

_____]. The majority of Intelligence Community language employees, however, do not have the skills necessary to understand terrorist communications.

[According to NSA's Deputy Director for Analysis and Reporting, "[a]nalyzing, processing, translating, and reporting al-Qa'ida related [_____] communications requires the highest levels of language and target knowledge expertise that exists." Communicants speak all major Arabic dialects, making analysis linguistically and conceptually challenging. Evaluating these communications requires considerable subject-matter expertise in Islam in general and Islamic extremist thought in particular to ensure accurate interpretation. Very few NSA Arabic language analysts have done any graduate work in Islamic Studies, [_____]

_____]. The targeted person lives in and understands life in a thoroughly Islamic milieu that is reflected in that person's communications].

[The level of language expertise needed to work on the counterterrorist threat is very high. Subject-matter knowledge is necessary in explosives, chemistry, technical communications, [_____], paramilitary operations, weaponry and tactics. Moreover, speakers of Arabic [page 362] and other languages used by al-Qa'ida are in demand: Arabic linguists are also sought for such important issues [—] as other regional and terrorist intelligence targets].

The pool of qualified persons from which the Intelligence Community can draw to meet this challenge is very small and includes persons with military experience, university students, and those with native background or extensive experience in particular countries. Very few U.S. college graduates have more than a limited capability in Arabic. According to the 2002 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System statistics, American colleges granted only six degrees in Arabic in the survey year, 183 in Chinese, and 339 in Russian. U.S. colleges or universities offer degrees in languages that are critical in countering the terrorist threat, such as Dari, Pashto, Punjabi, Persian-Farsi, Hindi, Urdu, Turkmen, Tadjik, Tagalog, Somali, Kurdish, Chechen, or Uzbek.