
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 4 OCTOBER 2010

More Women in Special Ops Forces, Gates Predicts

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said yesterday he anticipates that more women will serve in military special operations in the future. "My own bias is that we ought to spread those skills -- and language skills -- more broadly in the Army than just special operations forces," the secretary told the cadets. "The reality is, in both Iraq and Afghanistan, we have ended up using regular, conventional forces in ways that special operations forces used to do by themselves," Gates told the cadets. "A lot of regular Army infantry units are doing civil affairs, are doing development, along with fighting the fight."

Lieutenants complete inaugural language training

Twenty-five of the Air Force's newest second lieutenants recently completed the inaugural class of focused language training at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., as part of the Language Enabled Airmen Program. The Language Intensive Training Event, or LITE, was held at the Air Force Culture and Language Center over the span of four weeks and conducted by resident instructors from the Defense Language Institute. Classroom training included the strategic languages of Russian, Chinese, French, German, Modern Standard Arabic and Spanish.

Army now has Dari, will travel

Successful military deployment in a complicated place like Afghanistan requires soldiers to have all advantages they can carry. Effective weapons, communications gear, transportation and logistics support all help. But now the Army has begun sending soldiers to Afghanistan equipped with something else. It costs very little, and weighs nothing, and yet it can give soldiers an important advantage in dealing with the local population. It's [training in the Dari language and cultural customs](#). The first group of soldiers has just completed the course. We got an update on the program from Colonel Dino Pick, commandant of the Defense Language Institute's Foreign Language Center.

CULTURAL IMMERSION IN XI'AN, CHINA: Army ROTC

This past summer, I was given the opportunity to travel on a cultural immersion trip to Xi'an, China. The trip, which was 26 days long, consisted of one week in Hawaii, three days in Beijing, and the rest in Xi'an. Our mission while in China was quite simple, to volunteer our skills and services in a number of different placements, while also gaining a greater insight into the Chinese culture and traditions. Our in-country volunteer placements included teaching local kindergarteners, caring for foster babies, and even teaching Chinese college students that were interested in majoring in English. The group which I went with consisted of 21 Cadets, including myself, and two cadre, LTC Doyle, and CPT Helm. During every day of the week our group split off into our smaller sub-group and work at our specified placement for about two or three hours. I and eight other Cadets had the privilege of working at a nearby kindergarten.

Gov. Schwarzenegger vetoes bill to cut language, art requirement for high school graduates

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has vetoed legislation that would allow school districts to water down requirements for foreign language and art education in high schools. Currently, in addition to courses in English, social studies, math, science and physical education, the state requires students to take one year of either foreign language or visual/performing arts to graduate from high school. The bill would have given students the choice to take a vocational-education class instead.

Career advantages of learning a foreign language

In the English-speaking world, there is resistance to learning other languages. Children do learn languages in school, but too late, and teachers teach them as an academic study rather than as a means to communicate with other people. There are, however, many career advantages to learning another

language. If you can communicate in another language, your curriculum vitae will stand out to prospective employers. It may give you the edge against similarly qualified applicants. Learning a language, unless you have always been bi-lingual is difficult. It takes patience, determination, application, and hard work. Like any study you do as an adult, it shows the employer that you possess these qualities. These attributes and skills are applicable to other things, and they will help you to succeed in your job.

PREVIOUS NEWS

'Onus is on the Administration' to Make Language Changes Work

The Board of Education recently adopted changes to its language coursework that affects how elementary school students are instructed while trying to preserve the goal of exposing kids to foreign language at a young age—which educators say is necessary for maximum retention. "We tried to build the curriculum with a very novel approach," said Dr. Jessica Anspach, in her first year as the district's curriculum director. That approach asks classroom teachers at the elementary schools to incorporate cultural lessons within their plans to make up for the loss of dedicated, once-a-week instruction in Spanish. It's a challenge largely owed to the 2010-11 budget, which featured spending and program cuts before it was further reduced after voters rejected its tax levy at the polls.

Afghan Culture Lessons Help U.S. Troops in Afghanistan

A select number of servicemembers are learning ways to become experts in Afghan culture through the Afghan Hands Program. "We don't land in Afghanistan as experts, but the vision is that we become Afghan experts and then be[come] able to assimilate into this culture and develop relationships that just aren't possible with the short-duration deployments that we've traditionally had," Navy Capt. Russell McLachlan, the program's manager, said during a recent "DoDLive" Bloggers Roundtable. The mission of the Afghan Hands program, he said, is to build long-lasting, positive partnerships with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Afghan entities, and civilians, in order to demonstrate the long-term commitment of the International Security Assistance Force. The program, he added, is viewed as a method to build trust with the Afghan military and local populations in Afghanistan.

Civil affairs Soldiers bring diverse skills to Laghman PRT

U.S. Army Maj. Carlos Martinez of Walla Walla, Wash., the Laghman PRT operations officer and a Civil Affairs-branched Foreign Area Officer by trade, said CA is critical to keeping the PRT connected to the population. "The reason I think they're important is because civil affairs is the one entity that ties the civilian population to the commander," Martinez said. "They are our cultural experts and our liaison with the population; they facilitate the perspective we need as a reconstruction team, and that is critical to our mission."

EU Languages and Language policy

The European Commission has joined forces with Member State governments, the European Parliament, the European regions and social partners in order to: 1) Give citizens the chance of learning two languages in addition to their mother tongue from an early age; 2) Create friendlier societies, where different communities and individuals engage in dialogue with one another; and 3) Strengthen the role of languages in improving employability and competitiveness. These objectives are the backbone of 'multilingualism policy'. This section presents the activities the Commission has undertaken in these fields. To achieve its medium to long-term objectives the Commission promotes multilingualism throughout the whole range of its policies and programmes, providing an impulse for Member States, local authorities and social partners to take action at their level. In 2012 the Commission will review the progress that has been made.

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The Best Way to Learn a Foreign Language Is, of Course, Immersion or Living Where the Language is Spoken. For the Vast Majority of Learners That's Simply Not Possible, but Now Thanks to

Verbalplanet.com's Unique Web Based System to Learning a Language, Anyone Can Enjoy the Next Best Thing with a One to One Online Language Course with a Personal Language Teacher Via Skype, the Leading Internet Telephony Service.

Foreign language department teaches students about culture

The foreign language department allows students to understand different cultures while they learn a new language. Providing students with the basic communication skills needed in French, German, Portuguese or Spanish, the department is able to assist students in ascertaining a variety of careers. The department offers majors in German, French and Spanish. "The emphasis within the major is on culture, literature, linguistics, and more preparation for professions, such as Spanish for business or Spanish for health professions," said Department Chair and Associate Professor Greta Trautmann.

SinoPlus bridges language gap with China

In 2007, a Statistics Canada study found that Canadians of Chinese origin make up the largest non-European ethnic group in the country, with the majority of them arriving in Canada relatively recently. Most of them live in Ontario and British Columbia, with smaller communities in Quebec and other provinces. Tam's company works with employers who are seeking Chinese employees in Montreal to help liaise with their company operations in China. For example, some local employers in the Montreal garment industry have asked her to help find Mandarin-speaking employees to deal with pattern makers, fabric design, merchandising and clothing makers in their Chinese factories.

Publication of Chinese-Latvian Dictionary is first step in creation of new Confucius Institute

The newly-published "Chinese-Latvian Dictionary", created by Peteris Pildegovics of the University of Latvia's Asian Studies Department, is the first step in the creation of a Confucius Institute in Riga, LETA was told by University of Latvia Rector Marcis Auzins. The "Chinese-Latvian Dictionary" is a great investment in both education and in the future cooperation between the two countries. There is already great interest in studying Oriental languages among students of the University of Latvia, and the new dictionary will not only be a great help to those learning Chinese, but may also further increase the interest of the general public in Chinese language and culture.

[HTTP://WWW.MILITARYTIMESEDGE.COM/ADVANCEMENT/CAREER-DEVELOPMENT/ED STRAT LANGUAGE 100410S/](http://www.militarytimesedge.com/advancement/career-development/ed_strat_language_100410s/)

OR

[HTTP://TINYURL.COM/2ANWP23](http://tinyurl.com/2anwp23)

- Language skills pay now (\$300-\$1,000 per month)
- Language skills pay later (research suggests that workers who speak a second language average \$10,000 a year more in annual income)
- Language skills set you apart
- Language training is often F-R-E-E

BILL WOULD WATER DOWN CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

For years, business and government leaders and education planners have argued for fortifying foreign-language training in public schools, both as a tool in a global economy and as a skill in a diverse society. But a bill on Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's desk would allow districts to water down the one provision California now has regarding second-language and art education.

GATES OFFERS DUKE ROTC CADETS LEADERSHIP LESSONS

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates returned to the lectern today, thanking about 300 ROTC Cadets at Duke University here for choosing to serve in uniform during wartime, and offering some leadership

lessons to take along to the Field and Fleet. He encouraged them to consider alternative learning experiences to enhance their military education and training: going on to graduate school, becoming foreign area officers, trying a stint as a think tank Fellow, or serving in other branches of government. "All these experiences will make you a more successful military officer in the 21st century," he told the cadets.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT TEACHES STUDENTS ABOUT CULTURE

Bringing the experience of learning language outside of the classroom helps students to grasp the cultural aspects of a region, according to Bailey. "Apart from the mechanical importance of struggling with the tools to express yourself in another language, I don't think that you're ever going to be able to appreciate or understand the cultural, historical or literary expressions of a place without having struggled with it somewhere else," Trautmann said.

LINGUIST SALARIES IN TYSONS CORNER, VA | Indeed.com

Very eye (and wallet) opening figures (\$57,000-\$271,000 range).

LANGUAGE IDENTIFIER FREEWARE

Have you ever come across documents or websites and not known what language it is written in? The Lextek Language Identifier is capable of identifying not only what language it is written in but also its character encoding and what other languages are most similar. This will alleviate your wondering of what languages you are working with or looking at. An easy to use interface gives you the ability to quickly and easily identify the language of your documents. Simply paste the text in question into the Language Identifier's text window and press the Identify Button. The language identifier will analyze the text you have provided and tell you which language matches and which other languages most closely match. Snapfiles.Com tested it with several languages and always received correct results.