
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 04 JANUARY 2011

US Marines Being Trained for Cultural Sensitivity Before Deployment

The U.S. military is expected to withdraw from Afghanistan by 2014. But thousands of U.S. Marines will still deploy there within the next year to support the war. To prepare them, the Defense Department has introduced culture training programs at several military bases around the United States. One such program is being conducted at the Quantico Marine Base in Virginia - about 58 kilometers from Washington.

W&M part of national trend for foreign language studies

There are more students enrolled in [foreign language](#) courses than any other department within the [Arts & Sciences](#) at William & Mary, making the College a leader in a nationwide trend that's sweeping across higher education in America. According to the recent report, "Enrollments in Languages Other Than English in United States Institutions of Higher Education, Fall 2009," released by the Modern Language Association (MLA), enrollments in languages other than English at U.S. colleges and universities have continued to grow over the past decade.

Departments fight merger

Faced with a proposal to combine their departments into one, the deans of six foreign language departments sent a letter to the humanities division opposing the decision. The proposed consolidation would merge the current departments of French and Francophone studies, Spanish and Portuguese, Slavic languages and literatures, Scandinavian, Italian and Germanic languages into one overarching European languages and cultures department. However, department chairs feel the change would reduce the quality of UCLA's language program, said Maarten Van Delden, chair of the Spanish and Portuguese department.

Spanish for Spanish Speakers meets at South

Walking into Juan Bujosa's literature class at Nashua High School South is like walking into a foreign country. While the laughing, chattering students appear like those in any other classroom, there is one key difference: They are all speaking Spanish. The class – Spanish for Spanish Speakers – was created about two years ago by Bujosa and other members of South's World Languages Department to give native Spanish-speaking students an opportunity to improve their language skills.

Living a foreign language

NOBODY PRETENDS it is easy for an Irish teenager plonked in a boarding school in a foreign country where nobody is speaking English. He enrolled as a weekly boarder and spent the weekends in Paris with the family of another boy at the school. The daily regime involved lessons – all through French – from 8.30am to 5pm and then at least two hours of evening study before going to the dorms at 9pm and lights out at 10.30pm. Barbara persuaded Michael John to persevere and, sure enough, after four weeks, he found the French began to click. "You start to understand what they say." At that point he reckoned he could stick it until Christmas – "but when Christmas came I thought, 'I am fine here'," says Michael John, who is now in sixth year back home at Rockwell College in Co Tipperary. "At the start it was tough," he adds, "it got better as it went along and looking back, I had a great time!"

Rosetta Stone Announces ESL Classroom Innovators Contest

[Rosetta Stone Inc.](#), a leading provider of technology-based language-learning solutions, announced today the creation of the Rosetta Stone® English as a Second Language (ESL) Classroom Innovators Contest, recognizing ESL teachers who have introduced forward-thinking practices and technology into their

curriculum. Principals and school administrators are encouraged to nominate an ESL teacher in their school by describing in 500 words or less how the teacher innovated in the classroom with technology.

PREVIOUS NEWS

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.”

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.