



# One Hell of a Year

A Retrospective by the Translating Division,  
Office of Language Services (LS), US  
Department of State  
ILR T&I Committee – December 11, 2020

Conferences  
Galore!





More  
Travel  
than Ever!





# Total Suite Refurbishment!



# Perpetual Party!





# One REAL Hell of a Year

A Retrospective by the Translating Division



## Before the quarantine: three key gatherings

- Life cycle of the LS/T Contractor
- All-hands meeting with the Treaty Office
- Seminar on audio translation

THESE THREE MEETINGS ALL FED  
INTO THE LS/T STRATEGIC PLAN

# March 2020: Adjusting to a new way of working

- All 26 LS/T staffers were teleworking 100% by the end of March 2020
  - LS/T telework goes back to 1997
  - Major expansion after c. 2012
  - F/T teleworkers in Austin, San Antonio, LA, Tokyo, and Halifax
- Connectivity conundrums and fob foils
- EMDs (GO Desktop) for 7 LS/T staffers in April 2020 (more are on the way)
- Suite access still needed for classified work
- Maintaining ClassNet access can be a challenge
- More USG iPhones (Fall 2020)



# COVID-related work

- Medical journal articles Chinese to English
- Italian news reports
- POCs with NIH and CDC
- Countering disinformation on COVID
- Video for custodial staff - Spanish
- IVLP alumni video – Arabic
- Vaccine notices



FATIMAH ALZAHRA, MOROCCO



Lots of  
comparisons –  
but no  
comparison





# Outreach continues

- MIIS
  - MIIS meet-up Tokyo (Feb)
  - MIIS Job Fair (Mar)
- AATIA
  - “Getting at that Text” (May)
  - AATIA Job Fair (Sep)
- Princeton University
  - Lecture for a course by Dr. Bellos (Aug)
- ATA: 7 staffers attend from LS/T
  - Address to PM Special Interest Group (Oct)
  - Session: “Diplomatic Terms” (Oct)
- Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR)
  - “Business as Usual in Unusual Times” (Dec)







# Continuing education

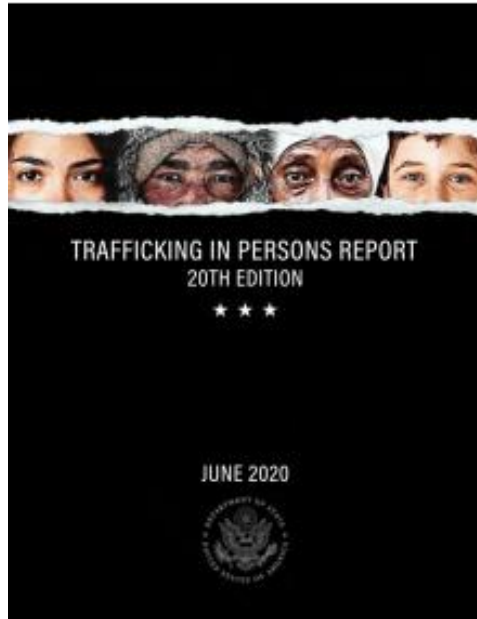
INL/ABA International Law course

ATA and NCATA Webinars

TAUS

InDesign

Project Management



# Annual reports on track

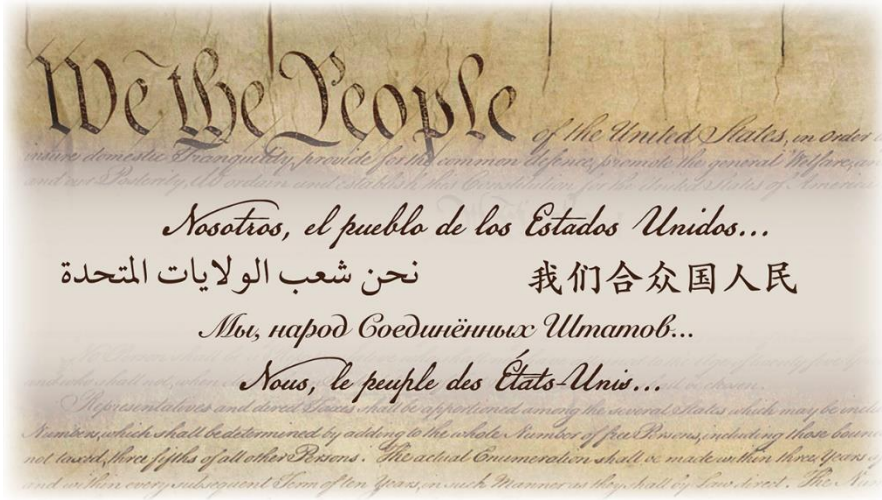
- 2019 Human Rights Reports (HRRs)
- 2019 International Religious Freedom (IRF) Reports
- 2020 Trafficking in Persons (TIP)
- 2020 Child Labor (Labor Department)



- Office of Legal Adviser files submissions with international tribunals every few years
- Direct LS project management (after years of delegation)
- Biggest filing ever: 1.5 million words
- Two-month deadline (client cut two months off the original deadline)
- LLD = small roster
- 20 translators recruited – onboarding vehicle for surge work
- 3-stage QC process
- Deadline met!

## International Claims





# Commission on Unalienable Rights

(SecState tweet in March 2020)

- Documents of American Democracy
- Secretary's Report



**Secretary Pompeo** @SecPompeo · Mar 2

Delighted that the Commission on Unalienable Rights has launched a project to make America's founding documents more available. We're translating these enduring writings into a variety of languages for the people of the world, starting with the Declaration of Independence.

239

960

3.1K

# Virtual G7 Speakers' Meeting



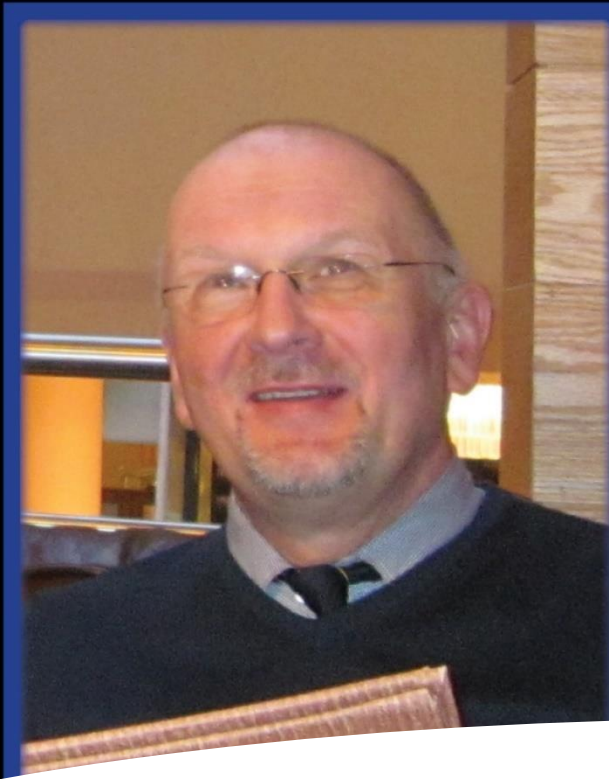
SEPTEMBER 12, 2020  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



# Technological advances

- Streamlined Term Base Management
- Pilot SYSTRAN and Trados Neural Machine (NMT) Translation Programs
- Expanded use of Computer Assisted Translation (CAT) tools on staff – Six Task Forces to coordinate:
  - Workflow
  - Training
  - Rates
  - Monitoring Progress
  - Term Base (TB) and Translation Memory (TM) maintenance
  - Multilingual DTP + CAT tools
- Major push for building an automated staff Translation Memory
- Pilot Lilt NMT Program (pending)
- First PM support for a virtual conference (ARCENT Land Forces Intelligence Conference)
- Previewed two remote testing platforms





# Staffing advances

- Branch Chief
- French Translator
- Visiting French Translator
- New Project Manager (from MILS, former intern)
- Two Project Managers moved from freelance to staffing contract

# Awards



- Two honorable mentions at A/OPR Quarterly Meeting
- A Group Award for Romance Branch
- One individual award for LS/T
- One nomination for One Team Award
- One honorable mention for A/OPR most memorable project





# New frontiers

- Next geopolitical hotspot: The Arctic Region  
Norwegian, Icelandic, Russian, Faroese...Greenlandic?
- Belarus erupts







Thank you!

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*MERCI*    감사합니다

*GRAZIE*    謝謝    *DANKE*

*OBRIGADO*    شكراً

*SALAMAT*    *GRACIAS*

*EYXAPIΣΤΩ*    *DZIĘKUJĘ*