
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 03 JANUARY 2011

Language Training Detachment Stands Up in Europe

With defense leaders emphasizing the importance of language and cultural training to support military operations worldwide, the Defense Language Institute has stood up a new detachment in Germany to provide follow-on sustainment training for military linguists based in Europe. The language training detachment, at Patch Barracks in Stuttgart, Germany, will provide “substantive and direct support” to linguists assigned to both U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command and their subordinate elements, Dan Rugelbrugge, who oversees the effort, said in an interview posted yesterday on the “EUCOMversations” video blog.

DODEA teachers step into war zone to teach English to Afghans

Tucker’s Mobile Training Team — including four other DODEA teachers and nine Defense Language Institute employees — is augmented by about 50 Afghan instructors. They run language courses at five sites across the country – including Kabul and Kandahar – and are looking to add three additional sites in the near future. The team is part of the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan’s Education Division, tasked with providing English instruction to Afghan security forces with a 70 percent rate of illiteracy.

Spreading the love of language

Capt. Sylvia Kim speaks fluent French, one of the official languages of Djibouti and a dominant language throughout the African continent. Realizing her skill could benefit Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, Captain Kim volunteered for her current position as medical planner for the Joint Operations Directorate with CJTF-HOA. "The knowledge of the language has been essential (while deployed to CJTF-HOA)," Captain Kim said. "French and Arabic are the official languages in Djibouti, French being the operational language. It's been essential in communicating and networking with the local Djiboutians and the camp staff and also imperative with correspondence with the Djiboutian government."

BILL TO END EARLY FOREIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES STALLS

A proposal to end state-mandated early foreign language instruction has stalled. The Wyoming Tribune Eagle reports that the Legislature’s Joint Education Interim Committee failed to sponsor the measure in a 7-7 tie vote recently. A state law passed in 1999 requires schools to teach foreign language in kindergarten through second grade.

Children learning sign language before they can talk

Now babies and toddlers are benefiting from new classes which are designed to teach them communication skills before they can talk. Babies and parents learn eight signs each week through Dexter, a signing puppet and [classes](#) are based around themes of music, songs, rhymes and games. TalkFirst classes are held by Rachel Downs, a 37-year-old mother of Sophie, three, and Millie, one, from Chester-le-Street, County Durham. She said: “The concept was researched and developed by Dr Joseph Garcia - an American child development expert. His research study showed that the hearing children of deaf parents learned sign language very quickly and easily.”

PREVIOUS NEWS

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.

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. However, 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.