National Virtual Translation Center (NVTC)

Interagency Language Roundtable Plenary Session
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The National Virtual Translation Center (NVTC) was established in February, 2003 for the purpose of providing timely and accurate translations in support of national security.

Be prepared to provide translation services to:

- IC
- DoD
- Warfighter
- Homeland Security

*NVTC operates under the Executive Agency of the FBI*
NVTC Characteristics

- Government agency that sometimes acts like a company
- Customers come from outside the organization
- Mixture of NVTC funding and customer funding
- Surge as needed to meet customer demand
- Most linguists are contractors
Trends

- Volume of requests
  - Overall NVTC growth
- Type of service requested
- Source, target languages
- Time period covered
  - Event-driven requests
NVTC Production FY08-FY10

NVTC Growth Analysis
FY08 - FY10

Unclassified Jobs
FY08 = 3,219
FY09 = 5,266
FY10 = 24,143

Classified Jobs
FY08 = 841
FY09 = 16,247
FY10 = 19,423

Total Jobs
FY08 = 4,060
FY09 = 21,513
FY10 = 43,566
Total Number of Languages

Total Language Count
FY08 - FY10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language Count by FY</th>
<th>Source Languages</th>
<th>Target Languages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY08</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY09</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY10</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Source Languages

FY 2008

FY 2009

FY 2010

NOTE: Chart only displays the top ten source languages.
Target Languages

NOTE: Chart only displays the top ten target languages.
Current Language Needs

- **Classified translation**
  - Continue search for cleared translators
  - Continue maintaining/developing network of secure facilities

- **Unclassified translation**
  - Requiring more finished documents not just raw data for analysis
  - Demand for faster service while maintaining accuracy

- **Language Resources**
  - “Common” languages still in demand
  - Low-resource languages also needed
    - African languages in particular
  - Recruiting independent linguists/managing language contracts
  - Translation into foreign languages increasing
    - Cultural precision is mandatory
Available Resources

- **Independent Contract Linguists**
  - “Fuzzy slipper” model
  - Long lead time

- **Government Employees**
  - Detailees
  - Language Positions

- **Other Government Agencies**

- **Contracts with Language Service Providers**
  - Eight via GSA
  - One set-aside
Contracting via GSA

- **Companies must have GSA schedule already in place**
- **Streamlined acquisition**
  - GSA provides template for solicitations
  - Blanket Purchase Agreements issued
- **Buyer can ask for discounts off GSA published rates**
Contract Management

- NVTC requests solicitations and makes awards
- Responsible for:
  - Making assignments
  - Tracking adherence to NVTC specific SOW
  - Monitoring performance
  - Providing feedback to contractor
  - Providing feedback to GSA
  - Reviewing and processing invoices
Benefits

- Allows the NVTC to access multiple vendors
- Can add new companies if need arises
- Provides flexible alternative to hiring employees

Drawback

- Not all languages listed on GSA schedule
- Cannot avoid open market items
Comparison

❖ NVTC
- Provides access to a wide range of vetted linguists
- Handles contract solicitations and award
- Provides day-to-day management and oversight for contracts (slide 12)
- Can pay some small projects out of its own funding
- Government agencies can transfer funds for larger projects (Economy Act letters/MIPRs)

❖ GSA
- Provides access to a wide range of linguists and other language services
- Two ways to use GSA
  - Direct Order – Agency works solicitation
  - Assisted Services – GSA handles it working in concert with the customer
- Provides free CLP training on how to use their services