
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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Army Corps completes \$28 million school building for Defense Language Institute

Rising above the hills of the Presidio of Monterey is the Defense Language Institute's new general instruction building (GIB), completed in September by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento District. The \$28 million building will house 60 classrooms for military students learning foreign languages, the first of three scheduled for Corps construction to accommodate the growing DLI. "The GIB will be a state-of-the-art instruction facility that will add 9.5 percent classroom capacity," said Col. Darcy Brewer, garrison commander at the Presidio of Monterey.

Contractor helps troops gain conversation skills for war zone

In a mock Afghan village on the Quantico Marine base, Sloan Mann, a military contractor, guided several Marines into a sweltering concrete room. They came to meet a fake mullah, played by an Afghan American actor. Mann, a former Army infantry officer, watched as the Marines practiced the seemingly straightforward tactic of chatting up Afghan village leaders. But the Marines, weeks from deploying to Helmand province, stumbled through their conversations. Their encounters with the "mullah" felt like bad first dates, with the Americans posing robotic questions about the village. Sgt. Walton Cabrera, 25, an aspiring police officer from Southern California, sat before the mullah but couldn't ease into a groove. "So . . . how's everything in the village so far?" he asked. "Has the population changed?"

Rosetta Stone dropped for families as free language software choice

The Marine Corps is slated to replace the Rosetta Stone foreign language training program for active-duty family members with Mango Languages software beginning Sept. 29, 2010. The Rosetta Stone contract for dependents was not renewed due to the company's problems of meeting the Corps' usage demands. "We're a small base, so we didn't have as much of a problem with (wait-lists)," said Bonnie Miller, library technician supervisor. "With Mango, we don't have to worry about that." The Mango contract allows all dependents registered with the station library to sign up for a language course, whereas Rosetta Stone had a set limit of language course registrations available.

Kanagawa to open language center

The Kanagawa Prefectural Government is opening a language and cultural institute in Yokohama in January to help foreign residents learn basic Japanese, while assisting schoolteachers and local government officials as they try to deal with foreign residents. Kokusai Gengo Bunka Akademia will also offer training to English- and other foreign-language teachers as well as lectures on foreign languages and cultures.

Australian DoD: Care not lost in translation in Pakistan

"The language spoken in Pakistan is a combination of three languages - it is mainly Saraki which is a combination of Urdu and Punjabi," WO2 Singh said. "Punjabi is my native language by way of background, I am Indian, and Urdu is something I have learned." During his deployment WO2 Singh has been dealing with contractual work, he communicates daily with local staff, and translates in the medical facility and with the Pakistan Military.

Critical Language Scholarship Program

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. Arabic, Persian: Advanced beginning, intermediate or advanced level; Azerbaijani, Bangla/Bengali, Hindi, Indonesian, Korean, Punjabi, Turkish, Urdu: Beginning, intermediate or advanced level; Chinese, Japanese, Russian: Intermediate or advanced level.

Baby Fingers Partners with the ROC: Resource Opportunity Center

Lora Heller, founding director of Baby Fingers LLC, now partners with the ROC, a resource center for NYC families and students who are home-schooled. American Sign Language (ASL) is the 3rd most used language in the United States. Many schools are now adopting ASL as a foreign language requirement, and kids in NYC are jumping on board. At the ROC, Baby Fingers offers classes for parents and babies, as well as school age children to enhance their language development and supplement their overall educational experience. Learning American Sign Language (ASL) provides an opportunity to express oneself through a creative, visual language while opening up the opportunity to interact with another culture right in one's own community.

Foreign language for grades K-3 in Saugus

Foreign language has been introduced as an encore subject for students at the elementary level in Saugus. School Committee members approved a fiscal 2011 budget that adjusted the elementary school schedules to offer foreign language in grades K-3. A K-3 Spanish teacher was brought on board to work with students. Executive Director of Finance and Operations Sam Rippin said the plan is to alternate semesters, with students taking music for half the year and then foreign language for the other half.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Building language skills more critical for boys than girls, study finds

Developing language skills appears to be more important for boys than girls in helping them to develop self-control and, ultimately, succeed in school, according to a study led by a Michigan State University researcher. The researchers examined data on children as they aged from 1 to 3 and their mothers who participated in the National Early Head Start Research and Evaluation study. As with previous research, Vallotton and Ayoub found that language skills – specifically the building of vocabulary – help children regulate their emotions and behavior and that boys lag behind girls in both language skills and self-regulation. What was surprising, Vallotton said, was that language skills seemed so much more important to the regulation of boys' behavior. While girls overall seemed to have a more natural ability to control themselves and focus, boys with a strong vocabulary showed a dramatic increase in this ability to self-regulate – even doing as well in this regard as girls with a strong vocabulary.

Oberlin College students make foreign language elementary

These kindergartners are part of a program that began six years ago in the Oberlin school system to expose foreign language to younger children. "It seems like the younger they are, the more they pick up the language," said teacher Mari Castaldi. "We don't speak any English, but the kids have been open and receptive to it. "There's times when we use hand gestures as we're telling them to do something in Spanish and even though it's never explained to them what we're saying, by year end they can tell you exactly what it means." Castaldi, 21, is a politics and Latin American studies major at Oberlin College, and she is one of about 50 college students who teach Spanish to kindergarten through fifth grade at Oberlin's public elementary schools. Students teach the courses for college credit through a program started in 2004 by Kim Faber, a linguistics professor at the college.

How to Find the Time to Learn a New Foreign Language

With the frenetic rhythm of nowadays, it often seems impossible to fit a(nother) foreign language into your busy schedule. But when you think of the benefits this new knowledge entails, it also seems impossible not to try, right? So, what can you do to bring in the magic and conjure up enough time to start learning a language? Here are seven of my favorite strategies...

Gathering around la Mesa

Paul Worley, who played a large part in resuming the meetings after they disbanded several years ago, says that programs like La Mesa Española are great for students who would like to improve their language skills. One of the definite advantages of these meetings is the informal atmosphere; the

conversation, instead of classroom topics like history and culture, tends to be about things like family, summer vacations and the big game the weekend before.

It's Never Too Late To Learn

Every day in Pickens County we have adults who are struggling with literacy or language skills, who struggle to find or keep a job, or who are not prepared to enter college or vocational training. Progress is being made through the Adult Learning program.

First Ever English Writing Skills Application for iPhone/iPad Launched on iTunes

Extentia and Expert English Teacher (EET) today announced the launch of iExpert English, the first application for iPhone and iPad that offers comprehensive guidance for writing in English. The iExpert English application is designed for assistance with English language tests such as TOEFL and IELTS, essays, writing assignments, and all written communication. EET provides the content for the application, which is the result of research and testing by language test specialists around the world.

Don't Learn Foreign Languages, I-Bankers

Investment banks want someone capable of "speed reading" fluent enough to compete with native speakers. It's nearly impossible that you'll get to that level—particularly with a language like Arabic or Mandarin—merely by studying in college. So by all means, study foreign languages, the blog advises. But don't base your choice on what would be "most 'useful' for investment banking."

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.