
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 06 JANUARY 2011

Air Force officials approve changes to officer selection brief

In an effort to better highlight candidates who possess the skills necessary for officer promotion in today's expeditionary Air Force, senior Air Force officials approved changes to the officer selection brief. The modified officer selection brief will be used beginning with boards in June and include a more detailed professional military education section, the addition of a foreign language proficiency section and an acquisition qualifications section.

821st ETRS helps Iraqi airmen master core value

As you walk into the Iraqi Air Force Training School here you will notice the words integrity, military discipline, loyalty to the homeland and English language posted on the walls. These are the Iraqi Air Force core values. Airmen, civilians and contractors assigned to the 821st Expeditionary Training Squadron educate, train, advise and assist the faculty and students at the training school in an effort to build the foundation of a credible, self-sustaining Iraqi Air Force. "Mastering the English language is a key to the future success of Iraqi Air Force operations," said Lt. Col. Dawn A. Nickell, 821st ETRS commander.

A Tough Job Outlook

For those seeking jobs teaching English or foreign languages, the job market remains bleak -- but what passes for good news may be that the number of openings is flat this year, and isn't dropping further after dramatic declines in the previous two years. While these findings suggest that the number of openings in English is level compared to 2009-10, the total is 20.3 percent fewer than in 2008-9, and 39.8 percent fewer than in 2007-8. For foreign languages, this year's total, flat compared to 2009-10, is 16.9 percent fewer than the 2008-9 total and 39.3 percent fewer than the total the year before that.

Foreign Language Learning Opportunities for Middle and High School Students

Is your child interested in learning Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Spanish or Japanese? It will soon be time to register for classes for the 2011-12 school year. Parents and students are invited to a presentation and discussion on APS [Arlington Public Schools] world language options on Thu, Jan. 13 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. in the Jefferson Middle School Library. Join World Language Advisory Committee chair Dr. Rick Jackson; senior language testing specialist at the Center for Applied Linguistics Meg Malone; FBI language testing specialist and former APS teacher Rachel Brooks; World Language Instruction supervisor Marleny Perdomo and World Language specialist Melissa West-Sen for an informative discussion of the world language options available during the 2011-12 school year and about the practical benefits of learning a foreign language early.

Language is About Communication, and Learning One Should Be Too!

Foreign language education can be a useful and rewarding part of a balanced curriculum. Schools use different methods to teach students a foreign language. Foreign-language conversation requires a student to think on his feet. Fortunately, this is an ability all students already possess and certainly one that can be practiced and honed in the context of foreign language instruction. An emphasis on adaptive thinking in the instruction of the four language skills (writing, reading, speaking and listening) serves the true purpose of language—communication. Certain methods and principles are particularly effective in improving students' communication skills in a foreign language classroom. One strong example is relevance.

[PREVIOUS NEWS](#)

[The Softer Side of War: Exploring the Influence of Culture on Military Doctrine](#)

When U.S. forces invaded Iraq in 2003, the U.S. military was not particularly concerned about the impact of culture on its operations. U.S. leaders believed that the assault would play out as a high-tech conventional conflict and would be followed by a stabilization effort only slightly more difficult than the one U.S. troops had encountered in Kosovo a few years before. As the commander of the U.S. Army's First Brigade, First Armored Division, in Baghdad during the first crucial year after the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime, I quickly discovered not only that this assumption was incorrect but also that sectarian and ethnic identities, the role of tribes in Iraqi society, and the U.S. Army's own internal culture would weigh heavily on the course of the conflict, influence our approach to waging the war, and impact our interactions with our coalition allies.

[Fayette schools ramp up foreign language studies in earliest grades](#)

It's before the long holiday break, and Miko Momozono is charming a difficult-to-captivate class of second-graders at Picadome Elementary, not with a story or a movie, but with the simple act of counting. In Japanese. Since they were in kindergarten, they've been taking 20 minutes a day of Japanese as part of Fayette County's growing foreign language programs. It's grown so much that children in 21 elementary schools now have foreign language instruction of some kind. It's part of the district's emphasis on getting languages to children when it's easiest for them to learn.

[Chinese Charter School Set for East Bay](#)

Weighing the public education options for his two children, El Cerrito doctor Michael Jugo felt the East Bay fell short. He wanted them to have an advantage he didn't have growing up: learning Chinese at school. Or so he thought. Instead, Mr. Jugo chose an even more difficult path—creating a Chinese-language public charter school in his own county. After a year of planning, Mr. Jugo and a group of four other families in November received unanimous approval from Alameda County to launch a Mandarin Chinese immersion charter school, the first of its kind in the state.

[Amid cuts, language studies falter School districts pursue alternatives that are less labor-intensive](#)

The push to teach foreign languages in New Jersey's elementary schools appears to be faltering as schools cope with budget cuts. Several districts this year dropped elementary world language teachers from their roster and instead have opted for less labor-intensive alternatives. Some have asked regular classroom teachers to take over, and others are resorting to videos and computer programs to pick up the slack. In [Bloomington](#), trustees are mulling a plan to solicit volunteers to help with instruction. "It's a matter of what you can prioritize and what you can afford," said James Montesano, superintendent of schools in [Paramus](#), which uses Muzzy, the BBC interactive language instruction video program, in the elementary schools. The state mandate – introduced in 1996 – calls for districts to introduce world language study in the early grades, but does not call for full-blown language programs such as those required in high school.

[Elementary School Spanish Program In Jeopardy](#)

A multi-dimensional program installed in both Snow Hill and Pocomoke Elementary Schools is teaching young students Spanish as a second language, along with associated cultural, historical, geographical and even scientific lessons associated with the content. The initiative, part of the ELL Language Infusion Push into the Classroom, is in its second year as a fully grant-funded program, but is at risk of being discontinued when the current grants expire. Through the program, pre-K to 5th grade students are learning Spanish as a second language, while Spanish-speaking students are learning English at the same time, explained Coordinator of Instruction Diane Stulz.

[Chinese To Be Most Popular Language On Internet](#)

We take it for granted that the most popular language on the [Internet](#) is English, since, after all, [the Internet was an American creation](#). But thanks to the huge number of Internet users that China is adding each year, English will soon be replaced by Chinese as the most popular language on the Internet. (Just

to clarify: People in China speak Mandarin, Cantonese, Wu, Min and an abundance of dialects, but the written language across the board is Chinese). Last year, China added 36 million Internet users, bringing their total to 440 million users. The United States [only has](#) 220 million Internet users, but English is spoken in more countries than China, and so more websites are published in that language.

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!"