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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 20 SEPTEMBER 2010**

#### **Device helps Soldiers communicate with Afghan citizens**

Smart phone. Translation System for Tactical use. TransTac. Machine Foreign Language Translation device. Although it goes by many names, this device performs one function, speech-to-speech translation, and it's a technological solution capable of filling in the gaps when there aren't enough human linguists available. The TransTac device, which will be fielded for the first time to the 101st Airborne Division (AASLT) to Afghanistan before the end of the calendar year, will be used by Soldiers to translate English to Dari or English to Pashto, and vice-versa. The personnel in the Training and Doctrine Command Capability Manager-Biometrics and Forensics team at Fort Huachuca are the capability developers for the TransTac device.

#### **ELP working group steers toward innovation**

A recently formed working group under the Air Force Language and Culture Executive Steering Committee is providing assistance to the Defense Language Institute English Language Center at Lackland AFB. The English language program working group, which began meeting in June, helped solve a medical clearance issue for DLIELC's international students. The group's recommendation to create a separate medical element assigned to DLIELC to meet Department of Defense medical clearance policy stands up in the next several weeks. The new element will aid in speeding up the student pipeline. "The medical issue has been going on for years and within about 30 days, we'll have it fixed," said Lt. Col. Paul Valenzuela, Air Force culture and language office chief, and working group member. "It's just amazing to see how it all comes together." Col. Howard G. Jones III, DLIELC commandant, said the English language program working group is an innovation in governance.

#### **Language and Cultural Training on the Fly**

For servicemen and women preparing for an operational assignment, language and cultural training can mean the difference between life and death—and they do not have the luxury of learning language the way they did in high school. Military personnel need training that can quickly and effectively teach them how to communicate to survive in Iraq, Afghanistan and other venues. To help ensure that the military has access to this kind of training, the Department of Defense created a set of language training standards in January 2005 known as the DoD Language Transformation Roadmap. According to Jim Winters, senior intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance research specialist for the Army, this roadmap is designed to "create foundational language, cultural competency and regional area expertise within the Army and the capacity to provide foreign language resources, establish a cadre of foreign language professionals, and establish processes to track foreign language expertise and professionals."

#### **How Acquiring and Using another Language?**

Because of this concern for the nation's seemingly invisible language needs, foreign language scholars and organizations have stressed that a national language policy should advocate and materially support all languages, not just those deemed "critical" by the U.S. military and intelligence communities. Pratt, for one, warns that foreign language scholars must "make themselves heard as advocates not for particular languages but for the importance of knowing languages and of knowing the world through languages" as an important dimension of citizenship. Similarly, the Joint National Committee for Languages and the National Council for Languages and International Studies acknowledges that a national language policy should address the nation's security needs, but it also calls for this policy to position foreign language education as a "core academic subject" because "study of and through another language Juicy Couture Watch(<http://www.juicycouturegirl.com/juicy-couture-watch-c-8.html>) enhances learning through improved cognitive development, transferable reading skills, [and] reinforcement of other subject areas". U.S.

Colonel Michael R. Simone of the Defense Language Institute stated this view most bluntly when he declared, "Language is our weapon."

### **What to do with a degree in modern languages**

You will hopefully have graduated with the ability to read, write, listen to and speak, another language. As a result, communication skills will be your forte, and you should also be adept at working alone along with the customary research and presentation know-how. As a bonus, any time you may have spent abroad as part of your course will have given you an insight into the culture and workings of another country.

"With the globalisation of industry and commerce, graduates with a good command of modern languages are sought after for numerous roles in a variety of organisations and sectors," says Margaret Holbrough, careers adviser at [Graduate Prospects](#). "However, careers where language skills are the primary focus are those of interpreter (spoken word), translator (written word) and teacher/lecturer, specifically in secondary education or above, and teaching English as a second language in the UK or abroad."

Alternative career options include the travel industry, working overseas or in the UK, retail buying, logistics and distribution, where goods or equipment are moved across international borders. "The government's diplomatic service is often a target for modern languages graduates, but is highly competitive," Holbrough says.

### **Rosetta Stone RST – The Negatives Outweigh the Positives**

I am willing to bet that once you hear the name Rosetta Stone, you automatically associate it with learning a foreign language. Rosetta Stone has done a tremendous job of marketing, and today, it is the most recognized brand of language learning products in the United States. The results are evident because since 2004, revenues have increased from \$25.4 million to \$252.3 million in 2009, which represents a tenfold increase. The company uses a unique method known as Dynamic Immersion to teach adults new languages. This method is modeled after the way children learn, with no grammar or explanation but with practice and context. It uses images, text, and sound to teach vocabulary terms and grammar naturally. Rosetta Stone's customers include individuals and institutions such as schools, government agencies and corporations.

### **Adult learning tips for learning a language**

1. Join a language class that has a small number of students. No more than four would be best. The less students in your class the more contact time you have with the lecturer which makes learning a language much quicker and more worthwhile. The bigger the class and the longer it will take to get through the material and to pick up the language. 2. Put in a bit of time every single day to revise new lexis as well as grammar rules. The more time that you can sacrifice for learning a language the quicker you are going to learn and excel in it. 3. Take every opportunity you can to communicate.

## **PREVIOUS NEWS**

### **NGCSU receives \$2 million grant for language center**

North Georgia College & State University has been awarded federal funds totaling nearly \$2 million to support its foreign language programs, including a \$1.2 million federal contract to establish a strategic languages training center on the university's Dahlonega campus. The language training center is the culmination of more than two years of work by the university, beginning with a National Security Education Program grant in 2008 to start a Chinese program. Earlier this month, university officials learned that the NSEP grant was increased to \$417,204 -- nearly double what it had been in previous years. Soon after the Chinese program began, North Georgia officials recognized a need for instruction in strategic languages for ROTC cadets and Reservists. The growing need for soldiers with global and multicultural understanding also has been identified by the U.S. Army.

### **Students pair up to improve language skills**

Seton Hall's Language Resource department is successfully running a co-curricular program, entitled "Conversation Partners," designed to aid non-native speakers in learning as well as conversing in their

languages. "Conversation Partners" caters to the needs of the students by pairing non-native speakers with native speakers to converse in the languages of their choice. Dr. Lopez-Cortina, the advisor to "Conversation Partners," suggested the idea after having spent time in Europe. "Some years ago I spent two semesters studying at the University of Bochum, Germany, where their seminar for the teaching of foreign languages had developed a very successful language exchange program," Lopez-Cortina said. "We adapted some of their ideas."

### **NYU alum uses improv to teach English**

A new language program in the East Village will be the first of its kind to put down the grammar books and use a more interactive approach to teaching English — improvisation. ImprovYourESL, which stands for Improve Your English as a Second Language, will use an improv comedy-based curriculum to teach English to non-native speakers. Adam McLean, NYU alumnus and founder and CEO of the program, spoke about his inspiration for the idea.

### **NJ Schools Weigh Approaches to Spending Federal Funds**

West Orange's superintendent, Anthony Cavanna, said he has begun meeting with his staff and others to determine where the greatest needs are after a summer that saw the district eliminate 90 full-time positions, including 39 teachers. He said foreign language programs were especially hard hit. He also explained that were equity issues to address in providing needed staffing for Title I programs for low-income students and those for limited-English and special-needs students.

### **HarperCollins Launches Educational Apps for Preschoolers**

HarperCollins Children's Books has launched its first e-imprint with two fun and interactive educational apps for the iPhone and iPod touch, aimed at helping preschoolers learn their ABCs and 123s. With catchy music and colorful graphics, kids will identify letters and learn the sounds they make in the [ABC Song app](#), as well as develop language, pre-reading skills, and small motor functions. No reading is required--the app models each letter and the sounds they make in speech and song.

### **Congress Will Explore Charges Of Unqualified Translators In Afghanistan**

The chairman of the House Armed Services subcommittee that investigates the military told ABC News he is deeply concerned by recent allegations that Army units have been saddled with unskilled foreign language translators in Afghanistan. "This issue of language skills is a very, very significant one," said Rep. Victor F. Snyder, an Arkansas Democrat who chairs the subcommittee on oversight and investigations. "The Army is taking it seriously. Our committee is taking it seriously. We're going to follow up on this."

### **Afghanistan Pakistan Hands: The first year**

One year ago this month, Adm. Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, established the Afghanistan Pakistan Hands Program for long-term regional engagement of the Afghan and Pakistani people. Now, nearly 300 military and civilian personnel are deployed to Afghanistan and neighboring Pakistan to build partnerships with the local populace as part of the greater counterinsurgency strategy employed by the International Security Assistance Force. They are part of a program that allows them to work shoulder-to-shoulder with Afghan partners.

### **The NCLRC Celebrates Refunding**

The National Capital Language Resource Center is pleased to announce that it has been refunded by the U.S. Department of Education as a Title VI Language Resource Center for an additional four years, from 2010 to 2014. There are currently 15 LRC's around the country whose mission is to improve language teaching and learning in the U.S. We are all delighted to be able to continue serving foreign language educators around the country.

### **FAMU Offers New Language Courses**

The FAMU Office of International Education is encouraging students to invest in an opportunity that will yield positive results and high rewards. The Mandarin Chinese, Arabic and Hausa courses are \$195, while the Portuguese course is equivalent to a regular four credit hour course taken at the university.

FAMU acquired the courses from the State Department through their Fulbright Language Teaching Grant and the instructors are trained professionals with appropriate certifications. This marks the first time in history that FAMU has offered all of these courses simultaneously during a semester.

### **Rosetta Stone launches latest language-learning version**

Arlington-based Rosetta Stone has released the latest version of its language-learning technology. Version 4 TOTALE (pronounced tow-tally) adds an online immersion experience to Rosetta Stone's current language-learning software, featuring interactive coaching sessions with native speakers. Once users have participated in a series of lessons, they can practice online. Online opportunities include sessions led by native speakers that allow users to practice with other learners at their same level. The Rosetta World allows users to converse with native speakers and practice language skills in online games. The version also includes mobile applications for iPhone and iPod Touch devices that allow users to reinforce learning on the go. These can also be downloaded onto an audio CD.

### **Foreign languages lead to better wages?**

A new report shows that employees who know a number of languages other than Polish can expect higher wages and better career options. Knowledge of a foreign language can be boon for both employers and employees, who can expect to earn as much as 10,000 zloty (around 2,500 euro) more at a managerial level than colleagues who speak only Polish. A report drafted by Sedlak&Sedlak personnel consultancy, which is based on the firm's own salary report from 2009, shows that knowledge of Chinese, Swedish, Arabic and Dutch are of particular benefit.

### **ABC J'accuse MEP: There is no there there**

Last week ABC News Investigative Team, including its chief investigative correspondent Brian Ross, ran a story that seemingly confirmed much of the negative coverage one sees in the media about private military contractor issues. On Sep, 8 it [reported](#) that Paul Funk, a former employee of Mission Essential Personnel (MEP), a major provider of translation service, interpreters and cultural advisors to the U.S. government, charged that more than one quarter, 28 percent to be precise, of the translators hired by the firm between November 2007 and June 2008 to work alongside American soldiers in Afghanistan failed language proficiency exams but were sent onto the battlefield anyway.

### **McNeil wins \$500M Special Ops contract**

A unit of Aecom Technology Corp. has received a \$500 million contract from the U.S. Special Operations Command to provide linguistic support services, the Defense Department said Tuesday. The five-year contract calls for McNeil Technologies Inc., of Springfield, Va., to supply all personnel, equipment, tools, materials and management needed to provide foreign language interpretation, transcription, reporting and translation services in support of overseas contingency operations.

### **Decode Your Future as a Cryptologic Linguist**

The United States Army operates in many different environments throughout the world. In order to make sure that the troops in the area are always safe, it is necessary to keep constant surveillance on all communication from the opposition. The information being captured will likely be in a foreign language seeing as they are communication with each other. Additionally, the language will be coded as to escape detection by the US Army Cryptologic Linguist.