
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS FRIDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2010

ARMY HAS TOUGH TIME RECRUITING AFGHAN TRANSLATORS

Recruiters in Los Angeles walk the streets of Little Persia trying to find candidates who speak Dari, Pashto or Farsi, but many in the communities have reservations about the war. The recruitment trail can be challenging. The pool of candidates who speak Dari, Pashto or Farsi is far thinner than the Arabic speakers the military sought out during the Iraq war. And many in the communities have reservations about the war. The Army has been able to sign up only nine Los Angeles-area recruits for the language program in the last year, far short of the goal of 48 local enlistees and just a fraction of the 250 signed nationwide. "It's a much smaller population.... We're involved in a lot of community liaison activities and I expect this year to do more than in years past," said Lt. Col. Frank Demith, assistant deputy for foreign language and culture for the Army.

ISRAEL'S EDUCATION MINISTRY: YES TO ARAB CULTURE

A new program to teach Arabic language and culture to all Jewish children in Israel's north – as a means of promoting closer ties between Jews and Arabs. The program, which was launched this September, requires all schools in the ministry's northern district to offer two hours a week of instruction in Arabic language, culture and tradition. Fifth graders in all state and state-religious schools will be taught by Arab instructors and Jews who have received special training. "This will contribute to a deeper awareness and understanding of the Arabic heritage and will promote coexistence, living together, tolerance and friendship between the various student populations in the north," wrote Dr. Orna Simchon, head of the northern district, in a letter to school principals.

LANGUAGE YEAR BOOSTS POPULARITY OF CHINESE CULTURE IN RUSSIA

An official closing ceremony for the Chinese Language Year in Russia is set for Wednesday. More than 200 activities have been staged so far in Russia during the cultural program, which has not only promoted mutual understanding and friendship between the Russian and Chinese people, but also consolidated the social basis for the two countries to deepen their political trust and pragmatic cooperation.

NEW TECHNOLOGY WILL REDUCE LANGUAGE BARRIERS, IMPROVE COMMUNICATION IN BROCKTON, MASS HOSPITAL

New technology will help reduce the language gap between doctors and patients at Good Samaritan Medical Center, hospital officials say. Good Samaritan has purchased 130 "Interpreter Phones," which will be installed in patient rooms. The technology, called "NexTalk" will ease language barriers for patients and patrons who speak limited English and improve medical interpreters' abilities to communicate with patients in a language they understand. NexTalk uses a webcam and portable computer that works as a communication medium for deaf patients and those who speak limited English. The program supports American Sign Language and multiple spoken languages. The medical center has 10 laptops equipped with the technology.

AIR FORCE CADET DISCOVERS GIFT FOR RUSSIAN LANGUAGE

An estimated 42.2 million people will travel this Thanksgiving holiday, according to the auto club AAA. Josiah Eubank will be among them, flying more than halfway across the country to be with his family, first in Pennsylvania and then New York City. A junior at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, he is already a seasoned traveler. During the usual three-week break cadets get in the

summertime, Eubank lived with a family in the Ukraine, attending Russian language classes in the morning and learning the language by being fully immersed in the culture. His host family knew a little English, Eubank said, but they were supposed to communicate with him only in Russian. It's an effective way to learn, he said — you're forced to use the language instead of relying on someone who knows a little English, or a little more of the foreign language than you do. "You have to speak it or you don't survive," he said. He survived — even thrived — and has applied for a similar experience in 2011 in Russia.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Bilingualism may delay Alzheimer's

Speaking two or more languages may help delay Alzheimer's disease symptoms by as much as five years, research has found. A new study examined medical records of 211 patients diagnosed with probable Alzheimer's, a devastating memory-erasing disorder estimated to affect one in eight people 65 years of age or older in the United States alone. The researchers found that symptoms started as much as five years later for people who had spoken two or more languages consistently over many years. The study led by scientists at Baycrest, an academic center affiliated with the University of Toronto, is published in the Nov. 9 issue of the journal *Neurology*.

Kids get French revelation: Language taught at elementary level

A school in Nevada's Clark County has started to teach French to students in kindergarten through second grade, with the goal of eventually offering French instruction through 12th grade. Educators say teaching foreign languages at an early age will help students become fluent.

Language Learning – Improve Your Foreign Language Skills

How do you keep up and continue to improve your foreign language skills? Fun language learning tips you can try at home. Language can be learned through music, magazines and books, internet, film, correspondence, and more.

10 Reasons to Learn a Foreign Language

If English is the only language you speak fluently, perhaps you should consider using the winter months to learn a second language? You might think there's no need if English is your home language since English is "universal", but the truth is, having a second or even third language under your belt can help you in more ways than you think!

Bilingual programs fill language gap in Miami schools

"The goal of the bilingual program is to prepare the students for success by helping their transition," said Mary Avalos, an assistant research professor at the University of Miami with a doctorate in curriculum and teaching in TESOL and reading. "Some keep as a goal maintaining the natural language to create a truly bilingual student, or helping to teach a second language to English speakers." Under Florida law, all schools must provide ELL programs for students who do not speak English fluently. "All Florida students that are registered will be assessed," said Rosy Ugalde, executive director of bilingual education in Miami-Dade. "If they are found to be in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) category they will be registered in that instructional model unless the parents decide otherwise." Ugalde says that almost 99 percent of parents that have their children test within the ESOL category agree to have their children enrolled in the program.

Microsoft Word 2010 Language Tools

These advanced language tools are extremely useful, and with them you can extend the power of Word. If you have text that you want to change to a foreign language, this can be done in three ways using the Translate tool. Choose between Translate Document, Translate Selected Text (where you must first highlight some text to be translated) and Mini Translator. The translation occurs online, and languages can be set in **Translate > Choose Translation Language**. It doesn't take long for the translation to be returned, and this is a better option than going to the trouble of opening a browser, finding a translation service, pasting the text in and waiting for the results.

General Says More Troops Need African Language Skills

(Fayetteville (NC) Observer)...Lolita C. Baldor, Associated Press

The Pentagon needs more troops trained in the cultures and languages of Africa in order to better confront the increasing terror threat from the continent, a top general said Thursday. Army Gen. Carter Ham, who has been nominated to head U.S. Africa Command, told a Senate committee that the threat of terror from Somalia and other areas of East Africa is one of the command's greatest challenges. And he said that while a number of special operations forces are trained in African languages and cultures, the military is not moving fast enough to provide similar training to other troops.

SAIC Makes Investment in Language Technologies

SAIC (NYSE: SAI) has purchased technology, intellectual property and related assets from AppTek Partners, LLC; Applications Technology, Inc.; and MediaMind, LLC: all firms that focus on human language technologies. According to the firm, "SAIC will acquire a complete suite of products for text and speech (voice) processing, including machine translation, knowledge management and automated speech recognition tools for more than 30 languages. Federal government and commercial customers use these tools to automatically translate and transcribe large volumes of data and significantly reduce the amount of time needed to edit and finalize translated output."