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ОСОБЛИВОСТІ ЗАСТОСУВАННЯ ПЛАТФОРМИ ДИСТАНЦІЙНОГО НАВЧАННЯ NATO JOINT ADVANCED DISTRIBUTED LEARNING (JADL) ДЛЯ ПІДВИЩЕННЯ КВАЛІФІКАЦІЇ ВІЙСЬКОВОСЛУЖБОВЦІВ ТА ФАХІВЦІВ З ОХОРОНИ КОРДОНУ

Анотація. У статті звертається увагу на підтримку та сприяння експертами НАТО в розробці освітніх програм курсів професійної військової освіти. Розглянуто дистанційні курси навчання в рамках програми удосконалення військової освіти НАТО DEEP-Ukraine. Визначено, що перевагами DEEP є використання симуляторів, віртуальної реальності та інших моделюючих засобів, що дозволяє максимально наблизити навчання до реальних умов бойових дій. Встановлено, що дистанційне навчання військовослужбовців та фахівців з охорони кордону в країнах НАТО допомагає підтримувати високий рівень підготовки та готовності військових сил, забезпечуючи при цьому гнучке навчання військового персоналу. Розкрито поняття «STANAG 2591» в освітньому онлайн середовищі, що загалом інтерпретується як стандарт НАТО, який визначає вимоги до розробки та розповсюдження електронних навчальних курсів та матеріалів для військового навчання. Зважаючи, що STANAG 2591, відповідають визначеним стандартам якості та інтероперабельності уможливорює обмін навчальними ресурсами між різними країнами та організаціями, сприяючи спільному навчанню та обміну знаннями в рамках НАТО. Досліджено, що платформа STANAG 2591 відповідає платформі Joint Advanced Distributed Learning (JADL), яка є системою для навчання та підготовки військовослужбовців та фахівців з охорони кордону, метою якої є забезпечення ефективного та гнучкого навчання, що враховує специфічні потреби даної галузі. Надано усі необхідні покрокові дії щодо використання JADL: реєстрації на платформі NATO Joint Advanced Distributed Learning, доступу до онлайн-курсів ADL. Висвітлено короткий опис можливих курсів й представлено у вказаному порядку: номер курсу (курси розташовані за номерами ADL, PCS або ETOC), категорія / організація – курси розміщені за категорією, до якої вони належать (тобто, власник НАТО), а потім назвою курсу, дисципліна – курси розташовані за дисципліною, до якої вони належать.

Ключові слова: дистанційне навчання; військова освіта; військовослужбовець; фахівці з охорони кордону; платформа; Joint Advanced Distributed Learning; НАТО; гнучке навчання.

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THE FEATURES OF THE NATO JOINT ADVANCED DISTRIBUTED LEARNING (JADL) DISTANCE LEARNING PLATFORM FOR ADVANCED TRAINING OF MILITARY PERSONNEL AND BORDER GUARD SPECIALISTS

Abstract. The article draws attention to the support and assistance of NATO experts in the development of educational programs for professional military education courses. Distance learning courses within the framework of the NATO Defense Education Enhancement Program (DEEP-Ukraine) are considered. It is determined that the advantages of DEEP are the usage of simulators, virtual reality and other modeling tools, which allows to bring training as close as possible to real combat conditions. It is established that distance learning for military personnel and border security experts in NATO countries helps to maintain a high level of training and readiness of military forces, while providing flexible training for military personnel. The concept of "STANAG 2591" in the online educational environment is revealed, which is generally interpreted as a NATO standard that defines the requirements for the development and distribution of electronic training courses and materials for military training. Taken into consideration, that STANAG 2591 meets certain quality and interoperability standards, it enables the exchange of learning resources between different countries and organizations, promoting joint learning and knowledge sharing within NATO. It has been found that the STANAG 2591 platform is consistent with the Joint Advanced Distributed Learning (JADL) platform, which is a system for education and training of military personnel and border security experts, which aims to provide effective and flexible training that takes into account the specific needs of the industry. All the necessary step-by-step actions for using JADL are provided: registration on the NATO Joint Advanced Distributed Learning platform, access to online ADL courses. A brief description of the possible courses is provided and presented in the following order: course number (courses are arranged by ADL, PCS or ETOC numbers), category/organization - courses are arranged by the category to which they belong (i.e., NATO owner), followed by the course title, discipline - courses are arranged by the discipline to which they belong.

Keywords: distance learning; military education; military personnel; border security experts; platform; Joint Advanced Distributed Learning; NATO; flexible learning.

Statement of the problem. At the current stage of transformation of the military education system, work is underway to ensure that the regulatory framework for the professional training of military personnel in the security and defence sector meets NATO standards. Advisers and experts from NATO countries provide expert advice and assistance in reforming the military education system. Particularly noteworthy is support for teacher training, assistance in developing curricula for professional military education courses, including distance learning courses, within the framework of the NATO DEEP-Ukraine programme [1].

Analysis of recent research and publications. Over the last 12 years, online learning (e-Learning) has rapidly increased throughout the world. From a few revolutionary scholars just experimenting with this notion, to its widely accepted use in academia and industry, e-Learning is transforming the education frontier. Not only has this concept exploded within prestigious academic institutions, but it has grown exponentially in the commercial sector too, with companies transitioning from in-person training methods to e-Learning formats because of the significant reduction in costs, but more importantly, the higher degree of employee satisfaction and retention.

The distance learning technologies use, as well as the technical, pedagogical, technological and organizational features of its implementation, have been the subject of research by foreign and ukrainian scholars. From XXI century, researchers of the problem of distance learning technologies use noted their possibilities for the educational process, particularly in conditions when the provision of educational services should be flexible and adaptive to the needs of students.

NATO nations continue to experiment with, and adapt to online education and training. NATO is also involved in groups, such as the NATO Training Group (Individual Training & Educations Developments Working Group), the ADL Partnership and the Partners for Peace Consortium ADL Working Group. Only by working together, and sharing resources and courses, can we achieve our goals of delivering high quality, online courseware to our customers, using the best technology available.

Nowadays we live in times when students (military personnel and border guard specialists) demand access via their own devices, such as mobiles, tablets, and computers, and requesting courses media rich with videos, animations and narration. New immersive technology, with virtual and augmented reality, are becoming available, and our goal is to investigate, experiment, and where justified, push the window of what NATO can achieve [3].

The war in Ukraine has led to destabilisation in many aspects of public life. One of the most vulnerable sectors has been education, which has not had time to stabilise after being tested by the global pandemic. Educational institutions, forced to adapt to restrictions and threats, have faced the challenge of ensuring the safety, reliability and accessibility of education in the most difficult conditions.

The purpose of the article is to define the main features of the NATO Joint Advanced Distributed Learning (JADL) distance learning platform for advanced training of military personnel and border guard specialists.

Summary of the main research material. The Defence Education Enhancement Programme (DEEP) is a reform instrument that provides tailored practical support to individual countries in the development and reform of their defence education institutions. Ukraine has been a member of DEEP since March 2013. The key aspects of DEEP-Ukraine are the adaptation and implementation of modern curricula that meet NATO standards, the development of leadership skills among military personnel and border guard specialists, ensuring the compatibility of national standards with NATO standards, partnership and exchange of experience with other countries, and increasing the readiness of the Armed Forces of Ukraine to respond to challenges and threats in the modern world [1].

Through activities aimed at enhancing the professionalism of teaching staff, developing their pedagogical experience, designing special educational programmes and other consultations, DEEP contributes to the development of defence capabilities and the development of the military education system.

The experience of training military personnel and border guard specialists in accordance with NATO standards suggests that their advantages are the use of innovative technologies and approaches in the educational process, including the use of simulators, virtual reality and other modelling tools. This makes it possible to bring training as close as possible to real combat conditions and ensures more effective training of military personnel. In addition, the use of such technologies, including distance learning technologies, reduces the cost of training and improves the effectiveness of training.

Under the auspices of NATO's Defence Education Enhancement Programme (DEEP), the first virtual meeting was held in November 2020 to share best practices of professional military education institutions in the use of online distance learning platforms in response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic [2].

Distance learning for military personnel and border guard specialists in NATO countries helps to maintain a high level of training and readiness of military forces, while facilitating efficient and flexible training of military personnel and border guard specialists.

The NATO Standardisation Agreement STANAG 2591 (Distance Learning) was developed by the NATO Training Group to ensure that NATO and nations develop courses that are interoperable and can be easily shared between learning content management systems. This STANAG is overseen by the Joint Military Committee Standardisation Board (MCJS) and the NATO Training Group (NTG) under the guidance of the Joint Military Committee Standardisation Board (JMSB). The purpose of this NATO Standardisation Agreement (STANAG) is to establish a standardised procedure for the development of content and courses for distance education and training for NATO education and training centres and similar centres in NATO and partner countries.

STANAG 2591 is a NATO standard that specifies requirements for the development and distribution of e-learning courses and materials for military training. It sets out rules for creating learning resources that are interoperable, meaning they can be easily shared and used between different learning management systems.

STANAG 2591 helps to ensure that the courses and materials developed for NATO military training meet defined standards of quality and interoperability. It enables the exchange of training resources between different nations and organisations, which contributes to joint training and knowledge sharing within NATO.

The NATO Joint Advanced Distributed Learning (JADL) Platform is a system for the education and training of military personnel and other defence and security organisations in an international context. The platform is designed to facilitate the education and training of individuals working in the military and aims to provide effective and flexible learning that meets the specific needs of this industry (Figure 1) [4].



Fig. 1. Screenshot of the NATO Joint Advanced Distributed Learning (JADL) platform home page

The platform uses versions of SCORM 1.2 and 2004 (Shareable Content Object Reference Model is a set of technical standards and specifications for the creation and management of e-learning courses and content; defines the structure and formats that allow learning systems to integrate different types of learning resources and exchange them between different learning management systems). NATO is also working to ensure the adoption of new standards, such as xAPI, as soon as they become more mature. NATO also offers an e-learning training course twice a year at the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany. This three-week course (1 week online, 2 weeks resident) covers all aspects of e-learning design, development and implementation.

To register for the NATO Joint Advanced Distributed Learning platform, you need a NATO military, government or official email address. If you do not have a military or official government e-mail address, a sponsor from a NATO organisation or NATO command structure is required to verify that the training is for the benefit of NATO.

To access ADL's online courses, you must first create a JADL account. Registration can take up to two business days (registration processing). During this period, you will not be able to access the courses. However, once your account is activated, you will receive a password and a confirmation email from the JADL system administrator.

To access the JADL homepage, please visit the JADL homepage in your web browser at <https://jidl.act.nato.int>. For optimal performance, it is best to use Microsoft Edge browser at your workplace and/or Google Chrome browser on your personal computer. Other useful links are available on the homepage in the menu bar: News, Frequently Asked Questions, Course Catalogue, and Contacts (Figure 2).

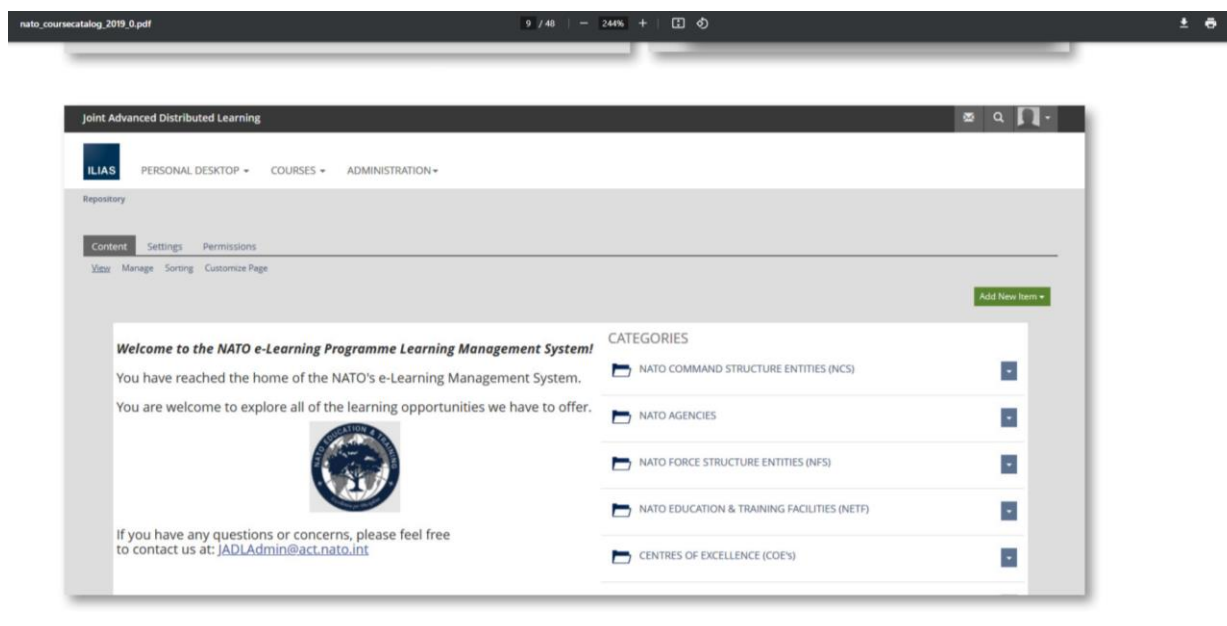


Fig. 2. Screenshot of the NATO Joint Advanced Distributed Learning (JADL) platform home page

There are several options to find a specific course. To use the search tool on our landing page after logging in or the search function on the top navigation bar just enter the course number. For example: to find the course "ADL 336 BUILDING INTEGRITY (BI) AWARENESS COURSE", it would be enough enter only "336".

A course catalogue in PDF format is available on the home page.

The JADL platform provides access to a variety of training courses, materials and resources designed to educate military personnel and border guard specialists.

To make it easier to find courses on the JADL Platform, a catalogue is published that contains a current list of courses available to NATO, NATO National Delegations and partners (Figure 3). As this list changes frequently, it encourages users to visit the Joint Applied Diplomacy Leadership (JADL) website at <https://jatl.act.nato.int> for the most up-to-date listings of e-learning courses.



Fig. 3. Screenshot of the catalogue page of the distance learning courses hosted on the NATO Joint Advanced Distributed Learning (JADL) platform

The list of courses and their descriptions is presented in the following order:

course number – courses are arranged by ADL, PCS or ETOC numbers; the user is presented with the course title, a brief description of the course and an estimate of the time required to complete the course;

category/organisation – courses are arranged by the category they belong to (i.e. NATO holder) and then the course name; to find the correct course, it is necessary to browse the alphabetical field and enter the course number. return to the list of course numbers to find the information you need to access the course;

discipline – courses are arranged by the discipline to which they belong; to find your course in this list, you need to look through the alphabetical list of disciplines and enter the course number (Figure 4).

List by Course Number

ADL # ETOC #	Course Title	Course Description	Time (Hours)
ADL 001	Kick-start to ADL	This course provides an overview of the ADL Initiative's vision, history, goals, and major activities.	2
ADL 004 MEG-ME-11709	Critical Infrastructure Awareness	This course provides information on current and prospective strategic-level issues related to critical infrastructure protection (CIP).	3
ADL 007 MSP-IS-21854	HQ Resolute Support V2.0	The target audience for this course is personnel deploying to RS HQ in Kabul. Resolute Support Basic Course must be completed before attempting this course.	11
ADL 009	Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (v2.0)	This course deals with the widespread problem of trafficking in human beings (THB) and presents ways to combat that special field of organized crime. It presents applicable NATO policy and describes trafficking's impact on NATO-led operations.	2
ADL 012	Introduction to International Humanitarian Law	This course introduces participants to the legal and international humanitarian law issues involved in military operations.	10
ADL 013	Maritime Functional Area Services Pre-Study Course	This pre-study course provides basic knowledge about Maritime Functional Services.	12
ADL 014	MCCIS Pre-Study Material	This pre-study course provides the basic knowledge about MCCIS and issues required for the necessary input standard for this course.	3

Fig. 4. Screenshot of the catalogue page with the names of distance learning courses posted on the NATO Joint Advanced Distributed Learning (JADL) platform

As for EU border guard professionals, here is a brief description of the courses they can study according to the content and specifics of their professional activities.

The ADL 009 Advanced Counter-Trafficking in Persons (Version 2.0) course addresses the widespread problem of human trafficking and suggests ways to combat this specialised branch of organised crime. It explains NATO policy in this area and describes the impact of trafficking in human beings on NATO-led operations.

ADL 012 Introduction to International Humanitarian Law introduces participants to the legal and international humanitarian law issues related to military operations.

ADL 015 "Human Trafficking: Causes, Consequences, Countermeasures" provides an overview of the causes and consequences of various types of human trafficking - sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, child trafficking and illicit trafficking in human organs - and suggests strategies to address them.

ADL 039 Enhancing English Language Training (ELTEC) aims to learn military terminology and expressions for special situations; provides practice in active listening to native and non-native speakers in a variety of scenarios, such as understanding what is expected of individuals during telephone conversations; and provides practical tips and strategies for effective telephone communication.

ADL 043 Security Policy, International Relations and Information Technology (SPIRIT) examines the relationship between international politics/policies and modern information technology. It also provides basic knowledge of Internet search tools and techniques.

ADL 131, Introduction to the Comprehensive Operations Planning Directive (COPD), provides an understanding of COPD for personnel at all levels of operations who are involved in or will use COPD and its intermediate products.

ADL 132 Strategic Course on Comprehensive Operations Planning (SCOPC). This course prepares officers to engage in strategic planning. It covers Section 3, the Strategic Level of the Comprehensive Operations Planning Directive (COPD).

ADL 186 Introduction to Military Police Doctrine. The purpose of this course is to introduce the role, functions, activities and tasks of NATO Military Police.

The ADL 218 Cyber Hygiene course was developed as part of a joint initiative between the Ministries of Defence of Estonia and Latvia. The course includes a short test.

The PCS 066 Law of Armed Conflict (LAC) course aims to provide military, civilian legal advisers, commanders and staff officers in national or NATO positions with an understanding of the legal aspects of armed conflict and to enable them to fulfil their country's obligations to comply with international legal instruments governing the use of force and the treatment of persons in the context of all types of military operations, including those involving international cooperation.

Upon completion of the course, you will be given the opportunity to complete mandatory tests and surveys and gain access to a certificate of completion. The certificate is generated by the system and will be

available for download after the "Learning Progress" indicator changes to green. If the indicator has any colour other than green, it means that the course is not complete yet (Fig. 5).



Fig. 5. Screenshot of the NATO Joint Advanced Distributed Learning (JADL) platform page with the status of the course (learning progress)

Conclusions and Prospects for Further Research. Thus, distance learning for military personnel, border guard specialists and staff in EU countries is aimed at maintaining a high level of professional competence and readiness to perform assigned tasks. In accordance with NATO STANAG 2591, which defines the requirements for the development and distribution of e-learning courses and materials for training military personnel, border guard specialists and establishes rules for creating learning resources for personnel interoperability, the NATO Joint Advanced Distributed Learning (JADL) Platform has been developed. It provides education and training for NATO security and defence personnel and offers a wide range of courses for effective and flexible distance learning, including for EU border guards. The JADL platform provides competencies for border guard staff that cannot be developed through open online platforms. To register, you need to have an official government email address or an official recommendation from a NATO representative or NATO command structure to confirm the possibility of training in the interests of the Alliance.

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