

---

---

## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

---

---

### **CURRENT NEWS 29 NOVEMBER 2010**

#### **Saving Iraq's Historic Treasures**

Straka is now a lieutenant colonel attached to the Army's 352d Civil Affairs Command, which is headed to Iraq next month to support local reconstruction efforts in 14 provinces. He and 60 other soldiers heard presentations about how to respect the nation's vast cultural heritage, whether that means thwarting looters of ancient sites or helping to preserve museums and mosques. The message was reinforced with a tour of the archaeology museum in West Philadelphia, where the troops got to see artifacts of the kind they might encounter overseas. Showing appreciation for local culture - past and present - helps troops to win the "hearts and minds" of the nation where they are deployed, whether it is Iraq, Afghanistan, or elsewhere, Rose told his audience.

#### **'Female Engagement Team' Training**

The Iowa National Guard undergoes 'Female Engagement Team' training prior to deployment to Afghanistan. Soldiers prepare themselves for cultural encounters with Afghan men and women played by actors in this video.

#### **Seven questions for K. David Harrison**

BY SOME estimates, half of the world's 7,000 languages will disappear in the next century. K. David Harrison, a linguist at Swarthmore College, has made a career documenting some of them—and advocating for keeping them alive. A film about his exploits (with a fellow linguist, Greg Anderson), "[The Linguists](#)", was nominated for an Emmy award, surely a first for that academic discipline. Most recently, Mr Harrison has written a book with National Geographic: "The Last Speakers". We asked him about what is lost when a language dies.

#### **Language study can be passport to the world**

The world language program offered by Washington County Public Schools is designed to break down language and cultural barriers through traditional or immersion language programs or the ELL — English Language Learners — program. In this package of stories, students, teachers and administrators weigh in on how the program works and how it is working.

#### **New language policy for FNU**

The Fiji National University has taken onboard a few challenges for next year and one such challenge would be to see that all teacher trainees be fluent in both the Hindi and Fijian languages. FNU's Vice Chancellor Doctor Ganesh Chand said from next year, the trainee teachers will not be able to get their graduation certificate unless they are fluent in both languages. While speaking at the first National Conference on Education held in Lautoka, Dr Chand hopes that the step would be a strong motivation for other sectors of the society to play their part in ensuring a diverse society that also encourages unity.

#### **LSC promotes Chinese program**

Lafayette School Corporation (LSC) gets an international partner in learning: A school in China. Students showed off their Mandarin language skills to the school board. The district recently formalized a relationship with a Chinese high school in Shanghai to open up more opportunities for students to learn the language and culture. "When we let students realize the language is not really that difficult they have confidence in learning it, said LSC Mandarin teacher Sun Ye. The partnership will allow for students to study aboard and for teachers to exchange education tips. The program also includes a new Confucius classroom that allows students from any district to experience China for 90 minutes. It's one of about 100 in the US that exposes students to Chinese culture.

### **English is a foreign language for 80pct of Brit school kids**

A survey has found that nearly 80 percent of primary pupils in schools across Britain have a different mother tongue, with English being a foreign language. The survey also revealed that children who speak English as their first language are in a minority in inner-city London schools. In Birmingham, Bradford and Leicester more than 40 percent of pupils across all primary schools do not count English as their first language, and nationally, it is a foreign tongue to nearly one in six youngsters in primary schools. The figures have almost doubled during the past decade and are projected to increase to 23 percent - 830,000 out of 3.5million - by 2018.

### **PREVIOUS NEWS**

### **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.

### **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."