

Arms Inspector/Researcher

Name: **Dr. David Kay**

Profession: **Arms Inspector/Research**

Number of years in this line of work: **35**

Native Language: **English**

Other Language(s): **German/Russian/French/Spanish**

1) What is your profession?

Most recently headed the Iraq Survey Group in its hunt for weapons of mass destruc

2) Describe a "typical" day as an Arms inspector.

There were no "typical" days in Iraq. In leading a search for weapons you are talkir truck drivers; reviewing documents that have been found; meeting with your own tea

3) What do you enjoy about it?

In this case the challenge of determining what Iraq was up to, whether there were we
What do you not enjoy about it?
Being shot at and mortared.

4) Do you speak any other language(s) besides the one(s) you work with?

In this case my missing language was Arabic of which I know far too little.

5) What language do you think in?

English, although when immersed in work in France I have wandered between the t

6) What do you think helped you the most in mastering the foreign/secor

Necessity. It has also been the greatest impediment to mastering a foreign language
master English that it is sometimes difficult to get them to carry on a conversation i

7) What opportunities have knowing another language provided in your otherwise?

I spent 15 years working in Europe that would not have been possible without langu

8) Do you think it is essential to learn not just a language, but also the culture(s) of t
Language is such an important part of culture that I do not believe that you can ever
least tackling the language of that culture.

9) If you had the time to learn another language now, what language wou

Arabic, closely followed by Chinese. Both languages are integral to areas of the worl
We have far too few Americans willing to make the investment to understand these c
their own languages.

10) How do you think your life would have turned out if you had never lea

I really have no idea, except that I think it would have been less interesting.

11) In your opinion, are there more career opportunities for people who

Without a doubt, and this is going to rapidly accelerate as we recognize the impact o

12) What do you think you would be doing if you weren't an Arms Inspec

I'd be a Photographer. Photography remains a passion, but even here without the ab
you are restricted in trying to visually understand the world outside of the US.