

From Around the Globe, Serving New York

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By AL BAKER

The New York Police Department has sent its officers to 11 cities around the globe - even once dispatching¹ a husband and wife to Abu Dhabi. But the return² from the world has been far greater³.

Officer Henry Ko of the New York Police Department was born in Lagos, Nigeria and served as a United States Marine in Japan and Iraq.

Of the 5,593⁴ officers hired⁵ since July 2006, when the department began tracking⁶ the nationalities of police officers, 1,042 of them were foreign-born⁷ — hailing from⁸ 88 countries, according to department records.

The Dominican Republic leads the way⁹, with 263 officers born there. The list also includes nations that would have been well represented two generations ago: Italy, Ireland and Germany, for example. But those three countries account for¹⁰ a total of only eight officers, far surpassed¹¹ by those born in Haiti, 78; Jamaica, 59; Pakistan, 29; and Russia, 18.

The department has made a concerted¹² effort to become more diverse¹³: Recruitment¹⁴ advertisements are now routinely¹⁵ placed in foreign-language newspapers, and new recruits are categorized by their potential to be trained for certain assignments¹⁶ — like counterterrorism¹⁷ or community affairs¹⁸ — based on their language, culture or place of birth, something Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly refers to as “selective certification¹⁹.”

Those who claim²⁰ proficiency²¹ in a language other than²² English are subjected to a Berlitz test to assess²³ expertise in²⁴ writing, speaking and reading. Language skills in demand²⁵ include Arabic²⁶ and its dialects, Russian, Hindi²⁷ and Mandarin.

Now there are officers who can translate for those who do not speak English — helping eliminate a language barrier for people in need of police assistance, and assisting suspects who may have trouble²⁸ understanding their rights or the reason for their arrest.

“If we are able to speak their language, if we are able to understand cultural differences, it makes it easier²⁹ to do this complex and demanding³⁰ job,” Mr. Kelly said. “It just, in my judgment³¹, makes common sense³².”

It has all worked³³ to shatter³⁴ past notions of a police force made up mostly of white men of European descent³⁵ who followed their fathers and grandfathers onto the job.

That, Mr. Kelly said, “has changed dramatically³⁶, and it has changed for the better³⁷. As the city has become more diverse, the department has become, I believe, the most

diverse police department in the world and we're proud of it, and we want to continue to maintain our diversity. It's good for policing³⁸; it makes us a more effective³⁹ organization."

The department's newest class of rookies⁴⁰ underscores⁴¹ the trend.

Of the 250 new officers who graduated⁴² last Monday, 65 of them were foreign-born, hailing from 23 countries, the police said. Those officers spoke a total of 28 different languages, including Bengali⁴³, Punjabi⁴⁴, Yoruba⁴⁵ and Creole⁴⁶.

Thomas A. Reppetto, a police historian and author, said the diversification of the department was consistent with⁴⁷ the age-old⁴⁸ trend of new immigrants supplanting⁴⁹ the old. "That is the story of New York," he said. "It has always been an immigrant⁵⁰ city, and eventually⁵¹ the new immigrants are reflected in the municipal work force."



¹ **Dispatching** [to dispatch, dispatched, dispatching, dispatches]: to send somebody away to do something; to instruct somebody to go somewhere in order to carry out a task: inviare.

² **Return**: qui: something exchanged for that received; a response to something done or given.

³ **Far greater**: *greater* è il superlativo di maggioranza dell'aggettivo *great*, qui ulteriormente rafforzato da *far* che in questa costruzione significa *to a great degree, very much*: molto più grande, molto maggiore.

⁴ **5,593**: 5.593. Ricordiamo che in inglese si usa la virgola dove in italiano mettiamo il punto e viceversa (es: 10.340 in italiano è 10,340 in inglese) (Se volete approfondire l'argomento numeri vi rimandiamo alla scheda Ebac "Numbers").

⁵ **Hired** [to hire, hired, hiring, hires]: qui: *to engage the services of (a person) for a fee; to employ*: assumere, ingaggiare. Un altro significato del verbo *to hire* è noleggiare.

⁶ **Tracking** [to track, tracked, tracking, tracks]: *to follow the progress or development of something*: seguire la progressione di, rilevare l'andamento.

⁷ **Foreign-born**: *foreign by birth; not native to the country in which one resides*.

⁸ **Hailing from** [to hail, hailed, hailing, hails]: verbo frasale che significa venire, provenire da. Quando è un sostantivo "*hail*" invece significa grandine, ma può essere anche un'interiezione "*Hail!*" nel qual caso vuol dire salve, salute. *Hail Mary* sta per Ave Maria.

⁹ **Leads the way** [to lead, led, leading, leads]: qui: *be ahead of others, be the first*: essere in testa.

¹⁰ **Account for** [to account, accounted, accounting, accounts]: qui: *represent, make up*.

¹¹ **Surpassed** [to surpass, surpassed, surpassing, surpasses]: *to be or go beyond, as in degree or quality, to exceed*.

¹² **Concerted**: *coordinated*.

¹³ **Diverse**: qui: *composed of many ethnic, as well as socioeconomic and gender, groups*. In senso generale, l'aggettivo significa *made up of distinct characteristics, qualities, or elements*.

- ¹⁴ **Recruitment:** *act of seeking prospective new employees or members for an organization:* reclutamento, arruolamento.
- ¹⁵ **Routinely:** *usually, according to routine or established practice:* regolarmente, sistematicamente.
- ¹⁶ **Assignments [assignment]:** *a task that is assigned or undertaken:* compito, incarico, mansione.
- ¹⁷ **Counterterrorism:** *offensive measures taken to prevent, deter, and respond to terrorism:* antiterrorismo.
- ¹⁸ **Community Affairs:** l'Ufficio *Community Affairs* è stato creato all'interno del *New York Police Department* per promuovere i rapporti tra Polizia e cittadini attraverso iniziative che prevedono la partecipazione attiva della comunità locale. In particolare, l'Ufficio individua gli interlocutori di riferimento nell'ambito delle diverse realtà locali con i quali avvia un rapporto di comunicazione e collaborazione diretta.
- ¹⁹ **Selective certification:** procedura selettiva.
- ²⁰ **Claim [to claim, claimed, claims, claiming]:** *qui: to state to be true or existing:* affermare, sostenere.
- ²¹ **Proficiency:** conoscenza, competenza. In Italia si sente parlare spesso di *Proficiency* in relazione al *Certificate of Proficiency in English* o *CPE* (Certificato di inglese fluente), che è il più alto certificato di conoscenza generale della lingua inglese rilasciato dall'Università di Cambridge nel caso di superamento dell'esame omonimo.
- ²² **Other than:** *qui: different from:* diverso da.
- ²³ **To assess [assessed, assessing, assesses]:** *to judge something, to examine something in order to judge or evaluate.*
- ²⁴ **Expertise (in):** *the skill, knowledge, or opinion possessed by an expert:* competenza (nel settore di).
- ²⁵ **In demand:** *sought after, needed, requested.*
- ²⁶ **Arabic:** (*Arabic language*): lingua araba. *Arab* è sia aggettivo che sostantivo: *the Arab world; an Arab*. *Arabian* si traduce con arabisco: *the Arabian Sea*: il Mare Arabico (vedi scheda Ebac sugli aggettivi di nazionalità).
- ²⁷ **Hindi:** *the literary and official language of northern India that is based on Indic dialects. It is written in Devanagari alphabet and uses Sanskrit as a resource language:* hindi.
- ²⁸ **Have trouble [to have, had, having, has]** (seguito dal verbo alla forma in -ing): avere problemi, far fatica (nel/a fare qualcosa).
- ²⁹ **It makes it easier [to make, made, making, makes]:** *to make something easy:* semplificare, rendere semplice. In questo caso, in presenza del superlativo di maggioranza *easier* si traduce: è più semplice, rende più semplice.
- ³⁰ **Demanding:** *effort-intensive, requiring a lot of time, attention, energy, or resources:* arduo, impegnativo.
- ³¹ **In my judgment:** *in my opinion.*
- ³² **Makes common sense [to make, made, making, makes]:** *the ability to make sensible decisions:* è sensato, è una cosa di buon senso. Attenzione: il *common sense* è il buon senso, non il “~~senso comune~~”. Avere senso/significato si dice *to make sense* (che non vuol dire “~~fare senso~~”: *to be horrible, disgusting*, oppure, far venire la pelle d’oca, far accapponare la pelle: *to give the creeps*). Dire cose senza senso/sciocchezze invece si traduce: *to talk nonsense*.
- ³³ **It has all worked (to):** *tutto ha contribuito a.*

- ³⁴ **To shatter** [*shattered, shattering, shatters*]: to break into (many) pieces: demolire, distruggere, mandare in frantumi.
- ³⁵ **Descent**: a person's origin or nationality: nascita, lignaggio, discendenza.
- ³⁶ **Dramatically**: qui: *markedly, to a very noticeable degree and often with surprising suddenness*. In questo senso l'avverbio *dramatically* è un "false friend" o falso amico, in quanto significa radicalmente, significativamente e non ~~drammaticamente~~.
- ³⁷ **It has changed for the better** (to change for the better) [*to change, changed, changing, changes*]: to improve.
- ³⁸ **Policing** [*to police, policed, policing, polices*]: referred to a police force is the activity of maintaining law and order, enforcing criminal law.
- ³⁹ **Effective**: attenzione a questo "false friend": significa efficace e non ~~effettivo~~.
- ⁴⁰ **Rookies** [*rookie*]: colloq.: an untrained or inexperienced recruit, a novice: recluta, spina, novellino.
- ⁴¹ **Underscores** [*to underscore, underscored, underscoring, underscores*]: to underline, to emphasise, to stress.
- ⁴² **Graduated** [*to graduate, graduated, graduating, graduates*]: to be granted an academic degree or diploma: laurearsi, diplomarsi.
- ⁴³ **Bengali**: Indo-Aryan language spoken principally in Bangladesh and the Indian state of West Bengal: bengalese.
- ⁴⁴ **Punjabi**: an Indic language spoken in the Punjab: panjabi.
- ⁴⁵ **Yoruba**: the Benue-Congo language of a West African people living chiefly in southwest Nigeria. In italiano resta invariato: yoruba.
- ⁴⁶ **Creole**: the French dialect spoken by a person of European descent born in the West Indies or Spanish America: creolo.
- ⁴⁷ **Was consistent with** [*to be, was/were, being, been, consistent with*]: in agreement, compatible, coherent: essere coerente, compatibile con, conforme a.
- ⁴⁸ **Age-old**: long standing or existing, dating from a very long time ago and still in existence: annoso, molto vecchio. Si tratta di un forma di aggettivazione composta formata da un sostantivo e un aggettivo uniti da un trattino (per maggiori dettagli vi rimandiamo alla scheda Ebac sulle parole composte).
- ⁴⁹ **Supplanting** [*to supplant, supplanted, supplanting, supplants*]: take the place or move into the position of: rimpiazzare, soppiantare.
- ⁵⁰ **Immigrant**: qui è un aggettivo e significa: *of or relating to immigrants*. L'espressione *immigrant city* si può tradurre "città di immigrati".
- ⁵¹ **Eventually**: attenzione! Anche in questo caso siamo di fronte a un *false friend* o falso amico: "eventually", infatti, significa alla fine, infine, finalmente e non ~~"eventualmente"~~.

To learn more about nationality adjectives and nouns, have a look at Ebac card on nationalities (scheda Ebac “Aggettivi di nazionalità”). Then, if you wish to learn more, look through Ebac card on idiomatic expressions on nationalities (scheda Ebac “Nationality and idioms”), it will be fun and interesting.

Test your knowledge

Find the nationality adjectives:

1. Carlos lives in Argentina. He is _____
2. Jeff and Mary were born in Birmingham/U.K.. They are _____
3. Rabah lives in Morocco. He is from Rabat. He is _____
4. Ulla’s homeland is Sweden. She and her family are _____
5. Lech is from Poznań, Poland. He is _____
6. Samuel’s parents are from Ivory Coast, but he was born in Spain, so he is both an _____ and a _____
7. Sean is from Scotland. He is a _____
8. Natalie comes from Lyon, France. She is a _____
9. Noemi is from Holland. She speaks _____
10. Maria Fé is from the Philippines. She is a _____
11. People living in Saudi Arabia are _____
12. Citizens from Taiwan are _____
13. Sauli and Matti are from Finland. They are _____. A person coming from Finland is a _____