
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 11 FEBRUARY 2011

DoD Civilians Help Afghan Rebuilding Effort

*(FederalNewsRadio.com)...*Suzanne Kubota

The Ministry of Defense Advisors Program is designed to help the Afghan government build civilian capacity within the Defense Ministry. The goal is to send as many as a hundred DOD civilian advisors to train Ministry employees on everything from acquisition to logistics.

Program implements language improvement initiatives

The International Affairs Specialist program has revamped its training, testing and maintenance policies to better prepare regional affairs strategists to meet mission demands, officials said. 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.

Wednesday Warfighter: Work to Be Done for Kunar's Women

Members of the Forward Operating Base Wright Female Engagement Team were in attendance to help interact with the Afghan women and conduct the personal hygiene class. It was surprising to me how the most basic things we take for granted are crucially important to these women. I was eager to come and work with women here specifically because they have had such a difficult life. Although there are women across Afghanistan that are getting involved in government and working on higher-level issues like women-run businesses, it is evident to me that most women in Kunar Province are not getting their basic needs met. Few have running water or electricity. They do not generally have access to health care. Many women here still do not have access to school and cannot read or write. These problems need to be solved before they can worry about politics, elections or opening a store for business.

The Unilingual Americans: America must strengthen its foreign language standards

New Jersey educational budgets were hit hard in 2010, and amidst the frenzy of necessary spending cuts, there was a clear victim: [foreign languages](#). My town's public schools were no exception. During the debates, often expressed was the misguided view that foreign language study, at an elementary school or middle school level, is a luxury. Yet in our ever-globalizing world where the number of native English speakers is [decreasing](#), foreign language proficiency is a necessity. Sadly, the experience of my school district is far from unique, and national statistics are not encouraging. A [2006 study](#) by the U.S. Department of Education found that only 31 percent of elementary schools (and only 24 percent of public elementary schools) reported offering a foreign language.

UI launches program for cultural competency

A relaunched series at the University of Iowa aims to enrich faculty members with one concept: cultural competency. The Staff Language and Culture Services will restart "Accents In the Workplace and Education" this semester, said director Jane Gressang. The voluntary program aims to inform UI faculty members about adjusting to an environment in which there are non-native English speakers and cultural differences. Judie Hermsen, the senior administrative director of UI Human Resources, said it increases knowledge of other cultures.

Teaching immigrants is growing challenge for Nashville schools

Students whose first language isn't English were 15 percent of Metro's public school enrollment in 2005. They're 22 percent today. The majority require special services that, a decade ago, local educators barely knew existed. In 2008, after a state Office of Civil Rights violation over foreign-language speakers' treatment, the district was forced to rethink its approach. The state commissioned George Washington

University to study how Metro taught students categorized as English Language Learners. The report revealed students were grouped in classrooms away from their English-speaking peers and stalled out academically after a few years. Programs varied in content and quality among schools. Metro started by changing top administrators, hiring more translators and teachers, and mainstreaming that population into regular classrooms. It made a difference. Data released Friday show 78 percent of Metro's English Language Learners speak, read and write proficiently, well over the 62 percent state target. Nearly 19 percent exited special programs on time, compared with the 16 percent state target.

PREVIOUS NEWS

New ASTM Committee to Develop Standards for Language Services

Newly formed ASTM International [Committee F43 on Foreign Language Services and Products](#) will develop standards that promote best practices for users and providers of language services and products. The new standards development group will also serve as a resource on language translation and proficiency for law enforcement, intelligence and other federal agencies.

MLA Announces two searchable tools

The Modern Language Association (MLA) announces two searchable tools presenting enrollments in languages other than English taught in institutions of higher education in the United States. The first is the user-friendly [Language Enrollment Database, 1958–2009](#), which makes available language enrollment data over time. This data is a compilation of enrollment numbers from all the MLA language enrollment surveys, starting with the first one in 1958. None of this data was previously available in electronic format. The second is an enhanced [MLA Language Map](#) that shows where languages are taught in the context of where they are spoken. Enrollment figures are available for each language mapped, as are the locations and size of language programs.

4 Tips to Learn a Foreign Language in College

American businesses are now focused on tapping massive emerging markets in China and India, and leaders in those markets have their eyes peeled for young talent who can immediately flourish in a foreign setting. Given the increasingly international nature of the business world, the need for college students to learn a foreign language—particularly in-demand languages like Chinese, Spanish, or Arabic—is greater than ever, education experts say. "Fluency in a foreign language involves a skill set that is now very important to many employers, especially those who require their employees to travel overseas," says Kathy Mahnke, director of the Center for World Languages and Cultures at the [University of Denver](#). "Being able to communicate in a colleague's native tongue helps business negotiations as well as social interactions with that colleague go much more smoothly than does working through a translator. There are just some cultural aspects of communication that do not translate well." "Americans no longer have the luxury of staying mono-lingual," said Michelle Randall.

Multilingualism promotes cultural understanding

In most foreign countries, chances are that we Americans will find English speakers to understand us. English has become the language of business and diplomacy. Why bother to learn a foreign language, many of us ask, when everywhere we go, someone speaks English? The sad, and unintended, consequences of our reluctance to learn foreign languages will become clearer in the coming decades. There is much more involved in speaking another language than appears on the surface, and it's critically important that we Americans realize this, especially if we are to compete on an international basis. Research shows that speaking a foreign language isn't only a way to communicate what we want, or to increase enjoyment of a travel experience. Speaking a foreign language allows us to understand people on a deeper level than the mere words can denote. The thought processes hard-wired into our brains by the way our languages are constructed are subtle and far-reaching.

Sumac to start dual language classes

A new L-STEM Program (Language, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) will debut at Sumac Elementary School in the 2011-2012 school year.

Foreign language deficit 'damaging'

In a new position paper, the academy calls on universities to encourage youngsters both at school and in higher education to study languages. Failure to act will have a "detrimental impact" on the UK's social, cultural and economic wellbeing, it says. Under the last Labour Government, in 2004, a requirement for all pupils in England to study a language to GCSE level was scrapped, and since then the proportions of students taking such subjects has dropped dramatically. According to the latest Language Trends survey from CILT, the National Centre for Languages, the proportion of state schools where more than half of Year 11 pupils are studying a language dropped to 38% in 2010.

Civilian Program Mentors Afghan Defense Counterparts

"Training the Afghan army and police is part of the equation, but so is the encouragement and development of competent ministerial institutions to oversee the transition and sustain the force over time," Schear said in an interview. Civilians bring expertise across a wide range of skill sets ranging from financial management to personnel policy to acquisition and logistics. These are skills that DOD civilians can best teach to their Afghan counterparts, he said. The program is part of the Civilian Expeditionary Workforce initiative and is aimed at civilians in grades GS-13 and above.

316th Training Squadron wins award two years in a row

Officials recently announced the 316th Training Squadron at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, earned the Command Language Program of the Year award for the second consecutive year. The squadron will go on to represent the Air Force at the Department of Defense level. The 316th TS is responsible for monitoring and training more than 2,000 cryptologic language analysts annually in a joint service environment, officials said. With approximately 140 on-site instructors, an abundance of training and deployment resources, language opportunities and incentives, the squadron has established a well-managed institution with the capability to produce language-proficient Airmen ready to achieve mission success, said Lt. Col. Erick Lawson, the 316th TS commander. In 2010, the 316th Training Squadron received approval for a language training detachment, staffed by instructors from the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center. The LTD allows language professionals the opportunity to undergo language training in Korean, Chinese, Arabic and the Iraqi dialect.

2010 MARINE CORPS LANGUAGE PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE CORPORAL JAMES D. MORIN (PMOS 2673) FROM 3D RADIO BATTALION, MARINE CORPS BASE, HAWAII AS THE 2010 MARINE CORPS LANGUAGE PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR. A PANEL OF SENIOR LANGUAGE PROFESSIONALS SELECTED CPL MORIN FROM A LIST OF HIGHLY COMPETITIVE NOMINATIONS SUBMITTED FROM UNITS THROUGHOUT THE MARINE CORPS. NOMINATIONS WERE OPEN TO ACTIVE DUTY AND RESERVE MARINES WITH AN MOS OF 02XX, 26XX, OR 2799. CORPORAL MORIN IS A VERY DEDICATED TAGALOG LINGUIST WHO MAINTAINED A LANGAUGE TRAINING PROGRAM THROUGH WHICH HE ACHIEVED A 3/3 ON THE DEFENSE LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY TEST. LARGELY THROUGH SELF-STUDY, CORPORAL MORIN ALSO DEVELOPED LANGUAGE CAPABILITIES IN THE TAUSUG, YAKAN, AND MAGUIDANAO DIALECTS. CONGRATULATIONS TO CORPORAL MORIN FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE, DEDICATION TO MISSION, AND SUPERIOR LINGUISTIC SKILLS. HIS COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING HIS LANGUAGE SKILLS SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTED TO SUCCESSFUL MARINE CORPS COMBAT OPERATIONS.

CST: Afghanistan

Two years ago, a small **team** of female Marines -- drivers, engineers, cooks and other specialists -- began conducting "female engagement" initiatives with women in southern Afghanistan. If winning the hearts and minds of the local population was the goal, they thought it behooved them to amicably engage 50 percent of the population, women to whom American soldiers had virtually no access because of cultural and religious boundaries in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Since then, the Marines expanded the program and formalized their training linguistic, cultural, and tactical training in advance so they weren't left learning on the job ad hoc, sometimes painfully and with the begrudging support of a commander. Their rapport-building efforts, which included medical outreach and the establishment of micro-finance projects to help women generate income, were soon recognized by Gens. Stanley

McChrystal and David Petraeus, both of whom pushed for the Army to officially adopt the Female Engagement Team (FET) program over the past year.