The National Security Education Program (NSEP), a program administered within DLNSEO, is pleased to announce its 7th Annual NSEP Boren Alumni Award winners. Matthew Wagner of California has been named the 2013 Howard Baker, Jr. Award winner, and Joseph “Jay” Truesdale of New Hampshire has been named the 2013 Sol Linowitz Award winner.

The Howard Baker, Jr. Award is named in honor of Senator Howard Baker, Jr. who served as the Senate Majority Leader, and later served as President Reagan’s Chief of Staff and Ambassador to Japan under President George W. Bush.

This year’s winner, Matthew Wagner, is a Special Agent with the State Department’s Diplomatic Security Service. Special Agent Wagner was a 2009 Boren Scholar in Jordan, where he studied Arabic. He currently serves as Assistant Regional Security Officer at U.S. Embassy Algiers, Algeria, where he is part of a small team that advises the Ambassador on all security matters and manages a complex range of security programs. Special Agent Wagner supervises three units, which account for about 140 of the Embassy's 200 local security employees. He is also responsible for analyzing and reporting all security incidents that threaten U.S. Government interests in Algiers. Since moving to Algeria last year, Special Agent Wagner has used his French and Arabic language skills daily to communicate with his Algerian security counterparts. He joined Diplomatic Security (DS) after graduating cum laude from Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service in 2011, and was previously posted at the DS Field Office in New York City.

The Sol Linowitz Award is named in honor of Ambassador Sol Linowitz who was appointed by President Lyndon Johnson as Ambassador to the Organization of American States in 1966. He later served as a co-negotiator for the Panama Canal Treaties, and as President Carter’s personal representative to the Middle East Peace Negotiations.

This year’s Sol Linowitz Award winner, Joseph R. “Jay” Truesdale, IV, received a Boren Fellowship in 1999 to study Serbo-Croatian in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He is a career Foreign Service Officer with the Department of State, currently serving at Embassy Islamabad as the Chief of Staff. Mr. Truesdale oversees the Embassy's front office and its communication with the U.S. diplomatic mission in Pakistan, and is a principal point of contact for policy coordination with U.S. foreign affairs agencies. Prior to Pakistan, Mr. Truesdale served in Russia, Ukraine, and Hungary. He is also a reserve officer in the U.S. Navy and a former Fulbright Scholar. Mr. Truesdale holds degrees from Stanford, Harvard, and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts.
NINE UNIVERSITIES SELECTED AS LANGUAGE TRAINING CENTERS

(DLNSEO)...Shirley Rapues

The Defense Language and National Security Education Office selected nine institutions of higher education to receive institutional grants for the Language Training Center (LTC) Program through an open competition held this summer. The LTC Program is a Department of Defense (DoD) -funded initiative established in September 2011 to increase DoD’s training capacity in critical and strategic languages and regional area studies for DoD personnel. The program is administered through a cooperative agreement with the Institute of International Education.

The nine LTCs selected for Academic Year 2013-2014 are: Arizona State University, California State University – Long Beach, Coastal Carolina Community College, North Carolina State University, San Diego State University, University of Kansas, University of Maryland – Baltimore County, University of Montana, and University of Utah. These institutions will be partnering with the Military Services, Special Operations Forces, and Defense Agencies to support their language and cultural training needs.

DoD has identified a critical need for having more DoD personnel speak and understand critical languages. The LTC Program leverages existing capacity at institutions of higher education to provide customized training in strategic languages, culture, and area studies to meet the needs of DoD organizations and units.

Languages currently offered by the LTCs include: Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), French, Korean, Pashto, Persian (Dari and Farsi), Russian, Somali, Spanish, Turkish, and Urdu.

The relationships built with higher education institutions through the program have the potential to enhance language training available to DoD personnel and leverage the existing university infrastructure and faculty expertise to help meet the military’s needs for proficiency-based training in strategic languages at various levels of acquisition.

THE ‘LONG MARCH’ TO LEARNING CHINESE: TOP 5 TIPS

(Huffington Post)...Saul Gitlin

In 2013, China's central and ever-growing role in international political and business affairs is both universally recognized, and constantly making headlines across the world. As a result, recent years have witnessed what can only be described as the full throes of Chinese-language "fever" in the United States. Across our cities, Chinese language programs are rapidly emerging to address the needs of busy business professionals who are looking to fast-track a working competency in Chinese to more effectively build global business relationships. At the same time, Chinese language has become one of the fastest growing subjects in the educational sphere, with primary and secondary schools and colleges across the country rushing to add Chinese to their foreign language teaching rosters. From 1998 to 2009, U.S. college student enrollment in Chinese language classes more than doubled, as did the number of high school students taking the AP Chinese exam during the three year period from 2007-2010. Federally-funded programs such as DLNSEO’s The Language Flagship have further spurred growth through intensive teaching methodologies and programs available at the K-12 and college/university levels.

Author’s Top five Chinese insights:
1. Understand that Chinese, while difficult, can also be very easy to learn
2. Learn Mandarin, not Cantonese
3. Speak first, then decide if you need to read and write
4. If you decide to write Chinese, consider learning “simplified” characters
5. Take your studies seriously
LANGUAGE ENABLED AIRMAN PROGRAM ASSISTS AT PACIFIC RIM

An Air Force program integrator, an acquisitions officer, and a weapon systems officer recently attended the Pacific Rim Airpower Symposium in Thailand, but it wasn't to do integration, acquisitions or weapons. Majors Veasna Pel and Paul Sebold and Capt. Jay Park are all members of the Language Enabled Airman Program, and they were specially selected to participate in the symposium because of their language skills - Cambodian/Khmer, Russian, and Korean, respectively.

PACRIM is an annual meeting of senior air operations officers and senior enlisted leaders from the air forces of the Indo-Pacific region. This year's symposium was held in Bangkok, and was attended by representatives from 22 countries. LEAP is a U.S. Air Force program that sustains, enhances and utilizes the existing language skills of Airmen from across the Air Force. Although almost all the PACRIM delegates spoke English as well as their native languages, pairing the LEAP participants with delegates provided greater understanding, the delegates said. The arrangement benefitted the LEAP participants, as well, by giving them experience using their language skills in an Air Force environment.

In fact, Pel, Sebold and Park's participation at PACRIM was a prime example of how LEAP provides the Air Force with linguistically and culturally competent Airmen, said program organizers. "We have a great relationship with our partners in PACAF," said, Capt. Breezy Long, LEAP Operations Branch chief. "We were looking for real-world opportunities for some of the more advanced LEAP participants, and we asked our contacts at PACAF if there were any upcoming requirements that would be a good fit." The PACRIM Airpower Symposium was a natural choice, said Maj. Darin Gregg, one of the Symposium organizers.

"Having a LEAP Airman that is both fluent in the language and experienced in their trade allows us to cover detailed items that are not easily translated," Gregg said. "Standard language programs do not typically cover complex maintenance, operations and logistics ideas, so a LEAP Airman in these specialties is in a better position than a standard translator to explain these concepts."

While at the Symposium, the LEAP participants assisted the delegates from Cambodia, Mongolia, and Korea. The assistance was greatly appreciated and increased understanding, said Maj. Gen. Som Yom, deputy chief of staff of the Cambodian Air Force, who worked with Pel during the event. "At some points, we need to have it expressed in our own language because we couldn't get the deeper meaning of the presentations or discussions," Som Yom said.

THE HOTTEST JOB SKILL IS...FLUENCY IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Translators and interpreters are expected to be one of the 15 fastest growing occupations in the nation, according to the Department of Labor.

Roughly 25,000 jobs are expected to open up for interpreters (who focus on spoken language) and translators (who focus on written language), between 2010 and 2020, the Department of Labor estimates. That represents 42% growth for the field and does not include the military, which is also recruiting ferociously for more people.

In the last week alone, roughly 12,000 jobs posted on Indeed.com included the word "bilingual." Amazon, for example, wants to hire a Brazilian Portuguese translator for its customer service team in Seattle. Apple is hiring technical translators who speak Korean, Mexican, Spanish and Chinese.

A school district in Pasadena, Calif., is hiring Spanish, Korean, Armenian and Chinese interpreters to work part time for $40 an hour.

Nationwide, workers in this field earn a median salary of $43,000 a year.

Far higher salaries go to people who work in the intelligence community on behalf of the military, the State Department, CIA, FBI or government contractors. These jobs can pay well into the six figures, as workers are required to pass high-level security clearances and enter dangerous situations.
AIRMAN EARN DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS WITH VALOR

(Military.com)...Natela Cutter

A Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) student was recognized Oct. 17 with the Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroic actions in Afghanistan in December 2012.

Capt. Charles C. Napier is credited for saving the lives of three critically wounded Soldiers in an Afghan village west of Kandahar by skillfully maneuvering his rescue helicopter and placing it between enemy and friendly forces thereby blocking close-range, intense small-arms fire.

“It was an honor to award Captain Napier the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor during our Air Force Wingman Day,” said Col. Ginger Wallace, the commander of the Air Force 517th Training Group and assistant commandant of DLIFLC, referring to the afternoon long event that promotes peer support, team building and resiliency.

“This was a total surprise. I would not have expected this (recognition) in my wildest dreams. I am really humbled,” Napier said, adding that “the success of the mission is a result of team work. I couldn’t have done it without my crew members.”

In an interview, Napier divulged some of the details about the complexity of the mission and the real danger that faced the two HH-60G Pave Hawk Air Force rescue helicopters and two Army OH-58 Kiowa scout helicopters that came under a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) attack.

“We were able to identify the enemy position after the RPGs were fired at the lead HH-60 aircraft,” Napier explained. “We made several weapons patterns and the final one was used to mark the enemy with our rounds in order for the Kiowas to identify the enemy position.”

A lull in fighting ensued after the Kiowas aggressively engaged the enemy with machine guns and rockets, allowing the first aircraft to land and offload three pararescuemen.

“My aircraft went first and we took some fire while on the ground. As I lifted, my gunner fired back. Next, (another rescue helicopter) landed and we protected them with suppressive fire while they were loading,” he explained.

Napier’s repeatedly skillful maneuvering of his aircraft into firing position just 60 feet away from the enemy, shielding friendly forces from enemy fire, essentially saved the lives of the men on the ground that day.

“Once the (pararescuemen) packaged up the wounded and all were on board, we returned to base.”