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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

NATIONAL REPORT ON LANGUAGE TRAINING 2007

LANGUAGE COURSES

In the Defence system of Latvia mainly 3 foreign languages are taught for the military personnel and civil servants. Other languages (Arabic, Swedish, Norwegian, Polish, and Check) have been taught on irregular bases in accordance with the necessity.

Mainly intensive ELT courses are conducted in the National Armed Forces (NAF) Language School's Training Sections. Courses are divided into:

- LEVEL 1 Course- 4 months (ALCPT 0-30 up to ALCPT 50);
- LEVEL 2 Course- 5 months (ALCPT 50 up to ALCPT 75);
- LEVEL 3 Course- 6 months (ALCPT 75 up to NATO STANAG 6001 level 3).

Intensive German Language Training project (1-2 groups) supported by the German government ended in December 2006.

Every year there are few (3-4) non-intensive French Language Training (12 hours per week; 7-8 months) classes.

Non-intensive ELT courses take place in NAF LS Ādaži TS (Specialized Military English- Mission-oriented language) and NAF LS Lielvārde TS. There are also several groups of civil servants completed for non-intensive ELT and FLT at the MoD every year.

NUMBER OF GRADUATES

In general, each year there are approximately:

- 200-250 (intensive courses) and 250-300 (non-intensive) graduates in ELT;
- 10-20 graduates in German Language Training (intensive courses);
- 20 graduates in French Language Training (non-intensive courses).

NEW MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT

Most of the teachers at NAF LS participate in materials development. There is one full time employee whose main responsibility is to collect the developed materials, bind them and distribute to NAF LS Training Sections.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE TESTS – there are 2 Testing Teams operating under the roof of NAF LS. One Testing Team (4 full time employees) is fully attached and subordinated to NAF LS and is called NAF LS Testing Team. It produces achievement tests for the students of the NAF LS. Another one – NATO STANAG 6001 Testing Team (4 full time employees) functions more independently and is subordinated to NAF LS only administratively. NATO STANAG 6001 Testing Team tests selected candidates of the whole defence system. Candidates for the STANAG tests are selected according to their ALCPT scores.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – all LS Training Sections have 10 to 15 position US language laboratory systems with video capability. There is one 12 position and one 10 position CD-ROM software established in Riga Training Section. One more CD-ROM laboratory has already been delivered and recently installed in Cēsis Training Section. It is planned that 2 more CD-ROM laboratories will be purchased in the near future and established in 2 other different Training Sections of the NAF Language School.

UNITED KINGDOM – there are 5 Resource Centers established in different Training Sections of the Language School with the necessary equipment (1 PC, 1 printer, 1 photo copier) and materials (books, audio and video tapes). There are 2 Self-Access Centers consisting of 6 separate computers in NAF LS Rīga Training Section and Ādaži Training Section. These projects were supported by the Peace-keeping English Project, British Council, Latvia. Project is no longer running in Latvia.

Latvian foreign language programs have also been supported by the governments of the United States of America (IMET Program), Canada (Military Training Assistance Program- MTAP), United Kingdom (UK) and Germany and their representatives in Latvia. Several English and French Courses as well as Teacher Training Courses abroad were funded for the Latvian military and civil servants. Currently we are in the transition period of reducing the foreign assistance in terms of finances. German language training is no more funded by the German government since January 2007. In the year of 2007 gradually we have to undertake the responsibility of covering the costs of language/teacher training courses in Canada and UK.

There is one special cooperation project developed between Latvia and Estonia in the field of development NATO STANG 6001 tests. It is intended that the initial documents would be signed by the official representatives of the Defence systems of Latvia and Estonia in the form of agreement on bilateral cooperation.

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Sincerely yours,

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