
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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Senators Say Military Cyber Ops Not Disclosed

The exchanges between Vickers, nominee for Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, and the Senate panel also cover a wide range of other intelligence issues. If confirmed, Vickers said, his big challenge would be the continuing struggle to meet the military's "unmet demand" for intelligence as the U.S. fights two wars and works to dismantle terrorist networks, including those in Yemen and Somalia. Asked whether the intelligence community has devoted enough counterterrorism resources to Yemen and Somalia, Vickers said the military needs more intelligence and special operations forces with language and cultural expertise.

Crucial training prepares flag officers for deployment

The former head of Air Command and Staff College, Brig. Gen. Anthony Rock, prepared in part by attending the Air Force Culture and Language Center's General Officer Pre-Deployment Acculturation Course, or GOPAC, where experts in language and culture helped to familiarize him with what he can expect to encounter. "It's not just language. It truly is culture and language," General Rock said. "The culture training was more than just how to shake hands, how to drink tea."

DOD Teachers Take on Mission in Afghanistan

Judy Ryan has taught English as a second language in five countries over the past 15 years, but this is her first year teaching in a war zone. Ryan, a Department of Defense Education Activity teacher, is on a one-year deployment to Afghanistan to teach English to Afghans. She's stationed on Camp Morehead in eastern Afghanistan, surrounded by an Afghan commando training base, from which she draws many of her students. The DODEA teachers work on a mobile training team alongside nine teachers from the Defense Language Institute in San Antonio, augmented by about 50 Afghan English teachers.

Phone app aims to bridge language gap for US troops in Afghanistan

A smartphone app is being touted as the potential solution to the yawning linguistic gulf between US soldiers in [Afghanistan](#) and the Pashtun villagers they are trying to win over. After a decade of relying on interpreters, the [US military](#) is testing a simultaneous translation programme that runs on an ordinary smartphone. Developed by US defence department scientists, it can translate from English into Dari and Pashto, the two main languages of Afghanistan, and back again. Transtac (short for "translation system for tactical use") is being tested by members of the 101st Airborne Division in the eastern province of Paktika.

What do you think: Women in combat units?

Supporters of women in combat got a boost this week when the Military Leadership Diversity Commission [released its draft report](#) recommending an end to the restrictions on female troops. Until now, either U.S. law or Pentagon policy has prohibited female troops from serving in any unit whose primary mission is direct ground combat, although they may serve in combat support roles. But proponents of women in combat roles, to include Female Engagement Teams, have argued that the distinction is obsolete in the new combat environments of Iraq and Afghanistan, where support units and noncombat troops have routinely found themselves involved in roadside bomb attacks and insurgent ambushes.

Google Translate Adds Conversation Mode

On Wednesday, Google updated its Translate app for Android devices with a series interface improvements. Most of these are nice but not especially noteworthy: better dropdown box design, an improved input box, and cleaner icons and layout. But one is significant. Discussed [back in December, 2009](#), and [demonstrated as a prototype](#) last fall, Conversation Mode has arrived. Conversation Mode is a

user interface for mobile devices designed to facilitate a real-time conversation between two people speaking different languages.

Labor Department hits Army contractors for unpaid overtime

Three military contractors, including one from Huntington Beach, have paid more than \$1 million in back overtime pay to 865 employees at Ft. Irwin, the Mojave Desert army training center. The U.S. Department of Labor said it concluded an investigation of CALNET Inc. and two subcontractors that provide language, intelligence and information technology services at the San Bernardino County desert warfare facility. The workers were not paid properly for "on-call" time, when they were required to be instantly available to perform their duties.

HOPE Scholarship Shortfall: Dashing Dreams in Georgia?

The New York Times recently [published a story](#) that has Georgia's current and aspiring college students concerned. It said that Georgia's [HOPE Scholarship](#) is in serious danger. This means that the hopes of many high school and college students are on the verge of being dashed. The fact that HOPE is based on GPA alone may have led the crisis. [Allegations of grade inflation](#) at high schools have prompted tougher standards for HOPE recipients, because two-thirds could not maintain the "B" average in college. Now, students must have a 3.0 GPA in math, language arts, science, social studies and a foreign language--leaving out "easy A" classes that can boost a GPA.

Students to Immerse Themselves in Culture, Language of Russia, India

Duke University students who want to spend a year immersing themselves in the culture and language of Russia or India -- and include civic engagement in the experience -- will have that opportunity through a pilot program. The program, Duke Intense Global, or DIG, will be offered in the 2011-12 school year, with preference given to rising sophomores. Two groups of five to 10 students will take specified classes at Duke and abroad.

Employers searching for graduates with 'language skills'

Employers in the current market are searching for university graduates who possess language skills, say experts. Being able to speak a second language is also becoming increasingly important for jobseekers, especially in the current economic climate, according to a representative from CILT, the National Centre for Languages (CILT).

PREVIOUS NEWS

Defense Language Institute to set up training unit in Europe

It is an office of one for now, but instructors and more resources will soon be on the way as the military looks to ramp up foreign language training for Europe-based troops. The Defense Language Institute has launched for the first time a Europe detachment in an effort to expand training opportunities for troops stationed across the U.S. European Command, according to the director of DLI's satellite office in Stuttgart.

Russian Bureaucrats to Learn English

The government wants at least 20 percent of federal officials to be fluent in a foreign language by 2020, and is even prepared to send them abroad to study in order to put Russia on a path toward an innovative future. The policy is outlined in a [report](#) unveiled by the Economic Development Ministry on Dec. 31 and scheduled to be submitted to the government by late February, ministry spokesman Pavel Katkov said Wednesday. The 124-page report gives little detail and does not elaborate on the cost of the project. Katkov also declined to provide details, saying his superiors planned to speak on the issue later this week. In any case, the task is monumental. While no official data on how many civil servants speak foreign languages is available, politicians and observers alike agreed that the figure is small. There were almost 880,000 federal officials as of 2009, although their ranks will be pared down by 20 percent by April 2013 under a government downsizing plan approved by President Dmitry Medvedev this month. But even

the reduced figure implies that some 140,000 officials will be required to master a foreign language over the current decade.

[U.S. Voters Support International Education, Poll Finds](#)

Americans consider international education essential for today's students, and they connect foreign-language learning and study abroad with improved prospects for success in the global marketplace, according to a survey commissioned by Nafsa: Association of International Educators. Conducted on the eve of the 2010 elections, the poll of likely voters found that 75 percent of respondents agreed that "unless our colleges and universities do a better job of teaching our students about the world, our children and grandchildren will not be prepared to compete in the global economy." Nearly two-thirds said that without foreign-language skills, young people will be at a "competitive disadvantage in their careers."

[The Language Flagship: Creating Global Professionals](#)

A promotional video showcasing The Language Flagship, a national program that provides advanced language education in critical languages, to create global professionals.

[Video: Maj. Gen. Richard P. Mills Talks to a Female Engagement Team in Helmand Province](#)

B-roll of Maj. Gen. Richard P. Mills speaking to members of a Marine Female Engagement Team in Afghanistan, about women's role in the military, women in Afghanistan and how he views the progress in Afghanistan.

[Evergreen schools to offer English-Spanish immersion program](#)

Kindergartners in one classroom next fall will greet their new teacher with "Hola" instead of "Hello." A couple of dozen native English- and Spanish-speaking 5- and 6-year-olds will share a classroom for a new two-way immersion program at Marrion Elementary School. The dual-language program is the first of what Evergreen Public Schools' officials hope to be many immersion programs offered to students. The 28-student classroom will be half native English speakers and half native Spanish speakers. District officials are asking parents to commit to the six-year program that runs through fifth grade, said Tom Nadal, Evergreen director of elementary education. There is no tuition for the program.

[The Record: Language of learning](#)

THERE'S a lot of "no" these days, or "no more." With slashed budgets, reduced property values and anemic state aid, towns in North Jersey are cutting, stopping or deferring important local services. So it's good to hear about public libraries developing foreign language collections to meet community demand — in spite of reduced budgets. "In our community, 40 percent of the families speak another language beside English at home. We wouldn't be doing our job if we didn't provide materials for them," Paramus library Director Leonard LoPinto told The Record.

[An Interview with Brig. General Tony Rock](#)

A lot has been said and written about U.S. efforts to rebuild Iraq. That work includes rebuilding the military and personnel from Alabama are playing a key role. Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery is home to programs like the War College and the Air Force Culture and Language Center. One recent graduate is Brigadier General Tony Rock who completed culture and language training at Maxwell. He'll be on a plane Sunday (January 2, 2011) to take over as Director of the Iraqi Training and Advising Mission for the Air Force. The General discussed how he found common ground during his last trip to Iraq.

[Babies' Brains Process Words in an Adult Way](#)

Babies process words using the same brain structures as adults, and in the same amount of time, according to a study by the University of California, San Diego. They are also able to understand words as more than simple sounds and comprehend the meanings of many of the words they hear. Although lesions in two brain areas — Broca's and Wernicke's — have long been associated with loss of language skills in adults, these areas seem to have little impact on language development in early childhood. Some scientists have addressed this anomaly by theorizing that the right hemisphere and inferior frontal regions are vital for childhood language development, and that the other language areas of adulthood become dominant only when language development has matured.

Sudan needs English to build bridges between North and South

The question that Sudan has been asking itself is, when faced with massive political upheaval, poverty and a shortage of basic services, can English really make a difference? The answer, in short, is "yes". English language training is not a "quick fix" for Sudan's problems but it can encourage development, is relatively cheap and most importantly, sustainable, underpinning other capacity building projects. This is recognised at all levels of Sudanese society but is especially important in the South where the government views English as an important tool for development and future nation building. In the North, Arabic is and will remain the primary language, coexisting with English as the international language of the internet, trade and international engagement. In 2007 the government of South Sudan took English as their official language. English, however, provides a way for the North and South to communicate when Arabic is still viewed with suspicion by the South. If the country is to hold on to the fragile peace that has held for the last five years, it is supremely important that these communication channels stay open.

Focusing on Languages (Mainly Mandarin)

Before she left the building, Ms. Black, New York City schools chancellor, peppered the principal, Tanya John, with questions about college preparedness and the school's curriculum. Then, she revealed what is starting to look like an obsession. "I'm pushing for Mandarin Chinese," she said. She was laughing, but foreign-language instruction seems to be serious business for Ms. Black — and Mandarin, the new Spanish. Last month, before she traded a job running one of the world's largest magazine publishing companies for a job running the nation's largest public school system, Ms. Black was already making noise about the importance of learning Mandarin. And the noise only amplified on her first day on the job.