
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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Civilian Language Education in America: How the Air Force and Academia Can Thrive Together

The Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) of 2006 first proposed that Department of Defense (DOD) language planners focus on preaccession language education instead of spending time and treasure to teach foreign languages to recruits and second-termers, a proposal echoed in the QDR of 2010.¹ Since "preaccession language education" almost always connotes formal college and university coursework, it appears that the last two QDRs seek to strengthen the linguistic skills of the officer corps. However, a lack of both direction for and understanding of what this nation's language education system can provide continues to hamstring efforts to expand preaccession language training.

Value of a foreign language major?

A student pours over college profiles searching for the school with the "perfect" program. As a Spanish major, he heard good things about the faculty. The student recalls the speaker at his Information Session boasting about SUNY Albany's extensive foreign language department. The presenter worked hard to let all newcomers know that the world was indeed "within reach" with the number of study abroad and language programs they offered. "Looking back, I cannot believe that the pride that this university once had for their foreign languages has diminished so quickly."

Bringing Language to Life at Hebrew Day School

The Hebrew Day School (HDS) is unique among Ann Arbor's elementary schools for providing a second language immersion program. As the name implies, this method of teaching immerses students in the second language for half the school day. Head of School, Dina Shtull explains, "Hebrew language is integrated with the overall academic curriculum and taught through multiple means - drama, music, the arts and technology.

French seduces English-speaking Africans

The number of French-speakers may be on the decline in Europe as learning English and Spanish grows in popularity, but Africa is experiencing the opposite trend. According to the International Organisation of the Francophonie (IOF), there are around 220 million French-speakers worldwide. Although the number is falling in Europe – down to 12 per cent of all French-speakers by 2050 – the overall figure is up due to demographic growth in Africa – where half of all French-speakers live. The total number speaking the language of Molière has risen by 20 million since 2007.

Language classes in short supply but high demand in Oregon

Did you know? Thirty-four out of 50 states, including Oregon, don't require any credits in a foreign language to graduate from high school. Second language instruction is rarely available at Jackson County public elementary and middle schools, and only a fraction of students participate. Even at the high school level, a minority of students are enrolled in a second language at any given time. Oregon's new diploma standards for 2012 require three credits from any of three categories: a second language, art and/or career and technical education. Still, study of a second language in high school remains optional, albeit recommended because of university admission requirements, which usually include two years of a second language.

PREVIOUS NEWS

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."

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.