



Soldiers utilize language lab

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CAMP TAJI, Iraq - The Freedom Calls Center on Camp Taji services about 4000 Soldiers a week, who take advantage of the free phone calls and video teleconferencing capabilities that the facility has; but at times there is a long wait.

Now, instead of passing the time by watching television or a movie, Soldiers can utilize the Language Lab and learn to say hello to their loved ones in 26 different languages.

The Language Lab, which has been available at the FCC since mid-November, uses an interactive computer program with various exercises that teach Soldiers to read, write, speak and understand the language of their choice.



Spc. Masayajoy Pangelinan takes a little time to learn a few words in Arabic at the Language Lab at the Freedom Calls Center on Camp Taji Dec. 1. The Language Lab uses an interactive computer program to teach 26 different languages including Arabic, Spanish, Italian and Korean.



Spc. Masayajoy Pangelinan, a medic with Company C, 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, takes a little time to learn a few words in Arabic at the Language Lab at the Freedom Calls Center on Camp Taji Dec. 1.

"The soldiers that have used the service are really excited. One soldier told me that it is great. 'I can learn a new language while I wait to call home'," said Sgt. Angela Younger-Embree, a Soldier of the 1st Sustainment Brigade and the noncommissioned officer in charge of the FCC.

Some of the languages available are Arabic, Spanish, Italian, Korean and Vietnamese. Younger-Embree, who spends most of her time at the 24-hour facility, has used the program herself.

"I know a few languages, but you know you have to use your skills or you will lose them. Sometimes when it is slow and I need a break I will go to the language lab. Just ten or 15 minutes allows me to stay fresh. I think the Language lab is great an interactive way to learn," said Younger-Embree.

"Often times service members are waiting for long periods of time to use our other services, Just remember there is something you can do while you wait to improve yourself," Younger-Embree concluded.