
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 21 OCTOBER 2010

State Department ramps up in Iraq as military winds down

As the U.S. military mission in Iraq continues to wind down, a ramped-up federal civilian effort will remain for five years or longer. About 1,085 State Department employees and 2,700 contractors are in Iraq now and will stay for at least three to five years as the department takes on greater roles training the Iraqi police and establishing a permanent diplomatic presence, said Michael Corbin, State's deputy assistant secretary for Iraq. The department also anticipates hiring about 7,000 more security contractors for its embassy and consulate locations, if it gets the full \$2.6 billion it requested for ongoing efforts in Iraq in 2011, he said. Corbin spoke in an interview Tuesday with editors and reporters from Gannett Government Media Corp., Federal Times' parent company.

Summit To Save Foreign Language Education

Cuts to our kids' **foreign language** programs will make it harder for them to succeed. That's one of the messages we heard at the State Summit on Foreign Languages and Cultures at Wake Forest University. Peter Floyd, Chair of the NC Summit on Foreign Languages & Cultures, told us panelists agreed languages essential in today's job market are not being offered, and if they are, they're not being offered early enough. "The ax is being laid at the foot of the tree for foreign language education. K-6 **foreign language programs** are dropping like flies all over the state and if there's one thing the experts here have said today is you cannot achieve a high level of proficiency unless you start at an early age." Wednesday's summit was open to educators at all levels and government decision-makers. By the end of the day, they hoped to set a **foreign language** agenda for the next decade.

Government Still Pushes For Changes in Language Law

Despite promises by the government that no changes will be made in Armenia's language law, a key parliament committee on Wednesday decided to bring the revised piece of legislation implying such changes to a full session next. The National Assembly in June adopted, in the first reading, controversial legal amendments proposed by the government allowing the existence of a limited number of foreign-language schools in Armenia. Those amendments also concerned the law on the language. The move met protests from public and political circles opposed to the opening of such schools in Armenia and concerned over the "status of the Armenian language", which led the government to amending the bill twice and still promising that no change would be made in the language law when the package was to be voted on in the second and final reading in autumn.

Plan to make English 2nd language vetoed

The Education Ministry has scrapped a plan to make English the country's second language, saying it could lead to misunderstandings that Thailand had been colonised in the past. The ministry will make English the main foreign language instead of the second official language, Education Minister Chinnaworn Boonyakiat said yesterday. A subcommittee on education standards development under the committee on education reform proposed in July that English be made the country's second official language. The panel hoped this would spur students to achieve proficiency in English and help place the nation on the road map to the Asean Community in 2015.

The State of Global Higher Ed

"Over the past thirty years, there has been a steady stream of reports and commissions exhorting the U.S. education system to ensure that students are prepared for global citizenship and the demands of an interconnected world," the report reads. "The continued calls for action and the data available suggest that the U.S. educational system has not achieved the goal of producing a globally literate citizenry, nor

has it created a sufficient supply of language and area studies experts for the needs of business, government and academe.”

PREVIOUS NEWS

Lack of linguists hampers government's mission, officials say

Employees who can speak a foreign language are becoming more critical to federal missions, but officials say gaps in language capabilities are hampering work domestically and abroad. As agencies expand their global reach, they are scrambling to shore up language skills. But fiscal constraints are forcing trade-offs with other operational responsibilities, according to David Maurer, director of the [Government Accountability Office's homeland security](#) and justice team. The Defense, Homeland Security and State departments in particular are lagging in language capacity, he told the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia in July.

New interpreters save Yorkshire police forces £300,000

Police forces in Yorkshire say a drive to sign-up more language interpreters could mean a saving of up to £300,000. West Yorkshire Police - together with the North Yorkshire and Humberside forces - have encouraged people with foreign language skills to register. It is hoped up to 60 new interpreters will help cut mileage and travel costs. Terry Bradford, one of those taking part, said: "It is a very serious role. That is why I was interested in having a go. It will just be so challenging."

Hayle school becomes busy airport

The hustle and bustle of a busy airport descended on a Hayle Community School last week, to help pupils improve their language skills. The school was transformed into an arrivals and departure lounge, an airport concourse and an aircraft cabin thanks to a partnership with Newquay Airport. All the school's Year 10 pupils spent the day worked on developing their speaking language skills in French, German or Spanish and developing their understanding of the importance of languages in the business world.

How to Teach a Child Bilingual Reading

Bilingualism comes with many benefits for children, including a better ability to deal with distractions and faster mental processing.^[1] Bilingual reading ability is an important part of raising bilingual children; yet, for bilingual families, getting a child to start reading in both languages naturally could be a challenge. To avoid having to resort to tutoring at a later age, use the window of opportunity that parents can take advantage of to teach bilingual reading at home. This article explains the technique to use early in your child's life, and it's one that's easy, fun and free.

It's time to mind our languages

THE Englishman's fear of foreign tongues reached crisis levels this school year. An international study put Britain joint bottom of 39 of developed countries when it came to learning languages. Everyone agrees we start learning too late. That's why primary schools are now supposed to teach a foreign language from 7 to 11.

New syllabus for 2011 prelims out

Introducing a level-playing field for aspirants of India's elite services -- IAS, IFS, IPS and others -- the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has come out with a new syllabus for the 2011 [preliminary examination](#), which, besides aptitude and other skills, will also test candidates on their knowledge of "environmental ecology, biodiversity and climate change". The aspirants will also be tested for English language comprehension skills. As of now, the English language test is part of qualifying papers without having any weightage in the civil services (Main) examination. But its introduction in the preliminary level could mean a brighter chance for all those whose English language skills are better, to qualify for the Main.

Microsoft Research Collaborates With Wikipedia to Enhance Multilingual Content

Microsoft Research today announced the launch of the beta version of WikiBhasha, a multilingual content creation tool for Wikipedia. The WikiBhasha tool enables contributors to Wikipedia to find content from other Wikipedia articles, translate the content into other languages, and then either compose new articles or enhance existing articles in multilingual Wikipedias.

LEAP program grows with second selection board

The Air Force Language and Culture Center added 260 participants from more than 400 active-duty officer and cadet applicants to the Language Enabled Airman Program during its selection board in September, officials said here Oct. 15. The Air Force program has grown since its first board, when 192 U.S. Air Force Academy and ROTC cadets were selected to be among the first LEAP participants, officials added. "The program continues to see quality applicants interested in the career-long opportunity, as witnessed in the number of top (Academy) and ROTC graduate applications we reviewed," said Lt. Col. Paul Valenzuela, the chief of the Language, Region and Culture Program Office.

Department of Defense Language Interpretation and Translation Enterprises (DLITE)

The purpose of the DLITE contracts is to provide DoD Enterprise entities and other government agencies and organizations with world class foreign language and regional expertise competencies for and to manage to maximize the accession, development, maintenance, enhancement, and employment of these critical skills appropriate to the Government's mission needs in an efficient and cost-effective manner. This is a hybrid Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract with multiple types of pricing structures available.

Meeting on vernacular languages allows elaboration of linguistic action plan: Angola

The general director of the Vernacular Languages Institute, José Pedro, stated in Uíge City that the IV National Meeting on Vernacular Languages will allow the elaboration of a Linguist Action Plan for Angola. While speaking at the opening of the event, happening until the 21st of October, he explained that since one of the objectives of the event is to update data on the sociolinguist situation of Angola, it will enable the institute to materialise such goal. José Pedro stressed that the document to be elaborated answers the demand of Africa Linguistic Plan of Action, as well as secures independence and cultural development of Angola, aimed at promoting national unity, developing vernacular languages and overcome some language barriers.

NYU courses to be made freely available online

NYU has launched a pilot Open Education program that will make taped lectures available to the public. The ambitious project cites Pennsylvania's university system, which is considering making foreign language courses online only.

Spanish taught to younger students

Un condado de Virginia Occidental enseña a los niños español y otros idiomas. You may not understand that, but Ohio County elementary school students might. It means a West Virginia county now teaches students Spanish and other languages. While that may sound commonplace, Ohio County has taken it to a new level. That county's elementary schools are now in their fifth year of a stepped-up foreign language program. The school system started the program in fall 2006 in the county's kindergarten classrooms. Since then, the school system has added another grade level each year. "What we wanted to do is follow our kindergarten students who had it the first time," deputy superintendent Dianna Vargo said. Next year the program will expand to include fifth-graders, completing the school system's goal of kindergarten-through-12th grade foreign language education.

Young minds receptive to foreign language: US children must learn earlier in order to further globalization

With the increasing globalization of our society, knowing a foreign language is essential to any career path, and for future generations of children growing up in America, it will be even more so. A major problem in public education today is the lack of foreign language requirements for students. For the most part, foreign languages aren't taught in public schools until high school and sometimes middle school, and this makes no sense. Most of these requirements are so small - as in only two years of a language - that

they aren't enough for any student to become even close to fluent in a language. Many educational systems all over the world require students to take multiple languages and for many years, leaving them with a greater understanding not only of another country's language but also of its culture and how to interact with its people.