NATO English for Military Planners (NEMP)

An English for Specific Purposes course for military officers briefing mission analysis and courses of action

Jacqueline Anwar, Swedish Defence University Language Centre

The communication need

NATO staff officers must convey planning analysis to commanders in concise English. They need to explain implications, compare options and recommend a course of action.

Officers also need to use terms accurately and build a shared understanding of NATO planning concepts.

Target learners

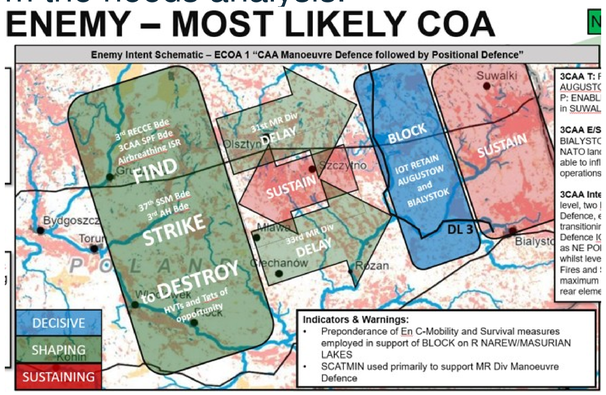
Military officers who use English as an additional language and are preparing for NATO staff roles at higher tactical or operational level.

They need to deliver formal Mission Analysis and Course of Action briefings. Required STANAG 6001 proficiency: Level 2+ to 3 in listening, speaking, reading and writing.

From needs to language tasks

1 Identify target language use

NATO exercise briefing observations, expert interviews and a pre-course questionnaire inform the needs analysis.



Authentic COA briefing slide examined during needs analysis

2 Explore authentic language use

Officers examine authentic orders and doctrine, practise mission task verbs and compare their effects.

3 Apply language in a scenario

Groups develop two COAs for a fictional force-protection mission, assessing constraints, risk and resources.

4 Brief and respond

They brief a command audience, justify a recommendation and answer questions. Teachers give language feedback.

What officers practise

EXPLAIN THE "SO WHAT?"

Link a finding to its operational implication for the commander.

CONVEY ANALYSIS AND RECOMMEND

Present advantages, limitations and risk, then state a justified recommendation.

NEGOTIATE MEANING

Clarify terms, test understanding and put forward a viewpoint in group planning.



NEMP at SWEDINT, March 2026. Course teachers: Jacqueline Anwar, Orla Fehrling and Emma Forsgren Hurst.

Teaching principle Planning tasks create a need for accurate terminology, clear briefing structure and purposeful interaction.

NATO lexicons and terminology: APP-28 Land Tactical Planning · Comprehensive Operations Planning Directive · Allied Joint Publications (Land, Maritime, Air) · AAP-06 · NATO term database (NATOTerm)