
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 03 SEPTEMBER 2010

Iraq Politicians Must Match Citizens' Courage, Form Government, Biden Says

The military also needs to be better prepared with an emphasis on training in the culture of the area and its language, Mullen said. The U.S. must work more often with partner countries, as in the coalition of more than 40 nations fighting in Afghanistan, he said.

Students Rate Quality Education, DoDEA Director Says

The activity's No. 1 priority, she said, is to help students reach their fullest potential through a focus on high student achievement and a rich and varied curriculum. Initiatives such as the virtual high school and language arts curriculum will make major inroads toward that goal, she predicted. The activity's virtual high school, new this school year, is an accredited distance-learning program for military students, whether they're geographically separated, transitioning between schools or just dealing with a scheduling conflict. The virtual school offers students 48 online courses in a wide range of disciplinary areas, including foreign language, math, science, social studies, language arts and physical education, as well as 15 advanced placement courses.

Local company's product aids troops in Afghanistan

Bilingual Books, located in Fishermen's Terminal, has recently released a new tool for U.S. military forces serving in Afghanistan. "Pashto: A Language Map" is an ultra-thin, lightweight, durable language guide to the dominant language in Afghanistan. "This release was prompted by military requests for critical needs languages," Kristine Kershul, president of Bilingual Books, said in a press release. "The current war in Afghanistan started nine years ago, on Oct. 7, 2001, and the majority of our troops have had an extremely limited choice of language tools." The language map will give soldiers what they need to communicate immediately and work effectively in the field, Kershul said.

Canadian diplomats don't have necessary foreign language skills: Harder

Only 33% of Canada's diplomats have the necessary foreign language skills to do their job, recently released figures show. Auditor General Sheila Fraser took the federal government to task in 2007 after discovering only 16% of the 180 foreign service officers who were required to have advanced foreign languages skills for their positions, could speak the needed language. In a report tabled in August, the Conservative government said it began re-investing in foreign language training last year and now 33% of officers who need to speak another foreign language have the required capability.

New Programme in the UK Encourages Children to Study a Second Language

Recent reports show that the number of UK pupils studying a second language has fallen to a new low. Some experts blamed a decision by Labour to make languages optional for the first time in 2004, thus allowing thousands of pupils to drop the subjects at age 14. Foreign languages are believed to be among the most demanding subjects in the school curriculum, with fears that many pupils are abandoning them to boost their overall results. New to the UK, Ready-Steady-Move offers young children a joyful experience on their first encounter with the study of a foreign language.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Navy officers get cultural, political training

Members of the military are deploying everyday to places around the world. The Navy is trying to make that transition a bit easier by giving [crews an understanding](#) of the cultural, economic, and political issues they will encounter when they reach their destinations. Navy Captain Mark Huber is the Program Manager for the Regional Security Education Program at the Naval Postgraduate School. The program was started about 10 years ago as a response to the bombing of the USS Cole he said. With that, Capt. Huber explained, the program was created to provide historical, political, and economic context for regional work. The emphasis is on providing a cultural understanding of where they'll be deployed, so the university places strong emphasis on experts with regional expertise.

University of Michigan's Language Flagship students groomed to be 'global professionals'

In the 21st century global job market," says Dr. **Michael Nugent**, director of The Language Flagship, "we don't need people who just speak languages and we don't need people who can just work the professions. We need people who can do both." Since 2008, the University of Michigan has played host to an Arabic Flagship Program intended to do just that. The Language Flagship is a subsidiary of the U.S. Department of Defense's National Security Education Program, a post-Cold War effort designed to produce a cadre of multilingual "global professionals" qualified to serve the U.S. government's needs by combining their career expertise with fluency in "critical languages including Arabic, Chinese, Hindi/Urdu, Korean, Persian/Farsi, and Eurasian languages."

Fremont starts first Mandarin immersion kindergarten program

Children in teacher Orchid Wang's kindergarten class didn't say "bye-bye" to their parents, who crowded just outside the classroom door Wednesday morning, snapping photos of their little ones sitting at school desks for the first time. With a little prodding from the teacher, they said "zia jian" as they waved goodbye to their moms and dads before Wang closed the door. If everything goes according to plan, these 28 students will be proficient in the world's most spoken language by middle school. Not surprisingly, nearly all of the 28 students in Fremont's first Mandarin-immersion kindergarten class have at least one parent of Chinese descent, although English is the only language spoken in most of their homes. Chinese parents and their spouses lobbied the district for two years to establish the program, which they hope will immerse their children in Chinese language and culture in a way that feels fun and natural.

Pentagon Library Language Support

The Pentagon Library is pleased to facilitate access to the Rosetta Stone online language learning suite offered by the WHS Human Resources Directorate. Using the unique voice-recognition-enabled lessons within Rosetta Stone, learners can enhance, build or refresh their abilities in languages from Pashto and military Arabic to German and Spanish. The Pentagon Library's customer workstations are fully equipped for customer use of this new internet-based learning tool. Those individuals who are not located on the Pentagon Reservation can access Rosetta Stone online. For more information contact reference@whs.mil. Pentagon Civilian staff and Pentagon Military Personnel who do not already have Rosetta Stone access through their service are [eligible](#) for a Rosetta Stone license. When [applying for a learning license](#), please provide the following information: Full name, office email address, office phone number, Common Access Card (CAC) ID, OSD (y/n), WHS (y/n), active duty military (y/n), and if active duty, which service you are assigned to.

Critical Language Scholarship Program

A program of United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program will offer intensive summer language institutes overseas in thirteen critical need foreign languages for summer 2010. The 2010 CLS Program application deadline was December 18, 2009. The selection process will be administered by the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) with awards approved by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The CLS Program will be administered by CAORC and the American Councils for International Education. Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) institutes provide fully-funded group-based intensive language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experiences for seven to ten weeks for U.S. citizen undergraduate, Master's and Ph.D. students.

Learning a Language with your BlackBerry

With BlackBerry language apps you can learn a second language at your own pace and convenience and also use the app as a live translation tool. Most of the language apps that we cover in this roundup have content for users who are at the beginner stage and even users in the advanced stages of learning a new language. Here are some great BlackBerry language apps. LearnChinese is an audio language tool that has over 400 self-contained lessons for learning the Mandarin language. This language education tool installs 295 self-contained audio lessons on your BB device, which makes it really easy to study at your own convenience. Users can study around their schedule and focus on their interest by selecting and studying lessons and scenarios that they are more likely to be engaged in. This method of learning (the situational model) also helps the student to really put him or herself in the conversation, a process that helps to make the lesson stick in the mind.

Want to learn a language in D.C....and for FREE?

Starting this week, you can sign up for the Global Language Network program and enroll in one of 40 of language classes that meet on nights and or weekends usually once a week for an entire semester at George Washington University. Here's a complete list of classes available (cough please don't take mine! They don't go first come first serve—they tally up how many people register and go on a lottery system). The courses require a small deposit fee which you'll get back at the end UNLESS you skip more than THREE classes in the semester. The point is to make sure the people who sign up actually go and use the spot to its fullest. A good deal in my book!

Linguistic grads study in Bengali through a scholarship

Two U students traveled abroad this summer with the Critical Language Scholarship, a program of the U.S. State Department, in order to learn strategic languages. The scholarship—a highly competitive endeavor—permits students to travel abroad, as long as the strategic language is studied intensively.

SFUSD awarded foreign language grant

San Francisco – The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) has been awarded a Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) grant by the US Department of Education for Russian and Japanese heritage non-native English speakers enrolled in schools within the District. The \$300,000 grant, spread over a five-year period, will be used for curriculum development, assessment development, and heritage development for teachers administering the program. SFSUD will partner with Stanford University, San Francisco State University, UCLA, and the University of Oregon to develop the program. The program will begin at schools with existing Foreign Language in the Elementary Schools (FLES) in Japanese and Russian within a few school years.

[Conversation Partners: Ready for 2010!](#)

The foreign language Conversation Partners program ran a successful pilot during the 2009/2010 academic year, and returns for the 2010/2011 year! Approximately 44 students participated in the program last year, which pairs native language speakers with language learners for informal conversation and language practice. Participants who completed a survey at the end of the year indicated they felt the additional practice helped them not only feel more confident in their speaking skills, but also helped them in their language courses.

[LSU to cut four languages](#)

LSU is planning to eliminate its foreign language course offerings in Russian, Japanese, Portuguese and Swahili, the department chairwoman confirmed Tuesday.

[Interested in the culture and history of Afghanistan from 1842 to the present day?](#)

Too little is known in the US about the history of Afghanistan. History is something Americans tend to ignore, often to our detriment. We forget our history and ignore the history of others. Precedence is, in the American mind, reserved only for the law and not to the shaping perceptions or forming public opinion. This is a defect in our approach to global affairs. Such is the case with Afghanistan, where we failed to grasp (and ignored sage advice on) the impact of history on modern events. Enter [The Great Game: Afghanistan](#), an epic 3-part play (nine hours total) from the UK's Tricycle Theatre, which explores the "culture and history of Afghanistan since Western involvement in 1842 to the present day."

[In the '90s - Computer Chronicles report on DLI](#)

The Computer Chronicles was a television series, broadcast between 1981-2002, which documented the rise of the personal computer from its infancy to the immense market at the turn of the century.

[A Message to America's Youth](#)

I did wish I could send one message to America's youth: no matter how deathly boring your teachers get, pay attention in your foreign language classes. If you ever plan to travel overseas, it will be worth it. Sure, I could have survived this summer without using Spanish or Portuguese. English speakers are almost everywhere these days, and when they're not, communicating through gestures and drawings still works (which is why we have charades and Pictionary). But my trip has been made immeasurably more enjoyable, and measurably cheaper, because I'm multilingual.

[Youngsters heading back to globe-trotting classrooms](#)

At Cumberland County's newest elementary school, the classroom rugs are adorned with world maps. A first-grade teacher from New Zealand is decorating her room with koala and kangaroo pictures. Another teacher plans to use tai chi to blend math lessons with Asian culture. And all 650 children at the west Fayetteville school will learn Mandarin Chinese.

[Lushootseed spoken at Tulalip summer camp](#)

Stan Jones, 84, remembers only a smattering of words and phrases of the language he heard his grandmother speak many years ago. One of those phrases is a prayer that Jones, a longtime Tulalip tribal leader, offers at ceremonial events. "I pray our language will come back," he said, half-kidding. That prayer is slowly coming true. Jones looked around the Kenny Moses Building on Tulalip Bay on Thursday and saw dozens of tribal children learning words and phrases in Lushootseed, the original language spoken by Salish tribes in the Puget Sound basin.

[Cleveland school district, Cleveland State University team up to open new school](#)

A new Cleveland school opened Thursday, easing its first students into a program that will supplement the basics with Mandarin Chinese. The Campus International School, a joint venture between the **school district** and **Cleveland State University**, welcomed 60 first- and second-graders a week before most other city students resume classes. Sixty kindergartners will arrive Wednesday, bringing the school to capacity.