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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 8 OCTOBER 2010**

#### **For Female Marines, Tea Comes With Bullets**

Six months ago, Lance Corporal Robertson arrived in Afghanistan with 39 other female Marines from Camp Pendleton, Calif., as part of an unusual experiment of the American military: sending full-time "female engagement teams" out with all-male infantry patrols in Helmand Province to try to win over the rural Afghan women who are culturally off limits to outside men. As new faces in an American counterinsurgency campaign, the female Marines, who volunteered for the job, were to meet with Pashtun women over tea in their homes, assess their need for aid, gather intelligence, and help open schools and clinics.

#### **New initial enlistment bonuses announced**

The three AFSCs with smaller initial enlistment bonuses are airborne linguist, crypto linguist and tactical air control party. The decreases, each \$1,000 less than last year's amounts, apply to six-year enlistments.

#### **Local students impressive in Foreign Language Program**

Five of the island's top high school students enrolled in the Ministry of Tourism's 2010 Foreign Language Cadet Program are set to graduate tonight in an elaborate closeout ceremony at Treasure Bay Casino. The program, an initiative to promote the study of foreign languages among high school students, was launch-ed in Grand Bahama in January 2009 and in the capital in February 2004. The long range goal of this award language enhancement program is to generate a talent pool of bilingual, young professionals to service the country's tourism industry, in particular, and its economy, in general.

#### **More Poles still speak Russian than English**

While almost the whole of Europe speaks English as their second language, in Poland, the best known foreign language remains Russian, although mostly among the older generations. According to a new Europe-wide survey by the EU's Eurostat statistical service, English is the most widely studied foreign language at schools and universities all over Europe, followed by French, German, Spanish and Russian. In Poland, though the younger generations demonstrate proficiency in English - 87 percent of Polish students learn English, older generations would still rather speak Russian.

#### **No language GCSE means no sixth-form place, say top schools**

Two of the top-performing state schools in the country have declared their sixth-forms a "no go" area for pupils without a top grade GCSE pass in a modern foreign language. Chelmsford County High School for Girls and neighbouring King Edward Grammar School in Essex have said that, from September 2013, they will not accept pupils into their sixth forms unless they have at least one C grade GCSE in a modern foreign language. Both specialist language schools, which have regularly topped exam performance league tables for state schools, say they have taken the unprecedented decision in an effort to halt the "deepening crisis" in language teaching in the UK.

#### **FMU students, kindergarteners learn from each other during Spanish lessons**

A group of Francis Marion University Spanish students are using what they've learned in the classroom to expose kindergarteners to a new culture and language. FMU encourages its faculty to seek ways to take the classroom experience to the real world with experiential learning, and this semester, Dr. Wendy Caldwell Richardson and several of her students are doing just that at the Gail and Terry Richardson Center for the Child.

### **McGraw-Hill Education Congratulates California School District for Reading and Language Arts Achievement**

Baldwin Park elementary school students continue to make substantial progress in reading and language arts and their scores on California Standards Tests reflect those gains. *California Treasures*, a research-based, K-6 comprehensive reading language arts program, couples high-quality literature with guided instruction, ample practice, writing support and classroom management resources. The program was developed to meet California state standards, and reflects extensive input from California teachers. Baldwin Park had been looking for a curriculum to support its special dual-language program, which enables students of all backgrounds to opt into a bilingual (English and Spanish) speaking environment regardless of their skill level.

### **Language Center Seeks Hosts for International Students**

The **Interlink Language Center** at **Valparaiso University** is searching for families to host international students enrolled in the intensive English program. Most Interlink students are 18-27 years old – though some business persons above that age range are enrolled – and come from all over the world to improve their English language skills. Many are university students planning to continue their education in the U.S., others are professionals in various fields, particularly law and business.

### **Speak to me: Google launches voice command service in Korea**

Now the US company is hoping that its first foreign language voice-command service can help turn things around: this week it launched a Korean-language tool that allows users to speak into their smartphones to execute tasks such as sending text messages and e-mails. The service is available for smartphones running on Google's latest version of the Android operating system, and Google hopes it will bring more users to its search engine.

## **PREVIOUS NEWS**

### **Afghan Air Force learn English in Kandahar**

Afghanistan air force airmen at the Kandahar Air Wing are taking part in a program to improve their English as part of their training to better communicate with coalition forces. The Department of Defense Education Activity is a civilian agency that provides education to more than 84,000 eligible military and civilians in 194 schools around the world. Tom Wiglesworth, an English teacher from the DoDEA, teaches English to Afghan airmen of the Kandahar Air Wing. Wiglesworth said he has been teaching since 1982. He is here with four other teachers to assist the U.S. Air Force stand up the Kandahar Air Wing. "We are teachers of the soldiers; we are teachers of your children," Wiglesworth said proudly, "We came from Germany and Japan. I came in from Guam."

### **Equal Justice for Non-English Speakers**

Is the inability to speak English preventing "equal justice" for some Tennesseans? Many experts say "yes". But, it would appear that money and the law are butting heads over the issue. A federal law, Title Six, says interpreters have to be provided for non-English speakers in court. But, there's still the question of how to find enough of them—and how to pay them. Memphis lawyer, Rehim Babaoglu, told Eyewitness News, "If the individual can't understand the consequences of his guilty plea—let's say it's a criminal matter, then I don't see how they can take a plea from an individual who doesn't speak English and understand our concepts of law."

### **Language barrier keeps some Tennesseans from getting justice**

The families luckily found an attorney to help, and that puts them among the fortunate few in a state where the civil legal needs of non-English speakers and other vulnerable populations are vastly underserved, in violation of federal law. The Tennessee Supreme Court's Access to Justice Commission,

which is working to fix inequities in the civil courts, has created a committee tasked with improving the system for people with language barriers and people with disabilities.

### **Interpreters and Translators**

About 26 percent of interpreters and translators are self-employed; many freelance and work in this occupation only sporadically. In addition to needing fluency in at least two languages, many interpreters and translators need a bachelor's degree. Employment is expected to grow much faster than average. Job prospects vary by specialty and language. *Interpreters and translators* facilitate the cross-cultural communication necessary in today's society by converting one language into another. However, these language specialists do more than simply translate words—they relay concepts and ideas between languages. They must thoroughly understand the subject matter in which they work in order to accurately convey information from one language into another. In addition, they must be sensitive to the cultures associated with their languages of expertise.

### **Wofford launches language academy**

Wofford College today plans to announce the launch of a world-class foreign language academy next summer that is expected to draw some of the brightest middle school and high school students in the Southeast as well as top-notch teachers from around the globe.

### **ESL students surpass state goals for learning English**

English is a foreign language for hundreds of children in the Burke County public schools. Many grew up speaking Spanish or Hmong, but there are students whose native language is French or Vietnamese, Nigeria's Urhobo, India's Gujarati, Central America's Guatemalan dialects Quichean, Kanjobal, Aguacateco and Mayan — 18 different languages, in fact, according to Lannie Simpson, the school district's ESL (English as a Second Language) coordinator. In 2009-10, those students performed in school like never before. According to a new report from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, they met or surpassed all of the national and state goals for Burke County students with limited English proficiency.



### **Defeat of SWL school levy would eliminate AP, foreign language class options**

Advanced placement courses are not the only courses on the proverbial chopping block at Southwest Licking. The district also is poised to eliminate two-and-a-half foreign language teachers. That move also could impact prospective college students because most colleges want students to take two to three years of a foreign language in high school, Wiard said.

### **Program Bolsters Department's Language Capabilities**

"Language and culture are essential to the fight," she [Ms. Nancy Weaver] said during a recent interview. All servicemembers deploying to the Centcom area of operations should receive at least an introduction to language and culture in their training, she said, noting that language is key to understanding a culture. "There are clues to a culture that are hidden in the language," she explained. "That learning process is continual. It doesn't stop when you leave the classroom. You've got to interact with the local population in order to better understand what their concerns are and to get the information you need to keep your people safe." The need for language skills in a counterinsurgency fight is understood, but other military operations also require the capability, Weaver said. "After the earthquake in Haiti, we needed personnel who could speak Creole," she noted. "We were able to get many native and heritage speakers there quickly."

### **Eight Afghans Head To U.S. For Pilot Training**

Eight young Afghan eagles from the Afghan Air Force English language immersion class will soon depart for 18 months of training in the United States. They will return as pilots when training is complete. The eight lieutenants signed their seven-year service commitments before a small gathering of family and their NATO advisors. This intimate ceremony was followed by dinner with family, friends and supporters. "You are the future of Afghanistan and what a bright future Afghanistan has," said Col. Creig Rice. First, they head to the Defense Language Institute in San Antonio, Texas, for approximately six months of training. After living in the Thunder Lab, the NATO Air Training Command-Afghanistan immersion course,

and speaking English for the last five months, they are expected to take less time than their predecessors to move on to pilot training.

### **Rare Find: a New Language**

In the foothills of the Himalayas, two field linguists have uncovered a find as rare as any endangered species—a language completely new to science. The researchers encountered it for the first time along the western ridges of Arunachal Pradesh, India's northeastern-most state, where more than 120 languages are spoken. There, isolated by craggy slopes and rushing rivers, the hunters and subsistence farmers who speak this rare tongue live in a dozen or so villages of bamboo houses built on stilts. The language—called Koro—was identified during a 2008 expedition conducted as part of National Geographic's Enduring Voices project. The researchers announced their discovery Tuesday in Washington, D.C. So many languages have vanished world-wide in recent decades that the naming of a new one commanded scientific attention. Their language is quite distinct on every level—the sound, the words, the sentence structure," said Gregory Anderson, director of the nonprofit Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages, who directs the project's research.

### **In Tight Races For Congressional Seats, Language Could Make A Difference**

With dozens of U.S. Congressional seats at risk of changing hands in the upcoming November elections, candidates from both parties intend to coax each and every voter to head to the polls and cast a ballot in their favor. But will those potential voters actually be able to understand the candidates' positions? According to the latest American Community Survey, approximately one in every five residents of the United States (19.7%) speaks a language other than English at home, a testament to the country's long history - and current state - of ethnic and linguistic diversity. Here is a breakdown of the percentage of individuals who speak a foreign language in their residences within each state