Security and Plurilingualism

Security through Plurilingualism

(Mehr Sicherheit durch Mehrsprachigkeit)

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2 Parts of our Presentation

A) Importance of Plurilingualism in the Austrian Armed Forces (AAF) and for security in general

(NESTLER Bruno)

B) German training in the AAF for military personnel with a migration background

(ROSINZKY Robert)

Questions to answer

Who we are and why we were invited here.

What we do in the field of plurilingualism.

Who, when and where we teach what languages and who we offer language support to.

Why this endeavor is so important for security and also for the groups of people we are discussing in this workshop.

Definitions

Multilingualism

(knowledge of languages in a given society e.g.: state, school, Armed Forces, etc.)

Plurilingualism

(knowledge of languages of one given individual)

(CEF 2001, pt 1.3)

Security

„[…] is a given status quo in which individuals, groups and states don‘t feel threatened by risks or feel protected […] – depends largely on the individual‘s perception

(Report of the Austrian Armed Forces Reform Commission 2004)

Col Bruno Nestler / Background

1979 – 1982 Military Academy

1982 – 1993 Tank Officer in a Mechanised Brigade

1991 – 1992 Peacekeeping Mission in Cyprus

1993 – 1998 Staff Officer at the National Defence Academy,

Parallel: Studies at Vienna University: Italian (Translator) and Political Science, (Security Policy)

1998 – 2002 Teacher/Interpreter for Italian

2003 – now: Head of the Romance and Lesser Taught Languages at the AAFLI, at the moment: Acting Deputy Head of the Institute

2009: Publication: „More Security through Plurilingualism“ (Language/Security Policy/Military)

2012 Doctoral Thesis in : „Language Policy and Plurilingualism in the Austrian Defence Policy – More Security through Plurilingualism“

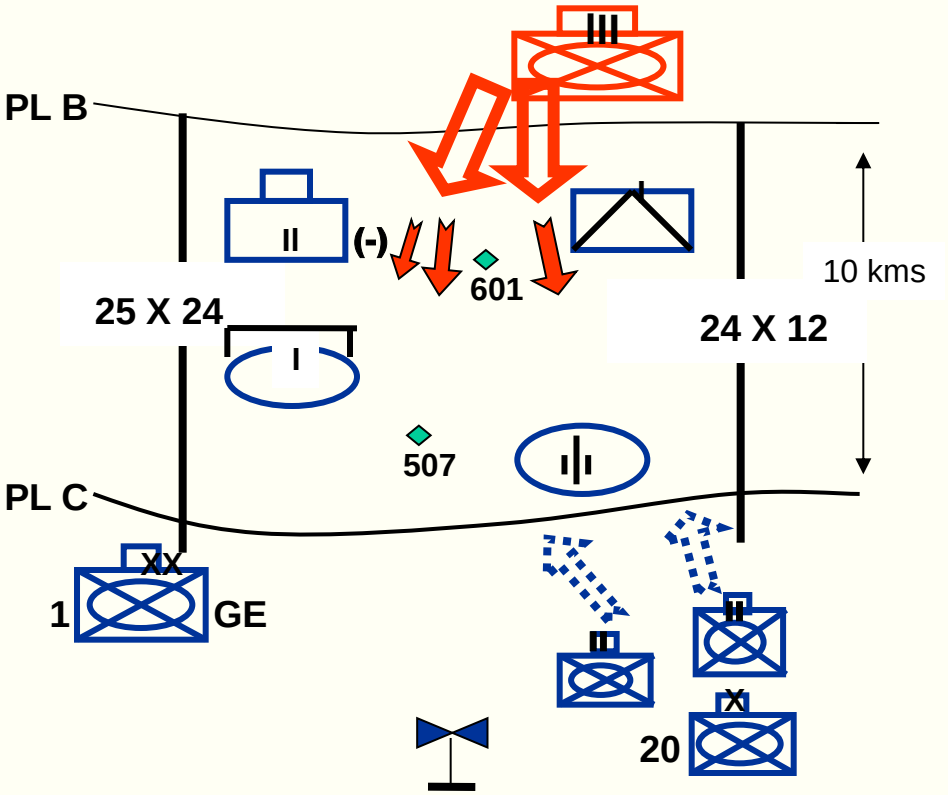
Function oriented language categories

- Command and working languages (English, French, German)
- Areas of operation languages (military forces and local population)
- Languages of neighbouring countries (including minority languages)
- Intelligence and information languages (e.g. Arabic, Farsi, Ukrainian, Russian,

Situation as of 0915Z

Comds decision based on COA brief

- **Prelim phase**
  Coy 24 X to block western en bn, sp by ATk hels
- **Phase 1.**
  MLRS coord with ATk hels to fix en.
- **Phase 2.**
  1 & 2 bns to conduct hasty attack against centre and eastern en bns in order to delay Xing PL C or Bde bdys until 1230Z
  FASCAM to be used to prevent Xing into 25X AO
  ME centre bn.
- **Phase 3.**
  ATk hels to seize hill 601
  3rd Bn to occupy hill 601 NLT 1100Z
  4th Bn in res throughout



TASK: ③ At 0935Z give quick orders for hasty attacks.

We must not forget:

„ONLY BEFORE GOD AND THE LINGUIST ALL LANGUAGES ARE EQUAL“

(W.F. MACKEY, 1978)

Austrian Armed Forces Language Institute

Mission:

Support the interoperability of the AAF by means of language competence

- **Language training**
- **Translation**
- **Interpretation**
- **Terminology**

Austrian Armed Forces Language Institute

on average,

- 80 courses & seminars with 1,000 students per year (14 languages)

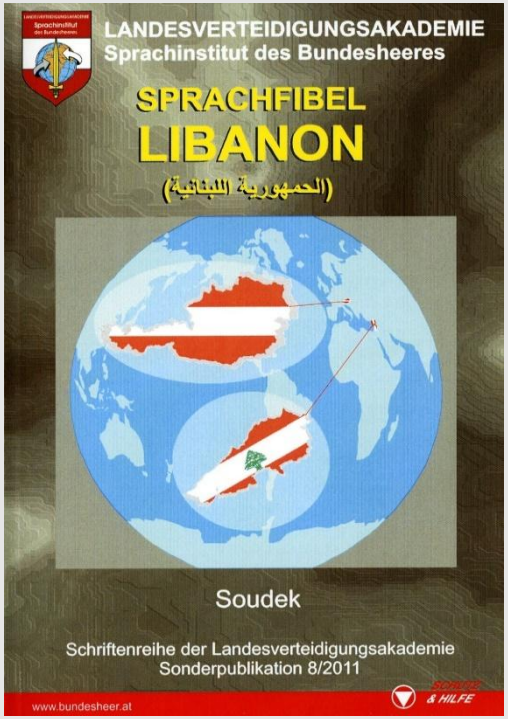
- plus 70 courses with 1,600 students, outside Vienna under the Institute‘s supervision

- 5,500 examinations per year (14 languages)

- translation & interpretation from/into 28 languages

AAF Language Institute - Products

Language Survival Booklets



Intercultural Competence

Languages in Areas of Operation (military forces and local population)

Third Language & Intercultural Competence: Winning “hearts and minds“

Why Invest in Plurilingualism?

The knowledge of more languages contributes to more security!

Why? 1) better communication skills

2) more cultural awareness and/or intercultural competence

3) reduced xenophobia

(based on EU-wide studies like DYLAN, LINEE, etc.)

Helps to enable the actors in security environments (soldiers, officers, policemen, public servants, politicians, etc.) to act well-considered and in line with the situation

LANDESVERTEIDIGUNGSAKADEMIE

Austrian Armed Forces Language Institute

Innovation Award 2009

The European Label for Innovative Projects

in Language Learning and Teaching"

LANDES
VERTEIDIGUNGS
AKADEMIE

Monolingualism as the exception
Multilingualism as the norm

German language training in the Austrian Armed Forces supporting integration

Robert Rozinsky

Why do soldiers need German language training?

Situation:

Military commanders have to ensure that their professional solders have all the necessary linguistic skills.

A good command of the German language – the command and working language in the Austrian Armed Forces – is the basis for training & a successful career.

Professional soldier candidates had deficits in *reading comprehension* and *writing*. They can only continue their sergeant career following language training.

Which groups of soldiers need training in German?

Groups of learners with different problems:

"Native" soldiers, especially from underprivileged groups

Educationally disadvantaged soldiers with German as a second or third language

Solders with a migration background are willing to learn if the language training is adapted to their concrete language needs!

What are the reasons for the learning deficits?

Groups of learners with different problems:

Soldiers have not really learnt grammar & orthography

The reading and writing tradition has changed

Migrants have problems in the written language, especially concerning the degree of automation and speed

Migrants live in a world of dialects and sociolects
Code switching, Code shifting

The communication conditions and situations have become more and more different and complex!

What tests and procedures are standards in language training?

Language Portfolio:

- Language-level-test and self-assessment of language proficiency
- Language-biography
- Needs analysis for the job
- Learn to learn

Combination of linguistic and intercultural learning

Role of ”Language Trainers” in the German language training program

Teaching and Support:

- Participation in language education and in language testing in the context of German language courses
- Language trainers provide the link between learner and guest teacher
- Language trainers act as teachers, facilitators, contact persons
- Language trainers as experts in grammar, orthography etc.

Teaching to bilingual adult soldiers is more!

The responsibility of the Austrian Armed Forces concerning the integration of migrants

German Language-learning considered:

- Fair exercises and tests
- Tolerance of inexperienced learners
- Education background
- Learning environment
- Language contact in the host society
- Specific linguistic needs independent of armed forces

Successful integration – a concept

Three benefits:

- For the individual solder - possible promotion needs, education and good career opportunities; positive effects for familiy life
- For the armed forces – special resources for the army
- For society - recognition and (self)respect

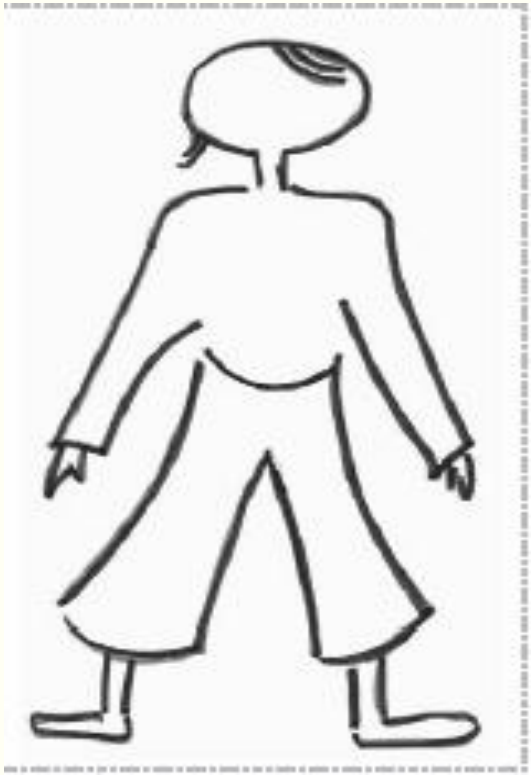
Language is key to successful integration !

Optimization of national service
Module German

German language training for soldiers

German for Professional Purposes is a range of seminars for bilingual adult soldiers, for soldiers with read-motor weaknesses and for soldiers who want to improve their language skills.
Improving language skills helps to consolidate the self-organization of soldiers in everyday life, and increases the chances on the job market.

My languages
First Language - Second Language - Foreign Language



created by Hans-Jürgen Krumm

My languages

Answer the following questions:

What languages do you (do not forget dialects and language variants) speak?

Which languages do you use as (a) working language(s)?

Why have you learned the language (well) and the other less well / little / not at all?

What languages you would still like to learn?

This detects which languages migrants bring with them. We can use these resources to improve participation in the professional and social life.

Let us try to break through the typical speech-selection processes and keep social disadvantages linked to ethnic and linguistic affiliations as low as possible.

Thank you for
your attention!

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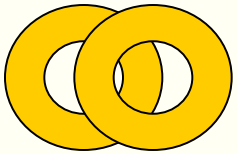
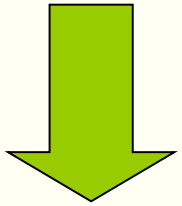
Language Knowledge



Cultural Awareness



FORCE MULTIPLIER

AIM

Goals already reached:

- L1 + 2 obligatory for all officers!

(Military Academy and General Staff Course)

- But English (L2) is still by far the most important foreign language to ensure interoperability in Multinational Operations

- All 6 neighbouring foreign languages (Minority and Migrant Languages in Austria) are still taught at the AAF Language Institute

- Give help to young people with migrant background in learning better German during their first career steps in the Army (Rozinsky)

Tasks of the AAF Language Institute

Core competence:

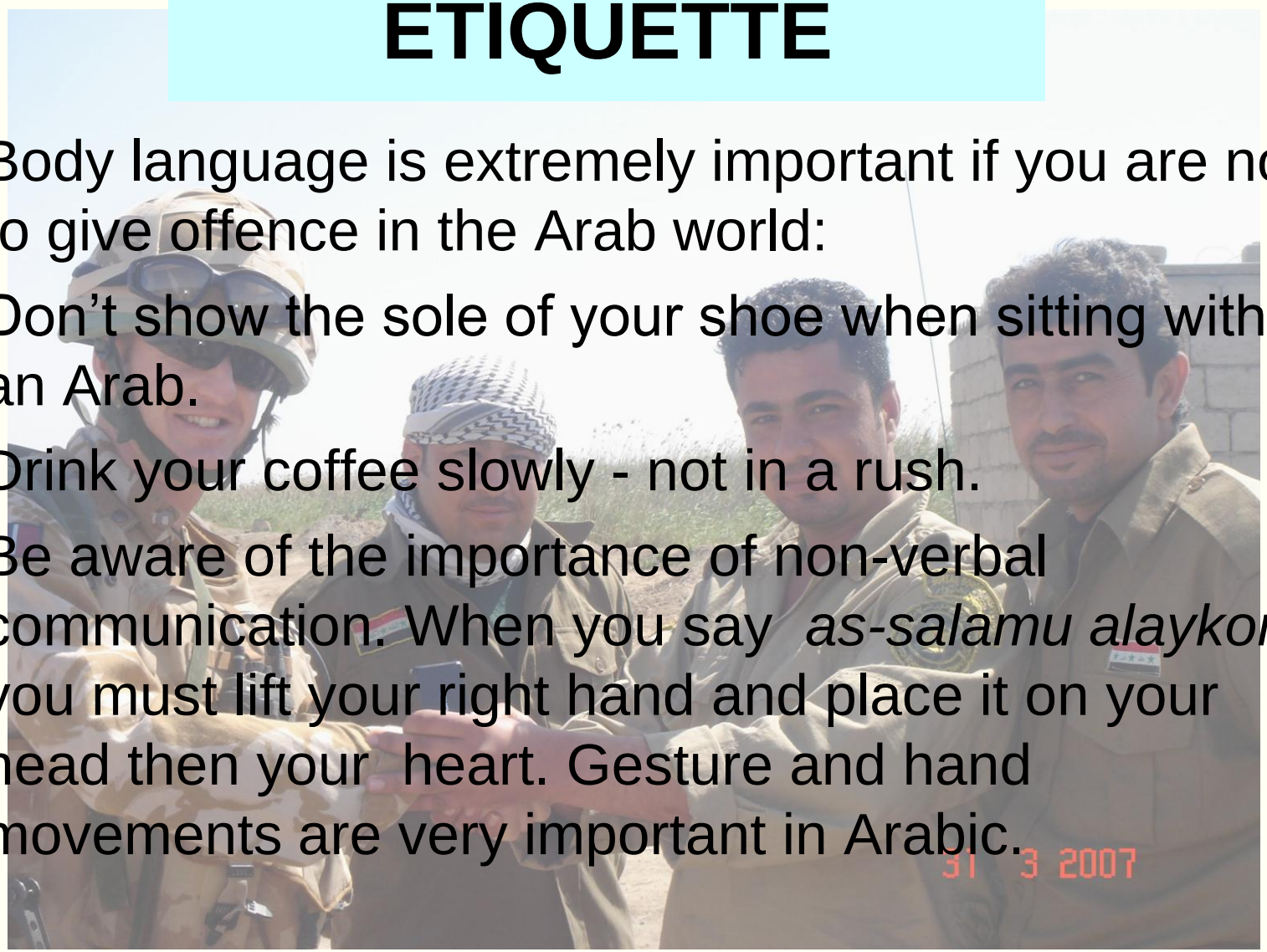
Language relevant to armed forces

Guideline:

Imparting intercultural competence

ETIQUETTE

- Body language is extremely important if you are not to give offence in the Arab world:
- Don’t show the sole of your shoe when sitting with an Arab.
- Drink your coffee slowly - not in a rush.
- Be aware of the importance of non-verbal communication. When you say *as-salamu alaykom*, you must lift your right hand and place it on your head then your heart. Gesture and hand movements are very important in Arabic.

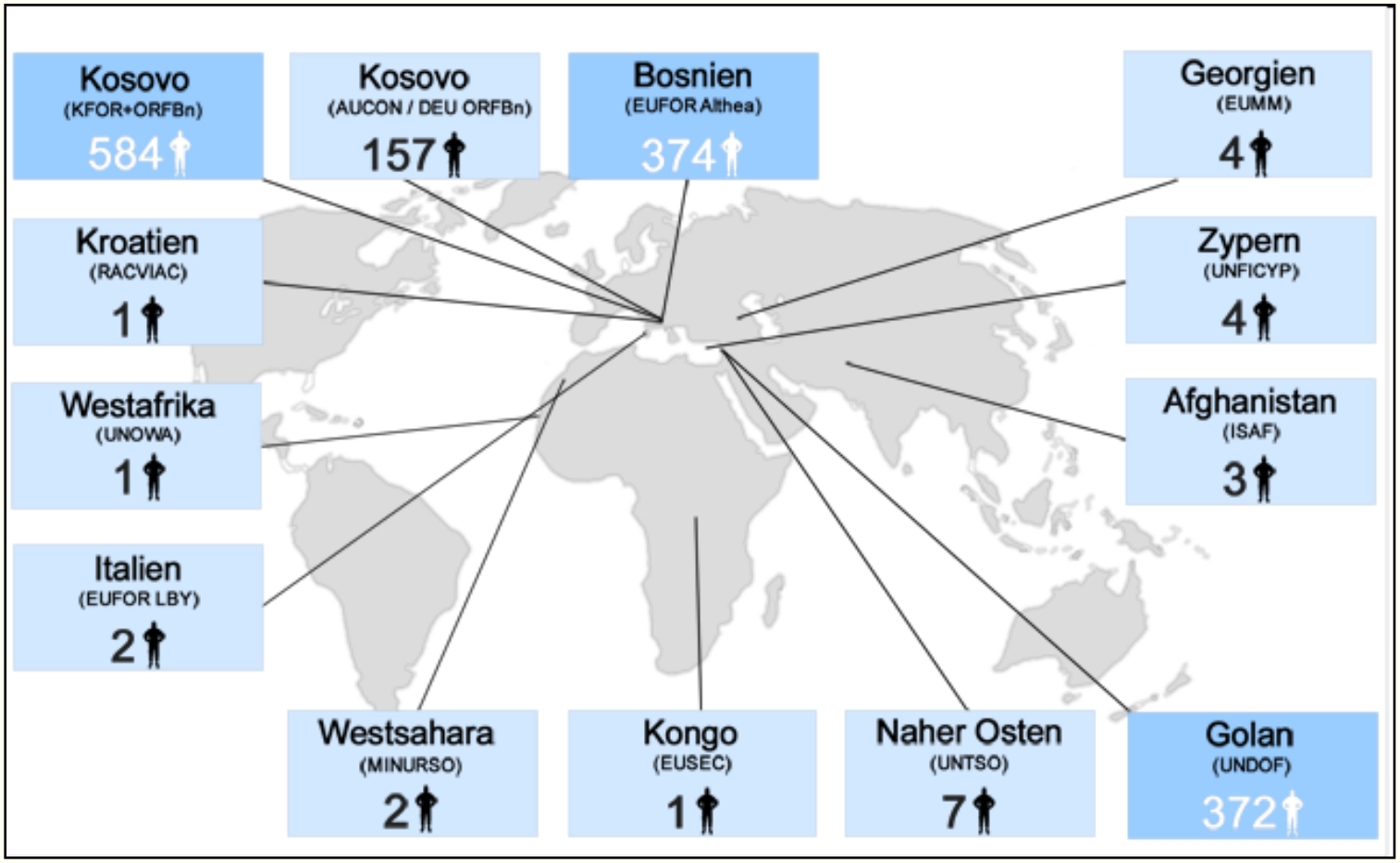


The Defence Language Cultural Awareness Policy

The Requirement ~ summarised:

Improved understanding, sensitivity, and appreciation of the histories, values and behaviours of a local population.

Austria‘s participation in missions abroad

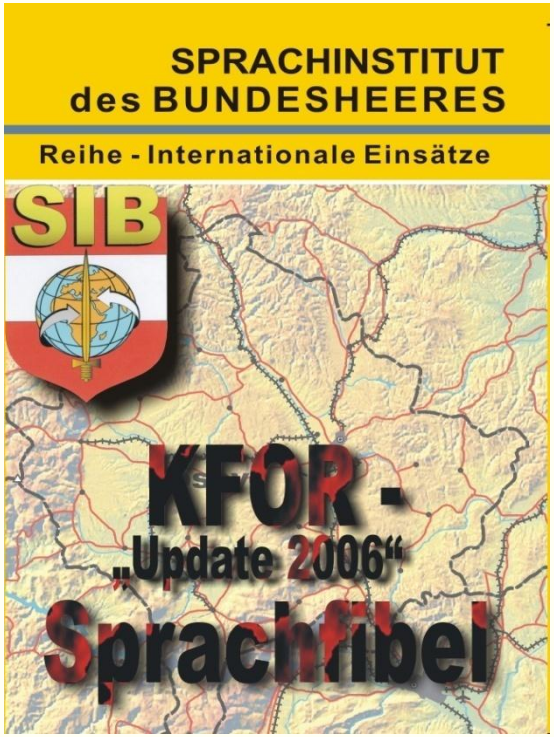


AAF Language Institute - Products

AAF Language Institute

Products:

Language survival books for service support



Language Training for Specific Purposes

- Tactical English Course
- Technical-logistical English Courses
- Legal English Seminar
- Air Operational Courses
- Cours Français Tactique
- Medical English Seminar
- Terminological support of SOC
- Preparation for CPXs

Tactical Language Training

INTRODUCTION TO STAFF PROCEDURES

Some procedures are not easy to understand…