
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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Reframing the National Security Language Policy

This national language policy, because it encourages more U.S. citizens to learn multiple languages, provides an important counterbalance to the Official English legislation that Senator James Inhofe introduced during the 2006 congressional debates on immigration reform and that his fellow senators approved by a 63-34 vote (Inhofe Natl.). Senator Inhofe's English Language Amendment targets immigrants in particular, demanding that they learn English as a means to prevent them from "importing dangerous, deadly philosophies that go against our American ideals" ("Inhofe Statement"). Although President Bush and other federal officials might share the same belief that all people living in the United States need to learn English, they have also sought to encourage—and to fund programs that enable—all U.S. citizens to learn multiple languages.

Rifle: Check. Helmet: Check. Schmoozing: Check.

(Washington Post)...Ian Shapira

As U.S. forces continue fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan, some service members are struggling with a relatively new kind of training beyond marksmanship or rapid-response attacks: learning how to use cunning, charm and empathy to stabilize a war zone.

The Terror Translators

To bolster counterterrorism operations after 9/11, the Police Department expanded its Intelligence Division — run by [David Cohen](#), a 30-year veteran of the [C.I.A.](#) — with detectives who had mainly spent their careers chasing street gangs, drug lords and violent Mafiosi. Such trained investigators brought with them specific skills the department thought would translate into the fight against terror: the ability to read a suspect's manner and the talent for managing secret informants. What they needed, in turn, were people to help them translate their skills to new terrain, people with a firm cultural grasp of the suspects they were meant to be pursuing. Over the years, a gang detective in the Bronx will probably have developed a radar able to determine at a glance the meaning of a hand gesture or a prison tattoo. But, as one former intelligence detective said of potential Islamic extremists, "when we first started, we didn't even know they prayed on Fridays."

The Critical Language Needs of the United States

For example, the Association of American Universities (AAU) and the American Council on Education's Coalition for International Education (CIE) both applaud the government's efforts to expand foreign language and study abroad programs, even as they explain that, for the desired ends to be reached, the federal government must increase its basic funding of science, mathematics, and foreign language research by 8 to 10 percent annually for the next seven years. The CIE in particular recommends that, rather than appropriate NSLI funds to create new programs, Congress should redirect this money to bolster programs that have already been established through both Title VI of the Higher Education Act, which specifically targets international education programs, and the Fulbright-Hays legislation, which provides material support for study abroad programs.

Fulbright scholars share worldviews with students

"Our FLTAs are also ambassadors of their home countries and cultures. We hope that instructors and student groups will invite them to talk about their home cultures, and what they are observing about the U.S., Texas and campus life at St. Edward's. The more we can learn about other cultures...the better," Randle said. Lu is learning as well. She attends classes in Second Language Acquisition and Methodology (LING 3339) and the American Experience.

Though living in Austin is Lu's first American experience, it is not her first experience in an English-speaking country. She lived in England for three years and attended the University of York, where she earned a Master's degree in Second Language Acquisition. Scholars studying second language acquisition examine how people learn a foreign language. "I want to learn how the field is being developed in the U.S.," Lu said.

Profs. present 'the immigrant paradox'

New research shows that immigrant children are performing well both in school and in the community & a phenomenon coined the "Immigrant Paradox" by Professor of Education Cynthia Garcia Coll. The researchers found that first-generation immigrant children are outperforming the more acculturated second- and third-generation children academically and behaviorally. The study shows that although first-generation immigrant children are often behind American-born peers in school, they catch up or even surpass them by the late-elementary years. First-generation children also have better attitudes toward school than second- and third-generation children, which has manifested in higher standardized test scores and GPAs for some groups. They also demonstrated lower levels of delinquency and involvement in risk behaviors.

Mercy Hospital Helps Fill Language Gap With Interpreter Training

Mercy Health System, in conjunction with Southern Wisconsin Interpreting and Translation Services (SWITS Ltd.), will offer a new interpreter training seminar for individuals proficient in two languages Friday, Oct. 1 and Saturday, Oct. 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Mercy Conference Center located inside Mercy Hospital Janesville. The seminar is facilitated by Saul Arteaga, director of SWITS Ltd. and will cover the fundamentals of interpreting, the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care Code of Ethics and the role of the interpreter in the medical and community setting. Mercy's collaboration with SWITS will teach the necessary interpretation skills to improve health care communication for individuals with limited English proficiency.

PREVIOUS NEWS

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?

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.”