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Foreign language education targeted by Congress

On the last day of the 111th Congress, a bill sponsored by U.S. Congressional Representatives Rush Holt (D-NJ) and Paul Tonko (D-NY) was quietly introduced. Although it lacked media fanfare at the time, its contents are headline-worthy. The bill, H.R. 6036, or the Excellence and Innovation in Language Learning Act, cites a pervasive lack of foreign language capacity that threatens the security and economic well-being of the United States. Holt and Tonko propose legislation that would allow every young American to become proficient in a second language—in addition to English—within a generation.

Award Winning Journalist Talks Media Relations With DoD's Warrior Diplomats

More than 30 military students designated as Foreign Area Officers (FAO) got the inside scoop on media relations from award-winning reporter Martin Savidge, Sept. 15, part of the latest Joint Foreign Area Officer Skill Sustainment Pilot Program (JFSSPP) course at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS).

Marines find gender useful as a weapon in Afghanistan

Sgt. Vanessa Jones and her teammates filed through the countryside with a squad of U.S. infantrymen and Afghan troops. They pushed through tall grass and leaped over canals, spilling into fields of sunflowers and the emerald spikes of marijuana plants rustling above their helmets. Then they waited, tucked into a ridge of dirt, while fellow Marines checked on a bomb dug into the road. Jones and her partner, Lance Cpl. Yvonne Blanco, were among a group of 40 volunteers who deployed to Afghanistan this spring to serve as Female Engagement Teams, a detachment organized by the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force at [Camp Pendleton](#).

Ga. university gets \$1.2M for language training

A university in north Georgia will receive \$1.2 million dollars to train soldiers in foreign languages. North Georgia College & State University announced it's received a contract to supplement language training offered by the U.S. Army's Defense Language Institute. Students have enrolled this fall in the school's new Strategic Language Institute Program, which teaches Arabic and Chinese. Students take two semesters of intensive foreign language courses.

Languages Create a Cultural Compass, Says Mara-Lee Bierman, Winner of a National Outstanding Teacher Award

The study of foreign languages is enjoying a surge in popularity as young and adult students see global opportunities for learning and employment in the 21st century—and Mara-Lee Bierman is on the cutting edge. "The study of foreign languages offers a cultural compass to navigate the world," says the Edgemont resident. "Ethnic and linguistic diversity are part of our global economy. Understanding others is a national security tool.

High School Going Global

This program encourages students to think globally, to improve their foreign language skills, and to be able to communicate effectively with people across cultural and language divides. The program acknowledges those students who want to learn more about other cultures and the relationships among people across the globe. Based on their interests, students can choose to participate in the program and complete the requirements necessary to earn the Global Literacy Certificate (GLC) over their high school career.

Arkoma Schools Use Long-Distance Language Learning

Oklahoma students are getting a foreign language credit while helping to preserve a native tongue and it's being done using technology. "It's important to be versatile in your language," Deven, a student told 5NEWS. High school students in Arkoma, Oklahoma are learning the Choctaw language. But they're doing it via the world wide web. "We have to have at least one foreign language in the high school curriculum now," Coach Chester Johnson said. Johnson acts as the administrator for the class. He's learning right alongside the students. The instructor is in a Choctaw center office in Durant, Oklahoma more than three hours away. "Her number one language is Choctaw, it's not English," Johnson said, explaining that they are getting the very best instruction.

US citizens should embrace other languages

What is it with Americans and their lack of motivation when it comes to learning about other languages and cultures? I hear every day that this is America and here we speak "American," but what happens when we carry the same attitude to Germany or France? I don't want to be that American who sits down at a French café and orders a Bud Lite instead of champagne. We live in a country that speaks the lingua franca and has a geographical isolation from countries that do not speak English, but I believe in order to show respect toward other countries, we should at least learn some basic phrases in the native tongue. It's not that hard to learn how to say "Where is the bathroom?" in another language. Pamphlets with basic phrases in other languages are easily available at one's local bookstore. I love my country, but can Americans at least make some sort of effort in appreciating other languages and cultures?

PREVIOUS NEWS

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.

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 Improvise 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.