
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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Face of Defense: Defense Department Teachers Deploy

When Brenda Colom first heard news of the devastating earthquake in Haiti that affected as many as 3 million people, she felt compelled to do something. It was the earthquake that got Colom, an English teacher with the Department of Defense Education Activity's schools in Europe, to start thinking about ways to help others. When she received an e-mail from DoDEA headquarters a month later asking for volunteers for the Civilian Expeditionary Workforce to teach English to Afghan soldiers training with the U.S. military in Afghanistan, Colom said, she "jumped on the chance."

US Marines boost security in Marjah Afghanistan

"Everybody that participated brought something special, some unique characteristic and combat-multiplier to the mission," said Quinn. "Everybody, from the female engagement team all the way to our non-kinetic fire teams, had something to offer."

Why 'Multi-Kulti' Is Failing in Europe

Multiculturalism just doesn't work in [Germany](#), according to Chancellor Angela Merkel. Speaking to the youth association of her Christian Democrat Union party (CDU), she said that the "multi-kulti" concept that "we are now living side-by-side and are happy about it ... this approach has failed, utterly." Merkel described this as living in "parallel societies" similar to the Chinatowns of New York and San Francisco or the Little [Italy](#) in Philadelphia. Multiculturalism has never meant "separatism" in the U.S. It means pluralism where homeland ethnic, religious and cultural identity can be kept in the larger context of the American mainstream. One can be a hyphenated American - an Asian-American, Muslim-American, Italian-American, Irish-American or African-American. There is no need to give up one identity when both can be kept. This reflects America's roots in mass immigration from all over the world.

Science Grows on Acquiring New Language

Recent studies on how language learning occurs are beginning to chip away at some long-held notions about second-language acquisition and point to potential learning benefits for students who speak more than one language. "We have this national psyche that we're not good at languages," said Marty Abbott, the director of education for the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in Alexandria, Va. "It's still perceived as something only smart people can do, and it's not true; we all learned our first language and we can learn a second one."

Grant supports research and outreach on foreign language teaching

Government, business and community leaders agree that for the U.S. to remain competitive in a global economy, more Americans must be proficient in foreign languages and be knowledgeable about diverse cultures. Penn State's Center for Advanced Language Proficiency Education and Research (CALPER) in the College of the Liberal Arts has received a new four-year federal grant of more than \$1.2 million to continue to develop innovative approaches to language teaching, research and outreach that improves instruction in foreign languages in our nation's high schools and universities.

The Texas Language Technology Open-Access Initiative

The newly formed Texas Language Technology Center (TLTC) at the University of Texas (UT), in collaboration with Liberal Arts Instructional Technology Services (LAITS), has developed an initiative that will focus on the development, production, dissemination, and evaluation of six "Open Access" (OA) foreign language instructional resources: Aswaat Arabiyya, Alkitaab Textbook, Deutsch im Blick, Persian Online, Radio Arlecchino, and Tá Falado. OA resources are digital scholarly works accessible online,

free-of-charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions. These resources will make large bodies of high-quality multimedia content widely available. The individual projects are currently at varying stages of development, ranging from initial design, to expansion of content, to complete redesign driven by technological innovation.

PREVIOUS NEWS

The Army's future looks less special

Lt. Gen. John Mulholland, chief of the Army's Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, believes his soldiers are "our nation's most relevant force" and said as much in a Raleigh press conference recently. Ordinarily this claim could be dismissed as the type of chest-thumping any commander does to boost morale back at the unit. The difference is that Mulholland is right - at least for now. The future, however, may be quite different. Gen. David Petraeus, our commander in Afghanistan, literally wrote the Pentagon's book on counterinsurgency, casting Army special operators in a lead role. He values units like Mulholland's because they add a handful of unique capabilities - civil affairs, psychological operations, intelligence, language skills and region-specific knowledge. These skills help them to train foreign security forces and interact with locals, the bread and butter of counter-insurgency.

Thai cabinet approves co-op on development of Chinese language

The cabinet meeting on Tuesday permits the Ministry of Education to prepare the framework of cooperation of Chinese language teaching and learning in Thai higher education institutes. Thai Ministry of Education and China National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language (Hanban) will work together in preparing the cooperation framework. The project is aimed at enhancing teaching capability of Thai academics as well as developing Chinese language curriculum in Thai universities.

Language skills management

The National Languages Education and Training Institute will broaden the language study scopes of the educated youth. Under this program special language training courses have been designed by the Institute. Since it has been observed that there is a dearth of qualified interpreters and translators though the particular service is considered a very important assignment in the Government, a one year diploma is being introduced to train English and Sinhala language translators and interpreters at the Institute's Agalawatta languages training centre. Those who get qualified at the final test are offered the diploma.

Albion kids learn to love languages

Albion elementary students are getting tidbits of **foreign language** and culture thanks to a new program that began this fall. Albion's Nancy Lewis, parent of six past or current Albion Public Schools students, said she was thrilled with the exposure to culture her children saw at the district and wanted to make sure everyone had the same experience. So she wrote a \$1,500 Albion Community Foundation grant to begin a "Learning to Love Languages" program at Harrington Elementary. The program brings 18 Albion College language students into second- through fifth-grade classrooms for 15-minute lessons in Japanese, Spanish, French, Hindi, Chinese, Vietnamese and Arabic on the tail end of humanities, fine arts and physical education classes.

Over 200 Teach India volunteers get to brush up their language skills

Teach India is The Times of India's social responsibility initiative that has seen tremendous response ever since its launch in 2008. This year, the initiative focuses on spoken English courses for the youth for jobs. The idea is to coach sets of dedicated trainers who will in turn coach underprivileged young men and women in language skills needed to land jobs in retail, hospitality so on and so forth - in essence a skills-for-employability programme with focus on English language spoken communication.

[Language check for ITians to land jobs](#)

For the past four months, graduating batches at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B) have been taking rigorous seven-minute oral tests that have nothing to do with what they have studied in class. They are having their English language and comprehension skills evaluated.

[Simple Tips on Learning a New Language - It's Easier than You Think!](#)

Learning a new language can be fun and exciting. Knowing more than one language can help you advance in your career. People who can speak Arabic are valuable employees. People feel more at ease when you are able to say a few words to them in their own language. If you are a business owner, you should try to learn a new language in case you need to speak with customers who are not from here. If you are trying to learn Arabic online, you should make use of all the course materials and practice listening and speaking a few times per day. If you follow some simple tips, you will be speaking your new language within a few days.

[American female troops engage Afghan women](#)

Some great work being done by our female service-members. In the Afghan culture, it is only accepted that women would work with women. Across Afghanistan, "Female Engagement Teams" of U.S. military women are working to [strengthen relationships with rural Afghan women](#). It's something that their male counterparts aren't able to do given the cultural roles of women in the country.

"Very rarely are [women] allowed to go outside the compounds without a male escort, so it's imperative that we get the female Marines to go to them," said 1st Lt. Quincy Washa, a Female Engagement Team platoon commander.

[Navy College enacts changes in Southwest region](#)

Due to reduced staffing, Defense Language Proficiency Tests (DLPT) and the Defense Language Aptitude Battery (DLAB) are now offered at 10 locations worldwide. In the Southwest region, these defense language tests are available at Naval Base San Diego.

[Mandarin Chinese taught in Berks from remote site: BCIU uses electronics to link teachers, students in 5 school districts](#)

The BCIU is using three guest teachers from China, each a college student pursuing a degree in education. And part of a \$900,000 federal Foreign Language Assistance Program grant was spent to hire a full-time teacher, although that money will run out in 2012. The idea behind the distance-learning program is that by joining forces, cash-strapped districts can still provide a multitude of options to their students. "A small group of teachers can service a large group of students," said William F. Miller, the BCIU chief information officer. "It's really very cost effective."