

TIME ON TASK

In the United States, most military personnel have not studied their target language previously. Therefore, they begin language study at Level 0. Experience shows that Americans require the following amount of training time to move through the proficiency scale.

Language Category		I	II	III	IV
Examples		French Spanish Dutch	German Romanian Indonesian	Russian Turkish Persian	Arabic Korean Chinese
Weeks from	0 to 2	25	34	47	63
	2 to 2 ⁺	18	26	36	47
	2 ⁺ to 3*	18	26	36	47

*The U.S. normally finds that training alone will not bring a student to Level 3. Some experience using the language on the job and/or in the target culture is also required.

Instruction in the U.S. includes 30 hours of classroom time per week along with approximately 3 hours of homework each night.

The European experience may vary significantly because of a greater emphasis on language learning in the national programs of general education and because of greater opportunities to communicate with native speakers.