



National Virtual Translation Center (NVTC)

**Interagency Language Roundtable
Plenary Session
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NVTC Mission



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

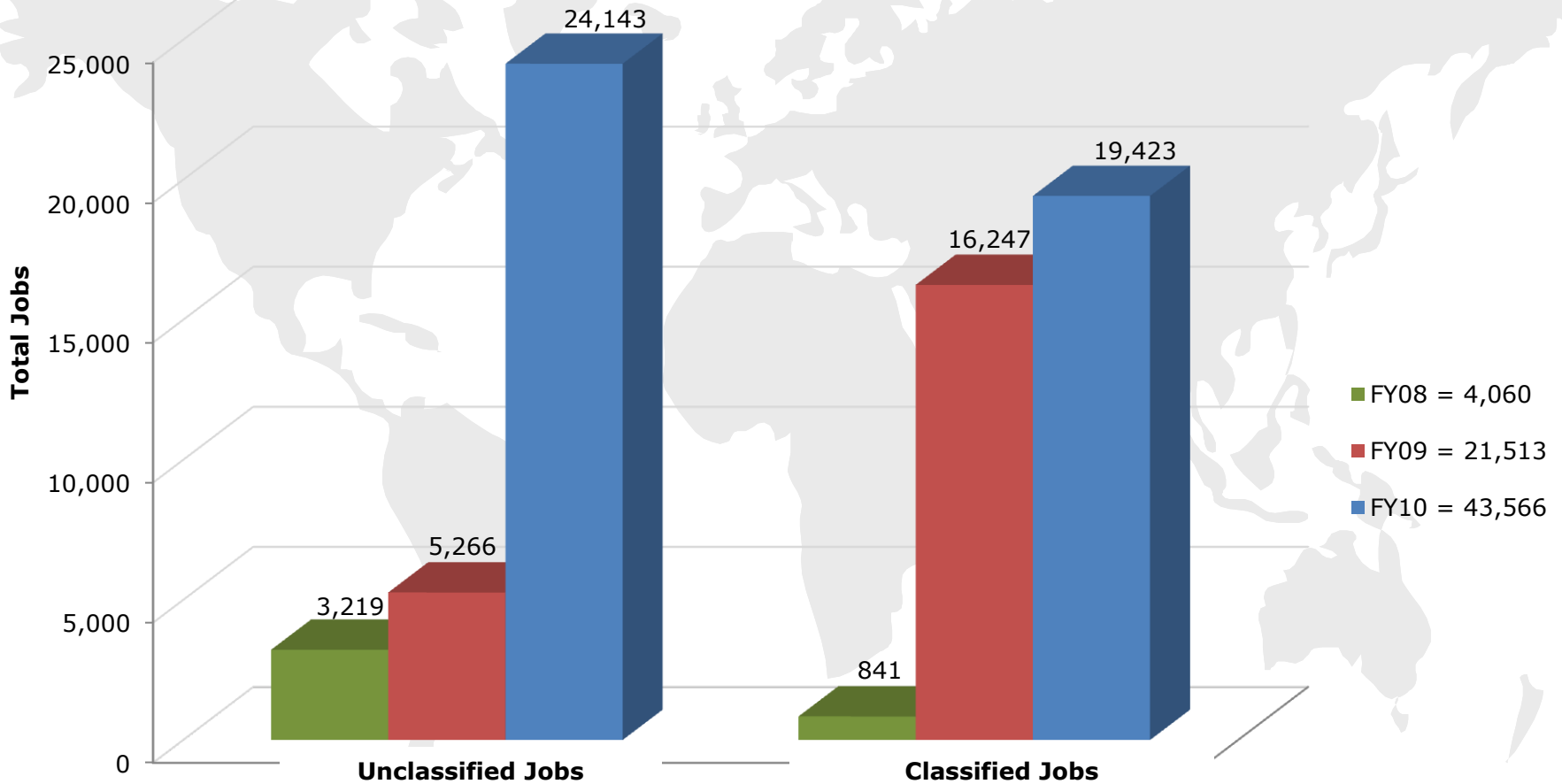
- ❖ **Volume of requests**
 - Overall NVTc growth
- ❖ **Type of service requested**
- ❖ **Source, target languages**
- ❖ **Time period covered**
 - Event-driven requests



NVTC Production FY08-FY10



NVTC Growth Analysis FY08 - FY10



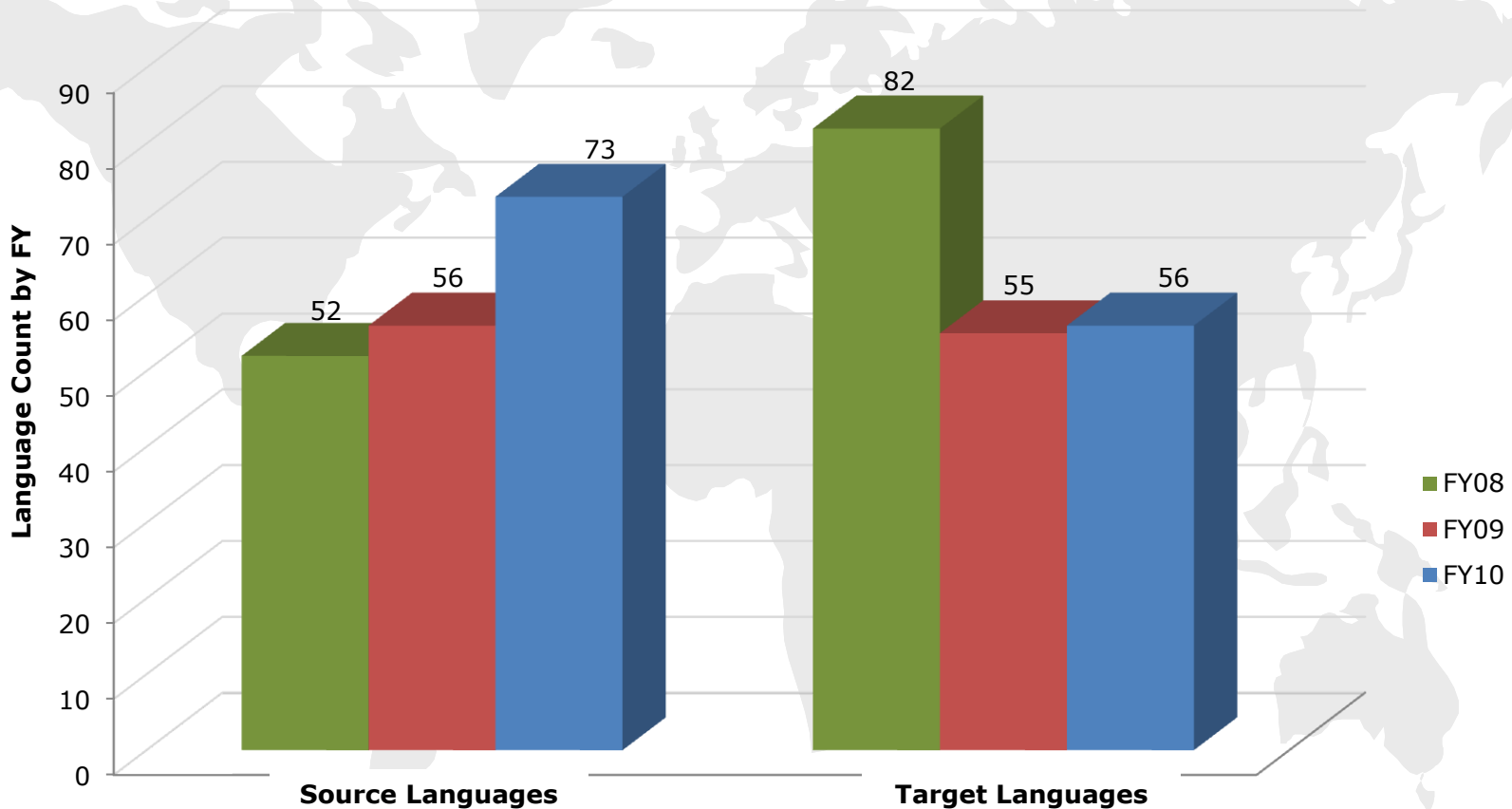
UNCLASSIFIED



Total Number of Languages

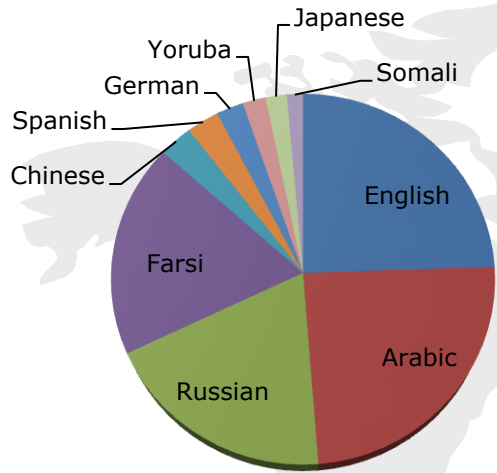


Total Language Count FY08 - FY10

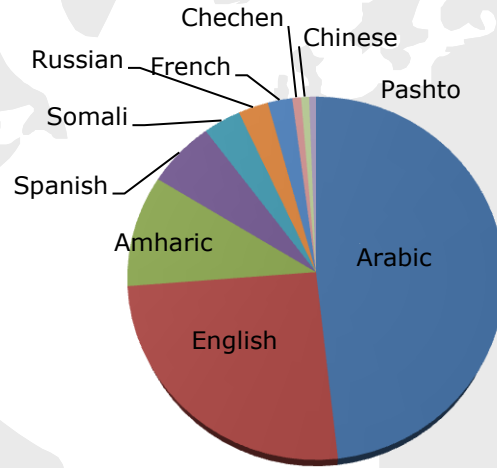




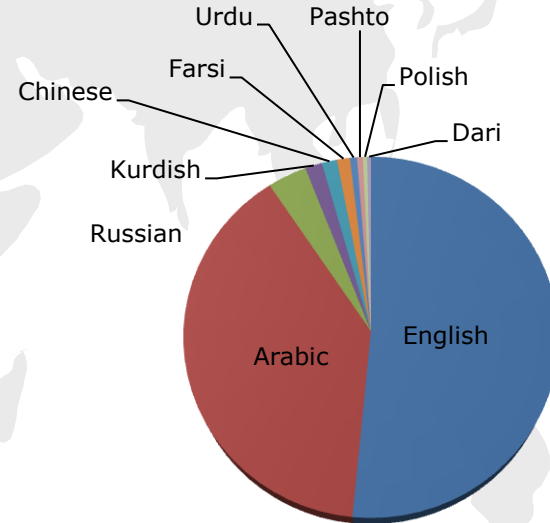
Source Languages



FY 2008



FY 2009

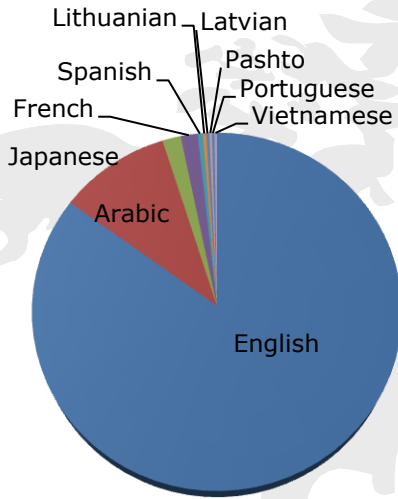


FY 2010

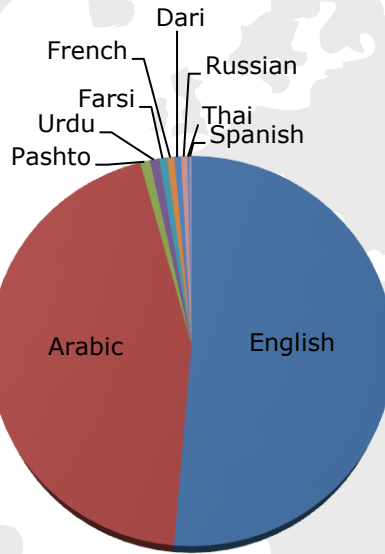
NOTE: Chart only displays the top ten source languages.



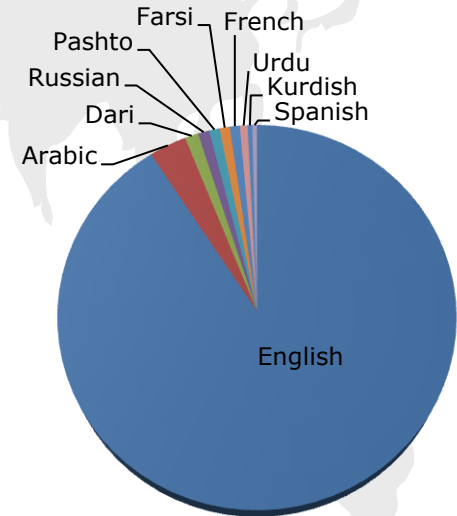
Target Languages



FY 2008



FY 2009



FY 2010

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/Drawbacks



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