
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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Department of Defense Language and Culture Summit: A Strategic Imperative

On January 25-26, 2010, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness hosted a Language and Culture Summit in Alexandria, Virginia. The Summit brought together leaders from Congress, government, academia, and industry to discuss and promote bold and innovative ideas for enhancing language, regional, and cultural (LRC) capabilities within the Department and throughout the nation to strengthen our operational readiness, as well as to enhance our intergovernmental, national, and international partnerships.

DLIFLC participates in DoD Summit on language and culture

"I was struck by the common theme that our senior leaders resonated - language and culture are critical skills for our nation and national defense," commented Pick, following the conference. "We need to look at the entire educational system regarding language. This is more about America than the Department of Defense," said Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Dr. Clifford Stanley, referring to repetitive calls for the introduction of foreign language education from early from pre-K levels through 12th grade.

New JKO program promotes Afghanistan language, cultural awareness

U.S. Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM)'s Joint Knowledge Online (JKO) recently unveiled an online training program to promote better language and cultural understanding between Afghan and U.S./NATO military troops. This initial release of Virtual Cultural Awareness Trainer (VCAT) Afghanistan focuses on working with interpreters, extending culturally appropriate greetings and building rapport with local populations. The program is broken into five modules that teach students how to address local grievances, coordinate humanitarian assistance projects, set up check-point manning, conduct training with Afghan National Security Forces and perform home searches. All modules will be available by the summer of 2011.

Women, War & Peace in Afghanistan

"You really have to have female counter-insurgents if you are expecting to have a successful counterinsurgency strategy," says U.S. Marine Captain Matt Pottinger. "If you cannot access or even deliver a message to half of the population just because of this taboo between the sexes, you're at an enormous disadvantage in trying to persuade people that you're there for reasons that are in their interests."

NGCSU's Egypt program uncertain

The uprising in Egypt has led North Georgia College & State University officials to evaluate the school's new language immersion program in the country. The university signed an agreement with Egypt's Alexandria University to allow students studying Arabic to travel there for eight weeks beginning this summer.

Bilinguals Find it Easier to Learn a Third Language

For this study, two groups of 6th grade students in Israel were chosen to represent a sample of students studying English as a foreign language. The first group comprised 40 students, immigrants from the FSU whose mother tongue is Russian and who speak fluent Hebrew as a second language. The second group comprised 42 native Hebrew-speaking students with no fluency in another language, besides the English being studied in school as a foreign language. Each participant took part in two meetings: a group meeting and an individual meeting. At the group meeting, the participants were given tests that assessed reading strategy and familiarity with the orthography of each language – Hebrew,

English and Russian for the Russian speakers, and were asked to fill out personal questionnaires. At the individual student meetings, the researchers gave the Hebrew-only speakers a test in Hebrew and English, and the same tests with Russian added were given to those who were Russian speakers.

Bill to pare education draws ire

More than 100 people tried to cram into a hearing room yesterday on a bill to trim the state's definition of an adequate education by dropping art, world language, health and technology classes. The legislation would require schools to pay for any subjects beyond English, math, science, social studies and physical education.

'Give kids the world' with Chinese

The students from Barbara B. Rose Elementary School in South Barrington participated in the free sessions offered by Barrington Community Unit School District 220 as a kind of introduction for them and their families to the language and the optional Chinese immersion program that is expected to begin in the fall. Offering the language to elementary students is to compliment the classes already in place at the middle and high schools, said Todd Bowen, chairman of the World Language Department at Barrington High School.

The Value of Foreign Languages

Most high school students have been introduced to some kind of foreign language. The numbers range from one to three years. Some students, although, find that in high school foreign language education has no effect. Sophomore, Savannah Moritzky, complains that "it's a lot of memorization that you forget". While French teacher Brita Swenson says "[high school] foreign language helps because I use authentic material from native speakers". While the true test of literacy in a language is the job of the student, teachers can attest that they teach students the basics of the language. As Mariah Peralta, Junior, says "it's just an introduction, not the 'meat and potatoes'". As Spanish teacher Deborah Diz says "we live in a global society".

PREVIOUS NEWS

NPS hosts workshop on imagining safe communities

A panel discussion on imagining safe communities will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday in the Barbara McNitt Ballroom of Herrmann Hall at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey. Local community and business leaders, members of the faculty and staff of the Naval Postgraduate School, Defense Language Institute, Monterey Institute of International Studies and Monterey County artists and teachers will be among the participants. The discussion will be facilitated by the Guiding Lights Network in conjunction with the Lincoln Center Institute, in partnership with NPS and its Center for Homeland Defense and Security. Featured speaker and facilitator will be Eric Liu, co-author of "Imagination First: Unlocking the Power of Possibility" and the discussion will illustrate the importance of imagination as a resource to create innovative solutions for real-world challenges today and in the future.

Notre Dame panel discusses females in war

Sweeney was part of a group of female members of the military and faculty from the University of Notre Dame who contributed to a panel discussion titled "Women in War: In and Out of Uniform." The panel held Thursday night on campus, analyzed how women in both civilian and military roles affected and are affected by war. "Male Marines are not allowed inside of the compounds because of the cultural differences," she said. "Getting in there was not something they had been able to do until I showed up there with my Marines."

East Lancashire linguist: languages open up the world

Queen Elizabeth Grammar School's head of modern foreign languages Andy Rose said learning French, German or Spanish should be taken as seriously as English, math and science qualifications. Foreign language learning hit the headlines last month when the Department for Education announced they would

be included in the new English Baccalaureate – which pools humanities and languages with English and math. Mr Rose, who is fluent in French and German and teaches Spanish, said languages also help students with memory and analytical skills which can be used in essay writing.

Children in France may be forced to learn English

Children in France will be forced to learn the English language from as early as nursery school if President Nicolas Sarkozy gets his way, a media report here said. Sarkozy, who has recently come under fire for his own grasp of French language, has said that he wants France's youngsters to learn 'the language of Shakespeare', the Daily Mail reported Sunday. He further enraged a proud -- and sensitive -- nation by suggesting that children should learn the Queen's English... from as young as three.

OPINION

Taking the fun out of Sudoku

Google was at it again. It announced another new app, Google Translate. Using it, a cellphone can translate a conversation – in any of 50 languages – while it's in progress. The new Google features are just two more examples of a modern phenomenon: computer-enabled cheating.

DLIFLC Recipient of the 2011 CHEA Award

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) has announced that the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) is one of the winners of the 2011 CHEA Award for Outstanding Institutional Practice in Student Learning Outcomes. DLIFLC was recognized as "the foreign language teaching institution of the U.S. military" which "focuses on enhancement of language skills of military and non-military personnel."

Female Provincial Council Members Take First trip to Now Zad

"The purpose of the trip was to bring the female provincial council members out to the district and meet with the population they represent and serve," said 1st Lt. Alexandra Z. Bedell, the female engagement team officer in charge with RC Southwest. Not only did the group travel and speak with women and children at the local school and clinic, they held a women's shura and spoke at a reintegration shura.

Marine recounts time with female engagement team

Langer, a 21-year-old native of River Falls, Wis., returned to the states Oct. 14, 2010, and came back to the air station Dec. 4, 2010, after an eight-month deployment to Marjah in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, in support of operations there. The FET is a milestone in United States Armed Forces history, as it has integrated females into infantry units, and for the first time combat the enemy. While females in the field are not new, the Lioness Program, which has females posted at key checkpoints in Iraq and Afghanistan, could be seen as the FET's precursor-the FET expands a woman's role in country. "The key difference (between the FET and Lioness Program) is we're more engaged with the locals, and not as much searching," said Langer. "We're there to create rapport with the locals and our male Marines."

Why the BBC's old guard called time on the Wibbly Wobbly Web

So the BBC is slimming down, in response to government pressure. The World Service is to lose five of its foreign-language services, and a quarter of its staff. And BBC Online's budget will be cut by a quarter to £103m and the unit will lose 360 staff, at the same time as it embarks upon a radical "redesign" of the website and its navigation. Introducing these developments, the corporation's director general explained that the hatchet-work was part of a broader strategy to do "fewer things better". The changes to BBC Online would, he maintained, make the corporation's web services "more focused and more valuable".

Sunnyvale, Cupertino children pick up new languages after school

In the home of 5-year-old Lila Phay and her 7-year-old sister Jade, speaking French and English fluently and Vietnamese moderately and understanding some Cambodian is the norm. With a French mother and Vietnamese father, the Cherry Chase Elementary students are growing up immersed in world cultures. Aware of the importance in developing foreign language skills at an early age, Aude Phay--an avid

member of French parent groups--wondered how her two daughters' passion for the language could be incorporated in their educational routine at Cherry Chase and in sharing the experience with their classmates. With the help of French Education in the Bay Area, the first French after-school class in the district was created. Since spring of 2009, the program has taught more than 100 students. That same year, Cumberland Elementary School developed Mandarin and Spanish after-school classes, teaching nearly 200 students to date.

The National Imperative for Language Learning

Global competence is an area where most American classrooms are falling short. Consider a class of children entering kindergarten in the United States. While their classes may include students from around the world, global issues and cultures will not be regularly woven into their schoolwork. They will probably study only one language—English—until high school, even though they would learn a second language far more easily if they began in elementary school. Meanwhile, 20 out of 25 industrialized countries start teaching world languages in grades K-5, and 21 countries in the European Union require nine years of language study. International business leaders are warning that American graduates may be technically competent but are increasingly culturally deprived and linguistically illiterate compared with graduates from other countries competing for the same jobs. It is not simply the case that other nations' global competitiveness is enhanced by their workers' proficiency in a specific language, but rather that their young people gain a competitive and cognitive advantage by their access to the remarkable skill set that comes with being multilingual. Research and experience show convincingly that language learning makes students better in the basics—both math and literacy—and it is high time that Americans were no longer bound by their linguistic limits.