Initial English Language Training for Controllers and Pilots

ENAC
Ecole Nationale de L’Aviation Civile
Toulouse, France
www.enac.fr
Presentation Outline

- Trainees – Controllers / Pilots
- Program Outlines - Controllers / Pilots
- Classroom Methodology
- Materials
- Testing - Controllers / Pilots
- Compliance with ICAO requirements
- Future Challenges
- Teacher Training
Controllers

- **ICNA** – controllers recruited specifically to work in larger airports / area control centres

- **TSEEAC** – controllers recruited to work in smaller airports for tower and ground control, or as ground movement controllers in larger airports

This presentation will deal with **ICNA** training though much of the methodology, materials and testing procedures are similarly applied in **TSEEAC** training.
Trainee Controllers (ICNA)

- Approximately 150 per year
- No aviation background required
- Education level of baccalauréat+2 (scientific)
- National competitive entrance exams (Concours)
- Maths, Physics, English and French (two stages: written / oral)
- English Entry Exam (final stage):
  - Speaking / Listening
  - ENAC / CEF (Common European Framework) descriptors
- Minimum pass level 3.5
- Should show potential to attain and maintain level 4 ICAO
Trainee Pilots (EPL)

- Approximately 60 per year
- No aviation background required
- Education level of baccalauréat+1 (scientific)
- National highly competitive entrance exams (Concours)
- Maths, Physics, English and Psychological Testing (three stages)
- English Entry Exam (final stage):
  - Speaking / Listening
  - (ENAC / CEF descriptors)
- Minimum pass level 3.5
- Should show potential to attain and maintain level 4 ICAO
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<tr>
<th>MOD1</th>
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- **MOD1**: 8 months
- **MOD2**: 4
- **MOD3**: 3
- **MOD4**: 3,5
- **MOD5**: 3
- **MOD6**: 6
- **MOD7**: 1,5
- **MOD8**: 1
- **MOD9**: From 3 to 18 months
- **MOD10**: FULL QUALIFICATION

**ENAC ENTRANCE**

**POST ASSIGNMENT**

**ENAC GRADUATION**

**FULL QUALIFICATION**

**ENAC MANAGEMENT**

**CONTROL FACILITY MANAGEMENT**
Controllers On the Job Training

Controllers receive **150 hours** of English language instruction in the **15 months** prior to post assignment.

After that English language instruction continues in their **Control Facilities**.

About **50** specialised language teachers work in control facilities across France providing their contribution to the ab initio as well as in-service training.
# Program Outline - Pilots

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<td>Ground School</td>
<td>Flight training</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>18 months</td>
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<td><strong>60 hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>150 hours</strong></td>
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SEFA Management
Classroom Methodology

- **Plain English** (phraseology taught and tested elsewhere)
- Concentrates on Speaking and Listening skills
- Lexical input on key areas
- Aeronautical / General English classes (for controllers)
- Small groups (8 controllers / 10-12 pilots)
- Self-study essential supplementary component (listening)
- Motivation seen as key to successful autonomous learning
- Listening and Pronunciation are main areas of difficulty
- Pronunciation particularly difficult to ‘fix quickly’
- Content Instruction in English recently introduced

Human Factors: Communication and Cultural Differences
Materials

- Recordings of routine live traffic
- Studio recordings of model pilot-controller dialogues
- Recordings of live traffic incidents (non-routine)
- Recordings of incident reports
- Interviews with aviation professionals
- A wide range of written documents
- Written accounts of incidents and returns on experience
- Videos on a wide range of topics of general interest to aviation professionals
Sources of Materials

- Internal links with ENAC staff
- Outside links with the aviation profession
- News and media sources
- Networks of Aviation English Teachers
  - ICAEA (International Civil Aviation English Association)
  - Flight English (web-based forum)
Testing of controllers

- Trainee Controllers tested at regular intervals
- ICAO rating scale used for all oral exams
- Level 4 is the minimum objective
- Higher levels are desirable outcomes
- In final testing (after 3 years) a level of 4+ required for ENAC diploma
- Trainees who fail may resit after remedial training
DGAC (French Civil Aviation Authority) requires trainees to pass FCL 1.200 exam
- Comprehension of written documents
- Comprehension of live traffic extracts
- Oral exam based on an in-flight situation

Tested by the ENAC also
- Listening / Speaking
- ICAO criteria used
- Not an official certification
- Most students pass - high levels of motivation
Compliance with ICAO Requirements

- ENAC graduation levels for controllers for at least the last ten years match the 2008 requirement (ICAO level 4)
- Examiners at the ENAC now using the ICAO rating scale for all oral exams (pilots and controllers)
- No major problems experienced in the use of the criteria
- **PELA** (Proficiency Test in English Language for Air Traffic Controllers), developed by Eurocontrol, used to certify controllers at the end of their training at the ENAC
- Examining teams comprise linguistic AND operational raters
  - [www.eurocontrol.int/humanfactors/public/standard_page/Pela.html](www.eurocontrol.int/humanfactors/public/standard_page/Pela.html)
  - Listening
  - Oral Interaction
Future Challenges

- Studying ways to further improve pronunciation teaching
- Rethink general/aeronautical division
- More rigorous testing (external checks)
- Increasing self-study component in order to free up class time for speaking
- Integrated computer-based materials project
- Shared language training for pilots and controllers
- New European Licence for all controllers (May 2010) will require a certified level 4 to obtain a student licence

this will require more intensive initial language training and much earlier certification of trainees
Teacher Training

- Training of ENAC teachers ‘on the job’
- Training courses organised at ENAC for teachers from the control facilities across France
- Expected worldwide growth in demand for Aviation English Teachers in response to ICAO requirements
- Sharing expertise – New ENAC course offered from 2007:

Instructing Aviation English (INSTAV)

john.kennedy@enac.fr
Instructing Aviation English

Aviation Background

An overview and a brief history of English language teaching in the aviation field.
An explanation of ICAO language proficiency requirements.
An introduction to the key aspects of Air Traffic Control for non specialists.
A description of the role of the pilot in civil aviation.
Training strategies to improve and maintain the language level of Air Traffic Controllers
Importance of effective communication in ensuring the safety of civil aviation.

Aviation English Teaching Methodology

Effective teaching of listening and pronunciation for clear and safe communications
Effective aviation topic-based teaching for useful and relevant speaking practice
Overview of aviation sources available for materials production.
Useful techniques for preparing motivating and effective lessons.
Constructing reliable and valid English language tests for aviation professionals.
Designing and presenting a series of lessons for aviation professionals
Language Studies Department

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