

## **National Security Language Initiative (NSLI)**

**The U.S. Department of Education  
The U.S. Department of State  
The U.S. Department of Defense  
The Office of the Director of National Intelligence**

The National Security Language Initiative is designed to dramatically increase the number of Americans learning critical need foreign languages such as Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Hindi, Farsi, and others through new and expanded programs from kindergarten through university and into the workforce. An essential component of U.S. national security in the post-9/11 world is the ability to engage foreign governments and peoples, especially in critical regions, to encourage reform, promote understanding, convey respect for other cultures and provide an opportunity to learn more about America and its citizens. To do this, Americans must be able to communicate in other languages, a challenge for which most citizens are totally unprepared.

To address these needs, under the direction of the President of the United States, the Secretaries of State, Education and Defense, and the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) have developed a comprehensive national plan to expand U.S. foreign language education beginning in early childhood (kindergarten) and continuing throughout formal schooling and into the workforce with new programs and resources.

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Department of Education and its partners will focus resources toward educating students, teachers and government workers in critical need foreign languages, such as Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean, and increasing the number of advanced-level speakers in those and other languages. The Department of Education's FY 2007 budget proposal will include \$57 million for this initiative, a \$35 million increase over FY 2006.

- **The Foreign Language Assistance Program**

The Department of Education is proposing \$24 million to create incentives to teach and study critical need languages in K-12 by refocusing the Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) grants. The program will be redesigned to target critical needs languages and replicate the spread of innovative foreign language programs in critical needs languages, especially those that use technology.

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- **Advancing America Through Foreign Language Partnerships**

Twenty-four school districts in partnership with colleges and universities will create programs in critical need languages in 2007 through a proposed \$24 million Department of Education program. The program will likely expand to additional schools in future years to ultimately build continuous programs of study from kindergarten through university.

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- **Language Teacher Corps**

The Department of Education is proposing \$5 million to create a Language Teacher Corps with the goal of having 1,000 new foreign language teachers in our schools before the end of the decade. The program would offer Americans with proficiencies in critical languages opportunities to serve the nation by teaching languages in our nation's elementary and secondary schools.

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- **E-Learning Language Clearinghouse**

A proposed \$1 million nationwide Department of Education E-Learning Language Clearinghouse would deliver foreign language education resources to teachers and students across the country. This Clearinghouse would provide a central repository for schools, teachers, and the public to find materials and web-based programs in critical needs languages developed by national resource centers, K-12 instructional programs, institutions of higher education and agencies of the federal government.

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- **Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative**

The Department of Education would expand Teacher-to-Teacher seminars through a proposed \$3 million effort to reach thousands of foreign language teachers. The program will seek to improve the quality of foreign language instruction in middle and high schools by featuring accomplished classroom teachers and language specialists who will provide instruction in research-based strategies and promising practices.

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## DEPARTMENT OF STATE PROGRAMS

State Department programs will provide new opportunities for American high school students, undergraduates and graduate students to study critical need languages abroad, and will strengthening foreign language teaching in the U.S. through exchanges and professional development. President Bush has requested \$115 million in FY 2007 for the NSLI, of which \$26.7 million will support programs managed by the Department of State.

**U.S. Fulbright Student Program:** Will provide up to six months of intensive language training in Turkic, Indic, and Arabic language countries as an add-on before the normal Fulbright grant period begins. Open to Americans applying for the Fulbright student program in selected countries where critical need languages are spoken.

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- *Visit:* <http://us.fulbrightonline.org> or [www.iie.org](http://www.iie.org)

**Intensive Summer Language Institutes:** Will award scholarships for intensive overseas summer language institutes for beginning, intermediate, and advanced study in Arabic, Indic, and Turkic languages in 2006. Institutes in Chinese, Russian and Persian will be added in 2007. Open to American undergraduate and graduate students.

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**Gilman Scholarships:** Will provide financial support to pursue overseas study in critical need languages in semester or one-year programs for college credit. Open to American undergraduates who are Pell grant recipients (financially-needy).

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**Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants:** Will provide teaching assistants in critical need languages to U.S. universities, colleges, and high schools by bringing native speaking teachers to the United States for one academic year at the beginning of their careers.

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**Teacher Exchange:** Will provide critical need language teachers to U.S. secondary schools by bringing native speaking teachers to the United States for one academic year. Will provide American teachers in critical need languages opportunities for intensive summer study abroad. Teachers of Chinese and Arabic will participate in 2006, and Russian, Turkic, and Indic language teachers will be added in 2007.

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## **Youth Exchanges:**

**(1) Summer Language Institutes:** Will provide U.S. high school students the opportunity to study Arabic or Chinese language abroad. In 2007, the program will expand to include Turkish, Hindi, and Russian languages.

**(2) Academic Semester or Year Abroad:** Will provide U.S. high school students taking formal critical need language classes the opportunity to spend an academic semester or year studying the language abroad.

**(3) School Partnerships:** Will provide U.S. schools linkages to foreign counterparts in critical need language countries (Russia, China, Turkey, India, and the Arab world) for interactive language programs and exchanges of groups of students and teachers.

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS

### National Security Language Initiative (NSLI)

#### Fact Sheet

### Expanding the National Flagship Language Initiative

National Flagship Programs, administered by the National Security Education Program (NSEP) are strategic partnerships between the federal government and U.S. Institutions of Higher Education to implement programs of advanced instruction in critical languages.

Flagship Programs represent a national model for developing a workforce of professionals with superior level proficiencies in critical languages.

- NSLI calls for increase to 2000 students in 2009-2010.
- Nine Flagship Programs already operational:

*Arabic:* Georgetown University; University of Maryland, College Park

*Chinese:* Brigham Young University, Ohio State University, University of Oregon

*Korean:* University of California, Los Angeles; University of Hawaii, Manoa

*Persian:* University of Maryland, College Park

*Russian:* Byrn Mawr College/American Councils of Teachers of Russian

- Flagship programs already graduating student at ILR Level 3 (Superior)

### FY07 NSLI Expansion Plans

- Additional Flagship Programs in Arabic and Chinese
- New Flagship Programs in Hindi/Urdu and Central Asian Languages
- Expansion of Flagship Model to include additional Flagship Universities throughout U.S.
- Expansion of K-16 Pipeline model to two additional national model programs; initiate first national K-16 model for Arabic
- Expanded strategic and business plan to leverage federal funding with private funding in support of Flagship programs
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## **Civilian Linguist Reserve Corps (CLRC)**

NSLI establishes a three-year pilot program for the development and implementation of a Civilian Linguist Reserve Corps (CLRC).

The CLRC will become an integral component of a broader National Language Service Corps.

Mission of CLRC: To provide and maintain a readily available civilian corps of certified expertise in languages determined to be important to the security of the nation.

Department of Defense/National Security Education Program (NSEP) has completed:

1. Feasibility Study
2. Operational Plan
3. Implementation Plan

Three-year CLRC Pilot Program will conduct proof of principle, identify and recruit no fewer than 1,000 Members in a National and Dedicated organization across at least 9 critical languages by no later than 2010.

CLRC will:

- Match federal language requirements with CLRC member skills
  - Ensure CLRC responsiveness to sponsor operational requirements
  - Certify language proficiencies of all CLRC members
  - Establish and maintain skill certification
  - Provide CLRC members will appropriate incentives and compensation
  - Provide program long-term sustainment
  - Establish cost-effective approach to CLRC management and operations
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## OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE PROGRAMS

### *STARTALK – A New National Initiative in Summer Language Education*

- The principal DNI Initiative under NSLI consists of establishing summer language study “feeder” programs, grants and initiatives with K-16 educational institutions. The program is called STARTALK.
- The emphasis of the program is on less commonly taught languages, such as Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Hindi, and Farsi.
- STARTALK will provide summer student and teacher immersion experiences, academic courses, curricula, and other resources for foreign language education in less commonly taught languages.
- STARTALK will begin with summer camp programs for 400 high school students and 400 high school and college teachers in 5 states in 2007.
- STARTALK will evolve to encompass all grades, with the goal of reaching 3,000 students and 3,000 teachers in all 50 states by 2011.
- As the program grows, it will add grants for instructional materials and student scholarships.
- At all phases, the STARTALK Summer Language Camp Program will leverage heritage community and Intelligence Community staff expertise, including retirees.
- The National Security Agency will serve as the Executive Agent for the Intelligence Community. The bulk of funding and direction will be provided by the DNI.
- Once implemented, funding for the program is projected to grow from \$5 million in FY 2007 to \$20 million per year in 2010.

#### Summary of Plans for Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007 efforts:

- In FY 2006, formalize planning and preparation (\$2.3M); and
- In FY 2007, implement STARTALK Summer Language Camps for 400 high school learners and 400 high school/college teachers in 5 states (\$5M).