

**MLA-report-relevant USG initiatives:  
An update**

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# Transforming academic programs

- Reform of current status quo – “Higher level” literature tenured faculty vs. “lower level” non-tenure track language instructors
- New goal of translingual/trans-cultural competence
- “Content from the beginning and language to the end”
- Extra-departmental “partners”
- Importance of language acquisition specialists IN language departments
- Strengthening demand for language competence within university curricula

# The National Security Language Initiative (1)

- Announced January 2006
- Fourteen separate programs (some already existing)
- Four participating Cabinet-level agencies:
  - Department of Defense
  - Department of Education
  - Department of State
  - Office of the Director of National Intelligence

# The National Security Language Initiative (2)

- Three broad goals:
  - Expand the number of Americans mastering critical need languages and start at a younger age
  - Increase the number of advanced-level speakers of foreign languages, with an emphasis on critical needs languages
  - Increase the number of foreign language teachers and the resources for them
- Primary focus on Arabic, Central Asian, Chinese, Indic, Korean, Persian, Russian, and Turkic languages

# **National Security Language Initiative (NSLI) - Programs for Grades K-12**

- The Language Flagship - DoD
- STARTALK - ODNI

# The Language Flagship

- Moving increasingly toward a K-16 model (cf. original post-K-12 and post-baccalaureate design)
- Common goal across programs of bringing graduates of program to level of professional language and cultural proficiency
- Various opportunities for financial aid and post-graduate employment within the federal government
- [www.thelanguageflagship.org](http://www.thelanguageflagship.org)

# The Language Flagship (DoD)

- 10 languages or language groups
- Currently 28 domestic centers (Russian just added – University of Wisconsin)
- 3 K-16 programs
- Nine overseas centers
- New report issued on 2 March, *What Business Wants: Language Needs in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

# STARTALK

- Initial focus on high school students and prospective and current teachers of Chinese (and Arabic)
- Long-term (five-year) plan calls for expanding to five additional languages and extending program pipeline to pre-secondary level
- <http://startalk.umd.edu>



# STARTALK

- 2009: 125 programs (77 student, 48 teacher) in 34 states in 7 languages
- 2010: 134 programs (75 student, 51 teacher, 8 combination) in 42 states in 9 languages – ~70 programs K-8
- 2009 enrollments: 4455 students, 1193 teachers
- 2010 projected enrollments: ~5800 students, ~1500 teachers