
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 30 DECEMBER 2010

Counterinsurgency as a Cultural System

After early setbacks in Iraq and the failure to close the deal in Afghanistan, military strategists began to consider alternatives to the conventional „kill-the-enemy-first“ tactics they were employing to target terrorists. Through the efforts of General Petraeus and others, “kinetic” counter-terrorism had ceded pride of place to „secure-the-population first“ counterinsurgency (COIN): effective COIN depended on protecting local populations and gaining their support; this, in turn, required that the military be sufficiently knowledgeable about local cultural concerns and values and attentive to the needs of the people in the areas where they were operating. The category of people who specialize in acquiring this knowledge, more than any other, is that of anthropologist, and this seemed to be an area where anthropologists could not only assist the military avoid situations where force was required, but – just possibly – provide crucial assistance in changing the way the military conceived of its mission and how they went about doing their job.

Officials seek bilingual officers for training school

Air Force officials are seeking nominations from bilingual officers to participate in the 2011 Inter-American Squadron Officer School Program. This program focuses on inter-Americanism and developing Latin American regional affairs specialists for the Air Force. Captains from all Air Force specialties with four to seven years of service are eligible for the program. A Spanish proficiency score of 2+/2+ or higher on the Defense Language Proficiency Test, excellent communication skills and a professional military image are also considerations to participate in the IAAFA program.

Germany to promote its language abroad

Germany is to promote its language abroad with a series of advertising campaigns encouraging people to learn German, the minister for culture and media said Thursday. “More and more countries are removing a second compulsory language from school curricula. This means only English remains as a first foreign language,” Cornelia Pieper told the German Press Agency dpa.

Brooke finds her speech research is child's play

Plymouth BabyLab has been aided in its studies by little Brooke Welsford, the 2,000th baby to be volunteered to help with research into how children pick up words and begin to communicate. Since the age of five months, she has been helping researchers at the lab to study how children's language skills develop. A spokesman said the BabyLab is the only way to gather data on how language grows in infants. Parents in Plymouth have taken part in a variety of studies since it was established in 2006. Brooke's mother, Catherine Voisey, said: "I signed up Brooke for the BabyLab because I was interested in how she would develop language. "She has really enjoyed her visits and we are looking forward to taking part in some other studies in the future." Brooke has participated in a variety of projects over the past few months, including one evaluating how babies learn so many new words quickly; how they hear dialects; and how babies perceive different accents in a home within which two dialects are spoken.

American And Israeli College Students: A Missed Opportunity

At a time of great concern about young American Jews identifying positively with Israel, study-abroad programs in Israel for U.S. college students should be a great benefit. But while these opportunities provide exposure to Hebrew language skills and immersion in Israeli society, they also foster a disconnect. The fact is that diaspora and Israeli students rarely meet in the classroom.

[La Mariposa Language School paves the way for non-profit tourism in Nicaragua](#)

Language-tourism is a relatively new concept, but one that is quickly growing in Central America. It's a mode of travel that allows foreigners to embrace foreign language and culture without the negative impact associated with more formal forms of tourism. La Mariposa, an eco-hotel and language school located in San Juan, Nicaragua is a four-year-old example of excellence when it comes to linking language-tourism with community outreach.

[Foreign Language Learning: Mango Passport](#)

Mango Passport®, Mango's latest language learning product created for people who want to successfully learn and communicate in a new language. The program also assists the user in gaining an understanding of a country's culture. Mango Passport® differs from other language learning programs because it teaches users practical conversation skills they can use in common situations, not random words and phrases. Courses give users the language they need to successfully navigate a foreign country, seek authentic cultural experiences and engage in polite conversation without offending natives.

[PREVIOUS NEWS](#)

[Provincial Reconstruction Team Kapisa: So you want to learn a language...](#)

In the first two months of our deployment, many members of Provincial Reconstruction Team Kapisa have expressed an interest in learning a foreign language. In-deed, most of us will probably never have a better language learning environment. English is the minority language in each of our Forward Operating Bases and there are many opportunities for learning and practicing French, Dari, or Pashtu. Some people are naturally gifted linguists and some people have the discipline to study grammar books for long hours. How-ever, for the other 99% of us, this article will discuss what goals are realistically achievable and some methods for achieving them without too much sweat.

[Signs of change: Legislator wants American Sign Language to count for college admissions](#)

Del. Dickie Bell has pre-filed a bill that would mandate that colleges and universities recognize American Sign Language (ASL) as fulfilling foreign language admissions criteria for incoming students. Under a 1998 provision from the Virginia Department of Education, high school students may use American Sign Language classes to satisfy foreign language requirements for graduation. But admissions departments at state universities and colleges do not have to accept sign language. VSDB Superintendent Nancy Armstrong said she hopes legislation will encourage more high school students to choose ASL as their foreign language.

[Summit High system will offer Arabic courses](#)

Beginning next fall, students in the Summit High School feeder system will have the opportunity to learn to speak Arabic, thanks to a five-year, \$1.3 million grant from the Education Department. Only about 400 students in the state are enrolled in Arabic-language programs, according to the Texas Education Agency. The language course will be offered as part of a comprehensive elementary and secondary Arabic studies program that also includes social-studies lessons. Mansfield school district officials said the new program will give students a competitive edge in the workplace.

[High school students' language classes stretch to include Russian, Arabic, Chinese](#)

Learning a foreign language in high school is moving beyond the typical Spanish, French and German courses to include Chinese, Russian, Japanese and Arabic in school districts around the midstate. Xuan Li, a visiting professor for the Confucius Institute at the University of Pittsburgh, is teaching Mandarin Chinese at Carlisle High School this year in a cooperative program through Dickinson College.

[Language program may have kept Sacramento school open](#)

[Valencia's](#) kindergarten class is one of three at [Edison Elementary](#) School in [Sacramento](#) that teaches students almost entirely in Spanish. The program – called dual immersion – teaches both native Spanish-speaking students and English-speaking students.

South Koreans turn to robot-teachers for English instruction

South Korea's obsession with teaching its children English in order to make them globally competitive is well known. Now, it has combined this with its high tech expertise to launch one of the most innovative experiments in education ever. As part of a government sponsored project, close to 30 robot teachers have started teaching youngsters English in 19 elementary schools in the city of Daegu.

2010 Best Apps to Learn a Language Intro/Intermediate

2010 was a groundbreaking year to learn languages with the help of the Iphone/Ipad. Here are the best apps to learn a new language or to brush up rusty language skills. This list will be most helpful to you if you like the method of teaching the app uses.

Dual Immersion helps students

Keeping up with the world, I want to thank the school district and Lonnie Barber for making sure the Dual Immersion program is a complete K-12 program. Studies show that for true success in bilingualism, the students need to go through all grades. The only difference in our education compared to other countries is that they teach two or three languages. Students of other nations have proven the effectiveness of language learning, so it is so fantastic to have the same education here in Blaine County.

More Afghan Eagles depart Kabul for America

Two pilot candidates in the Afghan Air Force left Kabul International Airport, Dec. 27, to proceed to advanced training in the U.S. The two AAF officers, Lt. Jawid Karimi and Lt. Fazal Karim Faqeer, are going directly to the U.S. for language training at Defense Language Institute in San Antonio, Texas, and then to pilot training at either Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. for fixed wing aircraft or Fort Rucker, Ala., for helicopters.

English as she was spoke: The days of English as the world's second language may (slowly) be ending

ENGLISH is the most successful language in the history of the world. It is spoken on every continent, is learnt as a second language by schoolchildren and is the vehicle of science, global business and popular culture. Many think it will spread without end. But Nicholas Ostler, a scholar of the rise and fall of languages, makes a surprising prediction in his latest book: the days of English as the world's lingua-franca may be numbered.

Speech in the Home

A massive data-collection effort reveals patterns in the ways that children learn language. [This interactive visualization](#) provides a look into the most complete record of a single child's speech development ever created. The data has been organized to show the age of the child when he spoke each of his first 400 words. Speech of the child's primary caregivers is integrated into the visualization, showing how vocabulary growth may be influenced both by what caregivers say and how they say it.

Toddler Speech and Language Development

The first three years of life are the most intensive years for speech and language development. This is a time when the brain is still developing and maturing. Toddler speech and language development is critical, as it enables a child to communicate their inner thoughts, ideas and emotions. Language can be defined as a communication system comprised of sounds and letters (or gestures in the case of sign language). Speech is the ability to express language using sounds or gestures. Learning a language is one of the most intricate forms of knowledge ever acquired. Despite this, all normal children are able to master speech and language during the early childhood years.

Cherokees & Apple Bring Cherokee Language to iOS

The [Cherokee](#) nation went to Apple to ask the company to support the Cherokee language in iOS, according to a [report](#) from the Associated Press. In an effort to preserve the Cherokee language, the tribe recognized that the best way to get young people immersed in the language was to offer them tech tools that supported both a modern life and the language. "If you don't figure out a way to keep technology exciting and innovative for the language, kids have a choice when they get on a [cell phone](#)," Joseph Erb, a member of the tribe's tech division, told the AP. "If it doesn't have Cherokee on it, they all speak

English. They'll just give up their Cherokee [...] because the cool technology is in English. So we had to figure out a way to make the cool technology in Cherokee.”