

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

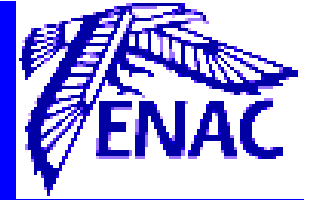
This presentation will deal with **ICNA** training though much of the methodology, materials and testing procedures are similarly applied in **TSEEAC** training

Trainee Controllers (ICNA)

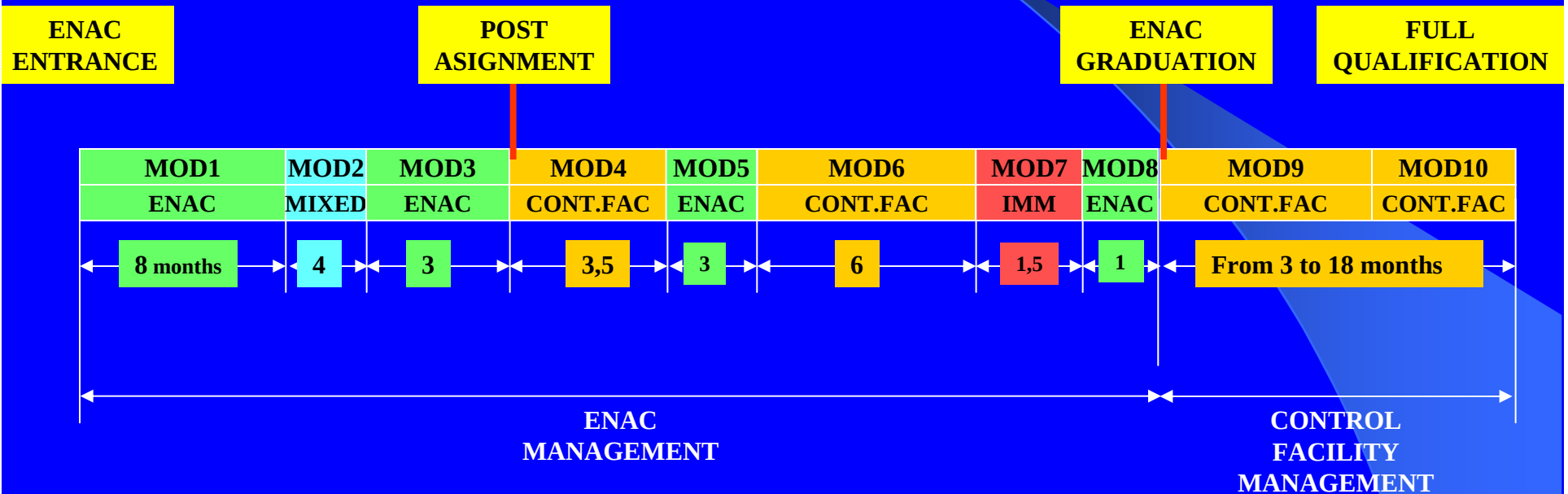
- Approximately 150 per year
- No aviation background required
- Education level of baccalauréat+2 (scientific)
- National competitive entrance exams (Concours)
- Maths, Physics, English and French (two stages: written / oral)
- English Entry Exam (final stage):
 - Speaking / Listening
 - ENAC / CEF (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



Program Outline - Controllers



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

<u>ENAC</u>	<u>SEFA</u>  SERVICE D'EXPLOITATION DE LA FORMATION AERONAUTIQUE
Ground School	Flight training
6 months	18 months
60 hours	150 hours

← 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

Testing of Pilots

→ **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

(www.aviation-civile.gouv.fr/html/prospace/exam/ecoles_formation/FCL1200)

Tested by the ENAC also

- Listening / Speaking
- ICAO criteria used
- Not an official certification
- Most students pass - high levels of motivation

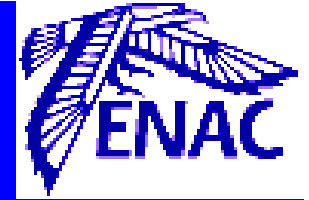
Compliance with ICAO Requirements

- 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)
 - 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

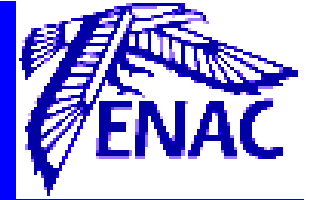


Teacher Training

- 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)

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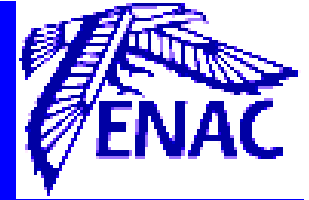
Instructing Aviation English

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



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