

---

---

## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

---

---

### **CURRENT NEWS 27 OCTOBER 2010**

#### **AMC announces nominee for 2010 Air Force Language Professional of the Year**

Tech. Sgt. Ahmad M. Adi, from the 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., is AMC's nominee for the award. Adi is versed in two languages and was "pivotal" in supporting his unit on a recent deployment. "His outstanding enthusiasm for the mission and unrivaled professionalism led to his selection as the linguist department non-commissioned officer in charge," stated the announcement for his nomination from Headquarters AMC. Managing a 41-member team, he coordinated "around-the-clock" manning support for 2,400 linguist support requests and translated 700 high-priority documents while maintaining 100 percent department coverage with five less personnel assigned than previous deployments, the announcement stated.

#### **A Comprehensive Approach to Local Engagement in Afghanistan**

Currently there are three successful bottom-up local engagement programs from which to conduct further research and analysis: 1) the former Special Forces Local Defense Initiative program and the current Village Stability Operations program, along with the Afghan Local Police program; 2) the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Female Engagement Teams (FETs); and 3) the Non-Government Organization (NGO) Central Asia Institute's methodology.

#### **NHLRC is renewed for four more years**

We are happy to inform you that the National Heritage Language Resource Center was re-funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Language Resource Center Title VI grant. This means that we are funded for another 4 years, 2010-2014! Our Heritage Language Summer Institutes, Workshops, Conference, High School Classes, the Heritage Language Journal and research will continue.

#### **Cabinet to Review School Reforms**

The cabinet on Wednesday will be looking at a controversial package of proposed changes in the curriculum in the nation's comprehensive schools. The most divisive issue is expected to be the question of expanded language teaching. "Instruction in the first required foreign language would start in the second grade, and an elective language would be offered in the fourth or fifth grade. These measures are key to diversifying and strengthening language skills," notes the Education Minister. She also points out that currently 20 percent of schoolchildren already start studying a foreign language in the first or second grade.

#### **Murray State professor assisting in Iraq**

Murray State University education professor Michael Basile is serving on the first board of trustees at a new university in the Kurdish region of Iraq. Basile, who is former director of Murray State's Institute for International Studies, has worked for about 15 years with the university's first president, Salah Aziz, to help develop civil society institutions in Iraqi Kurdistan. When Aziz established the new Kurdistan University of Science and Technology, he asked Basile to serve as a trustee. Basile has worked to try to establish a new English language acquisition program similar to the English as a second language program at Murray State.

### **Superintendent promises to return foreign languages**

Superintendent Marc Kerble is making a bold promise to parents of the district this week that a return of Nock Middle School's foreign language program is imminent and will be in place by next school year. "What I want to do is really take a hard look at foreign language and what is the best thing for our students, whether it's bringing back the courses the way they used to be, or whether it's online courses, or maybe there's something else," Kerble said.

### **Google Magnify concept is like a translating magnifying glass**

We like a good concept around here and the Google Magnify has caught our attention. When we are online surfing the web and run across something we can't read because it is written in a foreign language we just hit the Google translate button and read away. The concept is a small hand held unit that has a handle that flips down like the magnifying glass my grandmother uses sometimes. The difference is that the concept device would have some tech inside that would put the text on the screen, presumably using a front mounted camera, and then automatically run Google Translation on the text so the user could read it. I could see this being a great product for people who travel a lot.

### **Michigan's tribal language bill allows uncertified Native speakers to teach**

The Michigan legislature has taken a commonsense approach to the teaching of Native languages in the state's public schools. As of Sept. 30, public school students will get foreign language credits for succeeding in Native American language and culture classes taught by tribal elders and other Native language speakers who are not state-certified teachers. The new law, Public Act 168 of 2010, was introduced in December 2009 by Sen. Mike Prusi, who represents the state's 38th District, which includes most of the Upper Peninsula.

### **Communication is crucial**

The Rotherham based firm regularly hosts visits by students to promote the use of foreign language learning and recognise its importance in business. Gordon Bridge, managing director of AESSEAL, said: "The students really benefit from seeing how foreign languages are used within a modern, innovative business and via positive feedback from both students and teachers alike, the visits are deemed to be a resounding success. The visits are part of the International Business Communication (IBC) scheme through which students study for NVQ qualifications instead of GCSE.

### **SDL Language Technology Showcase – Houston**

To succeed in the ever-changing global marketplace, analyst research and our customers continue to prove that timely and accurate information, delivered in multiple languages, is the key to improving the customer experience and increasing global revenues. So how can you adjust your translation process to better compete on a global scale? Join us on Wednesday, November 17 in Houston to understand the role language technology can play in a global content strategy. Over a roundtable discussion and luncheon, localization experts and guest speakers, from top global brands, share their experiences in driving a global content strategy within their organization.

### **Study reveals common gaffes when using a foreign language**

The Greek word for "good morning" – "kalimera" – bears a resemblance to "calimari", while "Je suis plein" means "I am full" in French, but when mispronounced as "pleine", translates as "I am pregnant". The study also revealed that 95 per cent of Britons would attempt to speak the local language on holiday, particularly those travelling to Spain or France. The most commonly used words and phrases were "hello", "please", "thank you", "goodnight", "where are the toilets?" and "a bottle of house red".

## **PREVIOUS NEWS**

### **Female Engagement Team builds bridges into Afghan society**

As the Female Engagement Team of Regimental Combat Team 1 patrols the fields, canals and villages of Helmand, they are bridging the cultural gap that is sometimes at the forefront of the counterinsurgency

here. In Afghanistan's culture, a woman's modesty is a sanctity closely guarded by everyone. But, this specially trained team is able to reach across those boundaries, enabling them to go where male Marines often cannot. "Afghanistan's society is much more conservative [than that of the U.S.] when it comes to women," said 1st Lt. Quincy Washa, FET platoon commander for RCT-1. "Very rarely are they allowed to go outside the compounds without a male escort, so it's imperative that we get the female Marines to go to them."

### **Female engagement team makes strides in Kunar**

In Asadabad, a city located near the Pakistan border in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar province, women are seldom seen outside their homes. But that changed on Oct. 20, as a foot patrol predominately made up of females worked its way through the crowded streets headed to a women's shura. The patrol included 18 females and a few males, most of them members of female engagement teams at the district and provincial levels from Task Force No Slack. "I think women's affairs are probably the highest priority out here," said U.S. Army Maj. Mary Parmenter, the Iowa National Guard's 734th Agribusiness Development Team operations officer and a member of the Forward Operating Base Wright FET. "Education of women and children is what's going to change the future of Afghanistan."

### **Small University Uses Fulbright Program to Bolster Foreign-Language Teaching**

Lincoln University, in southeastern Pennsylvania, has long had a global outlook. The historically black institution notes, for example, that its graduates include the first presidents of Nigeria and Ghana. But in recent years, international interest among its students has flagged. Lincoln has been forced to drop two-thirds of its language offerings over the past seven years; only about 40 of its 2,000 undergraduates studied abroad last year. Now Lincoln is hoping that four participants in the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program on the campus this year can help jump-start its ambitious plan to restore students' global perspective. Among the university's new priorities are increasing foreign-language enrollments and more than doubling its study-abroad numbers.

### **YLE Poll: Many Municipalities Want to Scrap Mandatory School Swedish**

Over half of municipal leaders want to see changes to language education in schools. Many feel that Russian should take priority over Swedish, particularly in eastern Finland. Year after year, English continues to be highly popular among students, thanks largely to pop music, games and films. The same cannot be said for Swedish. A YLE poll of municipal leaders finds that municipalities want more freedom designing language instruction. This is especially the case in eastern Finland, which is home to hundreds of Russian immigrants.

### **Hundreds denied citizenship because of poor Norwegian language skills**

Nearly 350 foreigners living in Oslo and Akershus alone have been denied citizenship or permanent residence permission in Norway because they're not good enough at speaking, reading or writing Norwegian. State broadcaster NRK reported Monday how the figures show one of the first tests of a new law approved two years ago, that requires foreigners between the ages of 18 and 55 to have undergone at least 300 hours of Norwegian classes or otherwise document good Norwegian language skills before they'll be granted citizenship (*statsborgerskap*). Those seeking permanent residence permission (known as *permanent oppholdstillatelse*, earlier as *bosettingsstillatelse*, in Norway) must also document language skills if they're aged 16 to 55.

### **The Dictionary Revolution: SnapTranslate, The First App That Can Read**

The New iPhone App "SnapTranslate" photographs foreign language texts and provides the translation within seconds – entirely without any annoying typing. You're on business trip in Mexico and are unable to read the memo in Spanish? Or the menu while on vacation in France? Or the Russian street signs perhaps? With "SnapTranslate" all that is a thing of the past. At the AppStore simply load it to your iPhone, photograph the foreign language text with your iPhone camera and in just a few seconds SnapTranslate translates the text and even reads it aloud. Entirely without typing. It couldn't be simpler.

### **Bilingual? The Feds Want YOU**

Many federal agencies are lacking workers with foreign-language skills, and those workers with linguistic talents are suddenly finding themselves in demand, *Government Executive* reports. Director of the

[Government Accountability Office](#)'s homeland security and justice division David Maurer told a Senate subcommittee in July the [Defense Department](#), the [Department of Homeland Security](#) and the State Department are all behind the curve when it comes to having workers with language skills. DHS, DoD and the State Department are all offering internships and language training to lessen the language gap. And increasingly, departments are looking for more qualified candidates for job openings. Often, proficiency in another language earns a job seeker extra points.

#### **Fourth-graders connect with high school Spanish class**

Thanks to video conferencing equipment, fourth-grade honors students from Mohawk Intermediate School and Blackhawk Intermediate Center in Park Forest are participating in a Rich South High School introduction to Spanish class without leaving Mohawk School. The fourth-graders participate in the daily high school-level class via a 42-inch screen monitor that enables them to interact with the high school teacher and her class. Once the monitor was turned on, the fourth-grade students proclaimed "hola" in unison to the high school class. They then followed the instructions of Rich South High School teacher Juanita Southern to count to 30 in Spanish with the high schoolers and perform other tasks, such as converting the numerals into their Spanish word equivalent.

#### **Schools Examine Elementary Foreign Language Program**

The Loudoun County Public Schools Curriculum and Instruction Committee met with teachers from the Foreign Language in Elementary School and Spanish at the Middle School programs to hear about their progress before the upcoming budget season. Peter Hughes, director of curriculum and instruction for the school system, opened the meeting with a review of the history of the program, which is now in its ninth year. He noted that the program had been a long-standing goal of the School Board that took several years to implement. The program began in 2001 in only the kindergarten and first-grade classes of 10 elementary schools, and since that time has expanded to every first through fifth grade class at 44 elementary schools and 11 middle schools. Wyhs said those communication skills will be vital to students graduating in the class of 2020, who just began the FLES program this year, as they will be entering a global community in which the ability to speak at least two languages will be vital employment skills.

#### **Defense Language Institute Rocks the Language of Giving**

The Department of Defense premier language training facility—The Presidio of Monterey Defense Language Institute in California—teaches 24 languages and several dialects. Recently they added the language of giving with a practical lesson about the power of blood. In mid-September the Armed Services Blood Bank Center—Pacific Northwest (ASBBC-PNW) made its annual summer visit to the Defense Language Institute to conduct a blood drive in memory of those that lost their lives on Sept. 11, and in memory of the heroes that died to save them. Although this was the first introduction to the Armed Services Blood Program for some at the Defense Language Institute, all those who participated were glad to donate to the military blood program.

#### **LEAP program expands with 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 in Washington, D.C., said 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 said.

#### **Vietnam's ambitious plan to become an IT power**

The Prime Minister has approved the information technology (IT) development plan, under which IT will see the annual growth rate 2-3 times higher than the GDP growth rate, with the industry making up 10 percent of GDP of Vietnam. It is expected that by 2020, Vietnam will have one million people working in the IT industry. 80 percent of students graduating in subjects related to IT will have the professional knowledge and foreign language skills good enough to join the international labour market. From now to 2015, about 30 percent of students are estimated have such skills.

### **Learning Korean Language a Growing Trend in Southeast Asia**

An increasing number of Vietnamese are showing interest in learning and improving their Korean language skills after coming into contact with a variety of Korean dramas, music and the culture itself. At one university in Vietnam nearly 30,000 people packed hallways and classrooms to take a Korean language proficiency exam. The number of people taking the test across the Southeast Asian country this year is five times greater than in 2006.

### **Developing Online Lessons**

In Phase I of the Critical Languages Project, CSILC worked with the Department of Defense, Defense Language Institute Foreign Language School at the Presidio of Monterey, California, in order to develop more than 150 Arabic language lessons. The project had the dual purpose of improving student language proficiency *and* teaching the student valuable lessons about the history, culture, politics, economy and religion of the Middle East.

### **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-terms, a proposal echoed in the QDR of 2010.<sup>1</sup> 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.

### [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.<sup>[1]</sup> 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.