
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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International Affairs Specialist program implements language improvement initiatives

International Affairs Specialist program has revamped its training, testing and maintenance policies to better prepare regional affairs strategists to meet mission demands, officials said here Feb. 4. RAS officers serve as attachés and security cooperation officers. They also serve in other positions that require sustained personal interaction with partner nations and require professional foreign language speaking proficiency to be effective, said Lt. Col. Keli Bedics, International Affairs Specialist program chief. "The IAS program office worked closely with our sister services, the Defense Language Office and the Defense Language Institute to tailor DLI's crypto-linguist-focused curriculum to meet RAS and foreign area officer mission demands," Colonel Bedics said.

U.S. College Students Return from Egypt

Jordan Bellquist had just finished studying with a couple of friends in a small Egyptian cafe when an Egyptian man approached them, speaking to them in English. "Take care of yourselves tonight. Something like a revolution is coming," he said. Bellquist, a senior at the University of Texas in Austin, was one of 57 students studying abroad at the University of Alexandria as part of her school's Arabic Flagship Program, a language-intensive immersion program for students studying Arabic language and culture. The next day, she watched as the country erupted. Protesters poured onto the streets denouncing President Hosni Mubarak.

Teaching culture through language

Language can play a huge role in culture. People communicate verbally to share their thoughts, invite friends to dinner, ask someone on a date, tell someone how to make a recipe and so many other things. Marine Corps Community Services offers a way to combat this potential communication gap by offering several courses designed to teach Status of Forces Agreement personnel the basics of the Japanese language.

IU Lands Graduate Flagship Program

The Language Flagship, an initiative of the National Security Education Program (NSEP) within the U.S. Department of Defense, has chosen Indiana University as the only location for its graduate level activities in Chinese. The federal grant, with a total value of \$560,000, recognizes IU as a national leader in Chinese language instruction, curricular innovation and teacher training.

School Board Squashes Last-Minute Attempt To Eliminate Foreign Language

The Fairfax County School Board unanimously rejected a budget amendment Thursday night which would have eliminated foreign language in elementary schools for the next school year. The amendment, proposed by school board member Martina Hone, would have shifted the \$3.1 million dollars that currently funds Foreign Language in Elementary Schools (FLES) to the staffing reserve. Currently 32 county elementary schools out of 139 offer FLES programs, which give half hour language instruction to students two to three times a week. The program, which includes seven languages, is separate from the school system's partial immersion program that operates in 12 county schools.

Confucius Institute Teaches Chinese Language, Culture

A wealth of information about China is available to St. Louisans through the Confucius Institute at Webster University, housed in the historic Old Post Office Building in downtown St. Louis. Confucius Institutes are in 66 different countries. They work in partnership with the Beijing Language and Culture University and The Office of Chinese Language Council International of the Chinese Ministry of Education (HANBAN). The Webster University institute was founded in 2008 through the efforts of former Missouri

Governor Bob Holden. It is the only one of its kind in Missouri. The Confucius Institute uses outreach programs to help educate St. Louisans about China and Chinese culture. It offers teacher training workshops, language classes - even trips to China for students.

Eurasian Regional Language Program

The American Councils Eurasian Regional Language program provides graduate students, advanced undergraduates, scholars, and working professionals' intensive individualized instruction in the languages of Eurasia. Participants may enroll in **semester, academic year, or summer** programs. All courses are conducted by expert faculty from leading local universities and educational institutions. American Councils currently offers study abroad programs in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine. Participants can study Armenian, Azeri, Buryat, Chechen, Georgian, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Persian (Dari, Farsi, Tajiki), Romanian, Tatar, Turkmen, Tuvan, Ukrainian, Uzbek or Yakut.

Crossing Borders Group Offers Bilingual Early Learning Programs

Crossing Borders Group, a cultural and language education company in Houston, TX, has just launched the city's first bilingual daycare centers to teach young children a second language using the immersion method.

PREVIOUS NEWS

AFPAK Hands: Developing trust in foreign lands takes sacrifice

Think about your current job responsibilities. Now, what would happen if your supervisor asked you to leave your current assignment, venture to another country, become completely immersed in Afghani and Pakistani culture and learn conversational Pashto and Dari. How long would you be able to survive? Lt. Cmdr. Derek Reeves, Resident Officer in Charge (OIC) - Afghanistan Engineering District North (AED-N), is one of an elite group who has been chosen for such an assignment - it's called AFPAK (Afghanistan/Pakistan) Hands. Reeves, is one of more than two dozen participants in the Naval District Washington AFPAK Hub.

Chinese Enrichment Program Expands Within CUSD

The International Exchange program at Chico State brings Chinese instructors to teach American children. And it's now expanding. Eight Chico Unified Schools offer the free program to interested students from kindergarten to high school. Inside a classroom in Chico, elementary students are learning about the Chinese New Year. But beyond that, they're singing a traditional New Year song in Chinese. Two days a week, these Shasta Elementary Students stay after school to learn the unique foreign language, from a teacher who's learning a lot herself.

Educators Move Beyond the Hype Over Skype

Educators are now using the videoconferencing tool to connect foreign-language students to native speakers, hold virtual field trips and host conversations with scientists and other experts.

Learning a different tongue

Learning a foreign language opens doors to a wealth of opportunities — both on a cultural level as well as on the work front. Today, it is commonplace to find French as part of a high school or college syllabus with other Indian second languages, not because of the need to help expat children or other international citizens to cope with the Indian syllabus better but because our global landscape is undergoing a paradigm shift. Our world is becoming a smaller place, and the need of the hour is to communicate efficiently.

Foreign Language: The solution to a better world for all

The fact that we, a nation where a mere nine percent of the population speaks at least two language fluently, govern a globe where fifty-two percent of the world speaks at least two languages represents the

reality of the year 2011. European students learn at least two, sometimes three or four. And some people still find it strange that other nations are ahead of us academically.

Armenia's Minister of Diaspora visits Jefferson Elementary

Four years after launching the district's first Armenian heritage program at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School, Glendale Unified officials on Wednesday welcomed Armenia's Minister of Diaspora Affairs Hranush Hakobyan to the site. "I am absolutely thrilled and impressed with how our kids in such a short period can be perfectly fluent in both languages, Armenian and English," Hakobyan said through a translator.

8 subtle ways to prepare middle schoolers for college

Encourage children who are curious about the world to take a foreign language. This can be with CDs or at school. Most middle schools do not require a foreign language but nearly all offer some classes. "Chinese or Arabic would be two to consider," Bloomquist said. "Colleges are increasingly international in nature. Twenty years ago, Yale had one in 50 international students. Today it is one in 11."

Russian Educators To Plan Exchange Program With Huntsville City Schools

Russian educators traveled more than 6,000 miles to visit Huntsville City Schools this week. Wednesday, they observed classes at the Academy for Science and Foreign Language. They say the trip is about securing an agreement for an exchange program in Huntsville. "We'd like very much for the kids of Huntsville, in this case, to come to our place to learn the culture," said Professor Andrey Ponomarenko. He's also the Chief of the International Department of the People's Friendship University of the Russian Federation. The educators say their students will volunteer at the [2014 Winter Olympics](#) in Sochi. They want the students to prepare for it by learning American culture and the English language in Huntsville.

Q&A: Help introduce students to world of opportunities

Since 2003, she has been president and co-chief executive officer of the company, an agricultural- and industrial-equipment manufacturer with 2,100 employees and more than 400 agricultural dealerships and 150 industrial dealerships around the globe. Q. Should every student in kindergarten through 12th grade study a foreign language? A. Yes. It helps us to be more culturally sensitive. I think Americans tend to be a bit arrogant about that. We [at Vermeer] feel very inadequate as we travel that [some of us] only speak English, when we are often with people who speak two to three languages. I took Latin in school. It's still a regret I have that I didn't broaden my language skills more.

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.”