (2nd year), Military English continued: 133 students / 2 credits / level 3

Cadet Course 96 (1st year), Voluntary English Refresher: 16 students / 2 credits / level 2

Master of Military Sciences Program (1st year), Professional Communication: 105 students / 2 credits / level 2

Senior Staff Officer Course, Professional English: 88 students / 1 credit / level 3

French

Cadet Course 96-95 (1st & 2nd year), Voluntary French: 7 students / 3 credits / level 1-2
Senior Staff Officer Course, Professional French: 5 students / 1 credit / level 1-2

Swedish

Cadet Course 96 (1st year), Professional Swedish: 134 students / 2 credits / level 3
Cadet Course 96 (1st year), Compulsory Web Course: 134 students / 1 credit / level 3
Cadet Courses 96-95 (1st & 2nd year), Voluntary Swedish: 12 students / 2 credits / level 2-3
Every cadet must pass the State Swedish Examination. Those who fail must take a complementary course: 1 credit / level 2-3
Swedish for Salaried Personnel I: 5 students / 20 hrs / level 1
Swedish for Salaried Personnel II: 5 students / 20 hrs / level 2

Russian

Cadet Courses 96-95 (1st & 2nd year), Voluntary Russian: 15 students / 3 credits / level 0-1
Master of Military Sciences Program (1st year), Voluntary Russian: 2 students / 3 credits / level 1
Senior Staff Officer Course, Professional Russian: 2 students / 1 credit / level 3-4

German

Cadet Course 96 (1st year), Military German: 1 student / 2 credits / level 3
Cadet Course 95 (2nd year), Military German Continued: 1 student / 2 credits / level 2-3
Cadet Course 96-95 (1st & 2nd year), Voluntary German: 5 students / 3 credits / level 1-2
Senior Staff Officer Course, Professional German: 2 students / 1 credit / level 3

General Staff Officer Course

National Defence University: International co-operation training has been given and International Staff Exercises of varying length conducted entirely in English have been carried out at home and abroad during the General Staff Officer Course.

ARMY ACADEMY

English

Cadet Course 96, Army Line (1st year): 75 students / 2 credits / level 3
Continuous Education Course for Warrant Officers 8: 140 students / 0,75 credits / level 2-3
Continuous Education Course for Warrant Officers, Voluntary Web Course: 2 students / 0,75 credits / level 2-3
Presentation skills: 8 students / 0.5 credits / level 2

NAVAL ACADEMY

English

Naval Cadet Course 78 (1st year): 16 students / 2 credits ESP (Navigational English) / level 3

Naval Cadet Course 77 (2nd year): 6 students / 2 credits ESP (Navigational English) / level 3
Continuous Education Course for Warrant Officers 7: 16 students / 0,5 credits / level 2-3
Maritime English I: 4 students / 1 credit / level 2

Swedish

Introduction to Practical Professional Swedish I: 4 students / 1 credit / level 1
Introduction to Practical professional Swedish II: 3 students / 1 credit / level 1

AIR FORCE

English

Cadet Course 93 (4th year), Air Tactical English Course, Track A, Training Air Wing: 13 students / 3 credits / level 3

Cadet Course 94 (3rd year), Helicopter Operations English Course, Air Force Command Finland: 6 students / 2.5 credits / level 3

Cadet Course 94 (3rd year), Radio Communications Course IFR, Track A, Training Air Wing: 22 students / 1 credit / level 3

Cadet Course 94 (3rd year), Air Tactical English Course, Track B, Air Force Academy: 4 students / 5 credits / level 3

Cadet Course 94 (3rd year), Air tactical English Course, Track C, Air Force Academy: 6 students / 2.5 credits / level 3

Cadet Course 95 (2nd year), Air Force Indoctrination and Aircraft Technical English Course; Tracks A-E: 25 students / 4 credits / level 3

Cadet Course 96 (1st year), Air Force Line: 30 students / 2 credits / level 3

Air Tactical English Course, Training Air Wing: 13 students / 2.5 credits / level 3

Radio Communications Course VFR, Track A, Reserve Officer Course, Air Force Academy: 40 students / 1 credit / level 2

Air Tactical English Course, Air Force Operational Commands: 33 students / 4 credits / level 3

English Course for International Operations, Air Force Command Finland: 20 students / 2.5 credits / level 3

Aircraft Systems and Maintenance Basic English Course for Aircraft Technicians: 10 students / 2 credits / level 2

Aircraft Systems and Maintenance Advanced English Course for Aircraft Technicians: 14 students / 5 credits / level 2

Helicopter Technical English Course, Air Force Command Finland: 10 students / 2.5 credits / level 3

Russian

Russian for Reserve Officer and Conscript Non-Commissioned Officer Trainees, Track D, Air Force Academy: 21 credits / level 1

Russian Course for Personnel: 7 credits / level 1

DEFENCE FORCES INTERNATIONAL CENTRE / DEFENCE LANGUAGE CENTRE

English

Military English Courses 1-4 for Officers Appointed to International Duties

Each course: 10-12 students / 2 credits / level 3+

Military Terminology Course: 36 students / 1 credit / level 3

DEFENCE COMMAND/ DEFENCE LANGUAGE CENTRE

The 14th Military Russian Special Course: 33 credits / 10 students / level 3

Military English Update Courses 1-2 for officers and salaried personnel

Each course: 8-10 students / 1 credit / level 3-4

Military Swedish Courses 1-2 for officers and salaried personnel

Each course: 8-10 students / 1 credit / level 3-4

Military French Courses 1-2 for officers and salaried personnel

Each course: 8-10 students / 1 credit / level 1-3

ARTILLERY SCHOOL / DEFENCE LANGUAGE CENTRE

Professional Communication for Artillery Officers: 20 students / 1 credit / level 2

3. Language Testing

For the testing of all other languages except Russian, the Defence Forces rely on the 6-level National Language Proficiency Test organized by the National Board of Education.

The Defence Forces have their own Russian military language test organized by the Defence Language Centre in three levels covering the STANAG 6001 levels 1, 2 and 3-4.

When necessary for practical reasons, an Operational English Language Test is organized by the Defence Language Centre for officers to be posted in international staffs/HQs and multinational operations

4. Continuing and Special Training

Continuing and special language training for a considerable number of personnel and specialists at STANAG levels 2 - 4 has been organized by the Defence Language Centre, units, and schools both in Finland and abroad. Partly this training has been outsourced when applicable.

5. Organizational Development

The Defence Language Centre has continued initiating new language training programmes and implementing voluntary training in Swedish, English, Russian and French. Combining all linguistic expertise within the Defence Forces with its two branches, Language Services and Language Training, the Defence Language Centre is responsible for planning of defence language training policy, guidance and management of all defence language training staff and programmes as well as translations, interpreter services and language testing.

The Defence Forces Advisory Board for Language Training has continued its work under the Chief of the Defence Command. All structures and bodies within the Defence Forces that may have interests and needs in language training are represented in this Advisory Board chaired by the Director of the Defence Language Centre.