



## NATO STANAG 6001, Ed. 5

### OVERVIEW OF LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY LEVELS

This table is intended to assist in interpreting Standardized Language Profiles (SLPs) for job descriptions and positional requirements. These simplified level descriptors do not replace the full STANAG 6001 Level descriptors. Note that each higher level includes all the language abilities of the lower levels. For advice and assistance go to [www.natobilc.org](http://www.natobilc.org).

Level	Description	Examples of military tasks <sup>1</sup>
<b>1</b> <i>Survival</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Can understand/produce               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● simple, routine questions and answers</li> <li>● short phrases within familiar areas to meet immediate personal needs</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Can participate in simple, short conversations and email exchanges</li> <li>○ Misunderstandings are frequent</li> </ul>	Ask for basic information at a checkpoint, such as name, destination, and identification papers. Understand the gist of announcements, short radio messages and written notices. Perform familiar tasks such as at the doctor's, arranging transportation, providing first aid or writing a short note.
<b>2</b> <i>Functional</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Can understand/produce               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● language for everyday and routine work-related matters</li> <li>● factual accounts of events and activities in present, past and future time</li> <li>● detailed descriptions of people and places</li> <li>● straightforward instructions and directions</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Uses the language well enough to be generally understood</li> <li>○ May sound foreign, which sometimes interferes with communication</li> </ul>	Follow/give routine technical briefings, incident reports, and operating instructions. Escort foreign delegations and perform simple interpretation tasks to solve practical problems, such as travel itineraries and accommodation. Deal with familiar work situations and documents (orders, regulations, technical documentation). Use standard radio procedures and understand the main points of radio traffic about troop movement. Deliver/request information (e.g. about weather conditions) necessary to carry out assigned duties.
<b>3</b> <i>Professional</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Can understand/produce               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● formal and informal language for most social and professional situations, e.g. business meetings, conferences, reports on complex issues</li> <li>● well-structured language relating to abstract topics and hypotheses, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialization</li> <li>● detailed arguments for and against different opinions</li> <li>● language to convey implicit information, inferences, and emotional overtones</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Repetition is rarely requested, has a natural flow, without searching for words</li> <li>○ Is easily understood by native speakers.</li> </ul>	Take part in conversations and unplanned military discussions during formal meetings and protocol visits. Deal with unit specific problems, such as relating to logistics, personnel, financial issues, medical support. Perform a representative function, for example, as a military attaché. Carry out weapons inspections as part of a disarmament treaty. Teach in own area of expertise. Conduct/follow detailed briefings about complex military operations. Gather operational intelligence by interrogation. Extract strategic information from enemy radio traffic. Read between the lines to recognize deliberate ambiguities or indications of hostile intent.
<b>4</b> <i>Expert</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Can understand/produce               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● language appropriate for almost all topics, situations and purposes, e.g. negotiations, lectures/ position papers</li> <li>● language adapted to specific audiences</li> <li>● precise and efficient language for all professional purposes, for persuasion and for elaborations on highly abstract topics</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Demonstrates a vast vocabulary, and the ability to understand/ express subtleties, nuances and culturally appropriate references</li> <li>○ Language use reflects the socio-cultural standards of the country or area where the language is natively spoken</li> </ul>	Serve as the spokesperson responsible for press releases and press conferences requiring nuanced, culturally appropriate communications necessary to win support for national or NATO policies or actions. Take an active part in discussions on highly complex or sensitive topics requiring socio-cultural background knowledge. Act as an arbiter between warring factions during a delicate peace keeping assignment. Analyse the real communicative intent of diplomatic pronouncements.
<b>5</b> <i>Highly articulate native</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In every respect language use is equivalent to that of a highly articulate, well-educated native speaker</li> </ul>	

<sup>1</sup> Some military tasks require specialized training in addition to language proficiency