

## Information Paper

### ***What is the National Language Service Corps?***

The National Language Service Corps (NLSC – [www.NLSCorps.org](http://www.NLSCorps.org)) is a civilian corps of volunteers with certified proficiency in languages important to the security and welfare of the United States. NLSC members serve anywhere using their diverse language skills to support needs across all federal agencies. The opportunities for service include language support such as interpretation, translation, analysis, training (instruction), logistics activities, emergency relief activities, and language support services in support of Federal Government domestic and international activities wherever language skills are needed. Some members may have clearances or may be clearable. The NLSC is a cost-effective solution to the uncertainty in management of foreign language support needs within the US Government (USG) enterprise for operations, plans, and workforce requirements. It provides a surge capability from individuals who are not generally available to the Government by tapping into our nation's population of highly-educated professionals who speak hundreds of languages critical to our nation's needs.

### ***Facts about the NLSC***

- Over **3,300** Members worldwide and over **240** languages to support USG requirements.
- The NLSC is a true corps of language capable individuals who identify themselves as NLSC members.
- Members are motivated by the chance to serve and give back to the nation.
- Members generally must possess ILR 3/3/3 Proficiency (Listening/Reading/Speaking) in a foreign language and in English.
- Some examples of missions include:
  - Interpretation/Translation in response to the Gulf Oil Spill (36-Hr response)
  - Law enforcement interpretation/translation assistance
  - Language community analyses
  - Translation and sourcing resources in critical and less-common languages
  - Assistance in overseas exercises and training missions (in the classroom and field)
  - Assistance in overseas retrieval of unrecovered fallen Americans from past conflicts
  - Assisting in testing standards development
- In 2012, the NLSC has thus far completed three missions, has two on-going, and is planning six others in support of five US government agencies totaling over 10,000 hours of work with 60 members.
- The NLSC has one Interagency Agreement (IA) with a federal government agency for continuing support and has two others in development.

### ***Administration of the NLSC***

The NLSC is a Department of Defense program administered by the Defense Language and National Security Education Office (DLNSEO), formerly known as the National Security Education Program (NSEP – [www.NSEP.gov](http://www.NSEP.gov)). In addition, the Defense Human Resource Agency and Defense Logistics Agency are providing support in the processing and management of the Members. The program is sponsored by the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. NLSC Members are detailed as temporary federal employees. Their support is available on a cost-reimbursable basis. Requests for NLSC support or to apply can be made online at [www.NLSCorps.org](http://www.NLSCorps.org).

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