
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 15 FEBRUARY 2011

New DoWA reaches out to Paktika females

Handing out warm clothing to needy Afghan women and children, Hala Hushawa, Paktika Director of Women's Affairs, takes charge of the Feb. 10 humanitarian event with a cautious optimism. Prior to the event, Hushawa received and organized the donations herself. The Paktika PRT and Paktika Female Engagement Team provided security and support to ensure the event was safe and successful. "Any plan I have out of this area, I want to go and do it myself to make sure it is done right," said Hushawa.

Alberta soldier draws stares in Afghanistan by speaking local language

Master Cpl. Shawn Grove was stuck in a traffic jam on a narrow, crowded road in Kandahar City. His upper body out the roof of a Light Armoured Vehicle, at the gunner position, he turned to an Afghan family in an open-box cargo truck in the next lane. A farmer and his two young sons sat among sacks of grapes and raisins. "How you guys doing?" Grove asked in Pashto, the dominant language in southern Afghanistan. "Is traffic always like this?" The farmer's jaw dropped. "I just decided it would be interesting to hear what they were saying all the time. It started with me writing a couple sentences down and having them slowly translate them. I would write it the way I heard, making up my own punctuation. It rolled from there, it was learning by immersion."

Traditional Language Programs Have Declined Steadily Over Decades

Can you say "decline" in French, German, or Italian? Undergraduate majors in German and the Romance languages have been slowly vanishing from the American higher-education landscape since before many of today's faculty members were born, according to a new analysis by four scholars at the University of California at Riverside.

Government Grants Through African Studies Center

For the first time, undergraduate students studying advanced levels of African languages are eligible for FLAS scholarships, administered by the U.S. Department of Education's [Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships program](#) (FLAS). In the past only graduate students were eligible for the grants.

New Jersey to Open First Chinese Immersion Charter School

Following the introduction of dual-language immersion programs in a growing number of public schools around the country, New Jersey is opening its first public school with dual-language immersion in Chinese and English in September, 2011. [The Princeton International Academy Charter School \(PIACS\)](#) was approved by the New Jersey Department of Education in January, 2010 and will be the third public school in New Jersey offering dual-language immersion. In September 2010, a Spanish/English immersion school opened in Hoboken and a Hebrew/English immersion school opened in East Brunswick.

Slavic, Germanic languages and literatures departments merge

In response to productivity standards issues and a cut of at least \$3 million for the College of Arts and Sciences, the Slavic languages and literatures department will merge with the Germanic languages and literatures department. The two departments are merging to ensure that their undergraduate majors, when combined, will create one major with enough students to warrant its survival by the University's General Administration, said Bill Andrews, senior associate dean of the College. "By combining them, we preserve them," he said. "I don't want to see the opportunity to study foreign languages eroded to the point where our students don't have a chance to study these languages."

First Arabic, Now Farsi. What's Next for the State Dept. on Twitter?

Hmm, this is interesting! [Last week](#), the U.S. Department of State launched an Arabic Twitter feed, [@USAbilAraby](#). This account features declarations of assent and support for various democratic movements in the Arabic world, and appears to more or less mirror the contents of the State Department's [official feed](#), in English. Now, the State Department has rolled out another foreign-language Twitter account. This one's in [Farsi](#), the official language of Iran.

Beijing declares war on Chinglish

What is the greatest threat to China's continued rise as a world power? The answer is not the corruption that runs rampant through Chinese society; nor the heavy-handed suppression of any individual or group that stands up to this evil. No, if you listen to Beijing bureaucrats, China's biggest enemies today are the NBA, the CPI, GDP and all the other English-language abbreviations and expressions mounting a daily onslaught against the purity of the Chinese language and culture.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Helmand Council Members Face Dangerous Task: Reaching Out To Other Women

(Stars and Stripes (Europe Edition))...Nancy Montgomery

...Helmandi, Sharifa, her sister Karima and a woman named Bibi Laiga left their homes in the district capital, Lashkar Gah, for a tour of the town's hospital, meetings with local officials and, separately, local women. The event was part of a larger Marine effort to connect the Afghan people with their nascent government. It was also one of the attempts by Regional Command-Southwest civil affairs and female engagement teams to reach out to some of the most isolated and powerless women in the country — gingerly, in hopes of not creating a backlash.

Simulation keeps Combat Center Marines in fight

The Deployable Virtual Training Environment is a simulation designed to teach Marines up to five languages, cultural nuances, convoy operations and the steps to call for fire support. The language program even teaches the Marines parts of languages other commercial language learning programs don't, said George Hernandez, an instructor at the Battle Simulation Center.

Army Maj. Graduates from DLI program

Army Maj. Craig C. Colucci is one of a group of U.S. service members who graduated from the Afghanistan-Pakistan (AF-PAK) Hands Program at the Defense Language Institute, Presidio of Monterey, Monterey. Graduates have, or will soon be, deployed to Afghanistan as part of their training commitment. Upon arrival in Afghanistan, the cadre members will receive additional language and counterinsurgency training and then sent out to serve in the southern and eastern parts of Afghanistan for immersion with their Afghan counterparts.

Air Force Culture and Language Center develops cross-cultural competent airmen

Iraq, Afghanistan, Horn of Africa, Korea, Sudan, Kosovo ... since the creation of the Air Force, especially for the past 18 years, in times of crisis the United States has called on airmen as the country's first responders. Global vigilance, global reach, global power. That is what the Air Force does. That is what Air University prepares its students for. "But how do you prepare for an expeditionary career when you don't know where the next crisis will be, or where you're going next?" asked Dr. Brian Selmeski. The Air Force's answer is cross-cultural competence, or 3C: the ability to quickly and accurately comprehend, then appropriately and effectively act, in a culturally complex environment to achieve the desired effect. This will prepare airmen for an uncertain operational future, helping them achieve success anytime, anywhere. Developing 3C airmen is the mission of AFCLC.

Female Engagement Team (USMC)

United States Marine Female Engagement Teams have their origins in Iraq and Afghanistan during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. During these conflicts, units recognized the

importance of communication with the female Muslim populations in these regions. The first concept of a FET was largely based on the Marine "Lioness" teams of Iraq, which had been successfully utilized to search female Iraqis for concealed weapons and contraband items during a wide variety of missions. Since then the teams have evolved into an important resource that can reach the local Afghan communities in ways that have not been done before.

GAFB squadron honored

Officials recently announced the 316th Training Squadron at Goodfellow Air Force Base 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 Training Squadron is responsible for monitoring and training more than 2,000 cryptologic language analysts annually in a joint service environment, officials said.

Lingual differences hurt learning, LeMoine says

Students who have learned different English dialects encounter difficulties in their education due to a language gap known as the "deficit perspective," according to Noma LeMoine, chief executive officer of LeMoine and Associates Educational Consulting. These students, known as "Standard English learners," should be provided with a bilingual education in order to facilitate their learning experience, LeMoine said in a lecture at the Rockefeller Center on Thursday.

Goodbye, cruel words: English. It's dead to me.

The English language, which arose from humble Anglo-Saxon roots to become the lingua franca of 600 million people worldwide and the dominant lexicon of international discourse, is dead. It succumbed last month at the age of 1,617 after a long illness. It is survived by an ignominiously diminished form of itself. The end came quietly on Aug. 21 on the letters page of The Washington Post. A reader castigated the newspaper for having written that Sasha Obama was the "youngest" daughter of the president and first lady, rather than their "younger" daughter. In so doing, however, the letter writer called the first couple the "Obama's." This, too, was published, constituting an illiterate proofreading of an illiterate criticism of an illiteracy. Moments later, already severely weakened, English died of shame.

Tech professor's study targets better speech therapy for bilingual kids

Dr. Sue Ann Lee, a Texas Tech Health Sciences Center School of Allied Health Sciences professor specializing in speech and language sciences, is working to help better equip speech pathologists when it comes to treating bilingual children. Her focus is at the beginning. With a grant from the National Institute of Health's Eunice Kennedy Shiver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development, Lee is studying how bilingual children without speech problems acquire speech. She will note when they start to speak and when they begin to differentiate each language.

Fallows talks Mandarin, Chinese culture

Fallows and her husband, a writer for The Atlantic, went to Shanghai for three years to research the effects of the Internet on Chinese society. Her experiences during the project evolved into a critically acclaimed book, "Dreaming in Chinese," which approaches Chinese culture from a linguistic perspective. "It felt like somebody had grabbed my mouth and I could not utter or understand a single word," Fallows said of her arrival in China. She noted that the dialect spoken in Shanghai is different from the she had learned back home in Washington, D.C. "I thought my teacher must have been teaching me Cantonese instead of Mandarin."

Calif Chinese program prompts school board recall

Four members of a suburban school board are being targeted in a recall effort over their support for a middle-school language program funded by the Chinese government, one of the members said Friday. Under the program, which already is in place at dozens of other schools across the [United States](#), the district was to receive \$30,000 a year for language and culture programs at Cedarlane Middle School, along with some 1,000 textbooks, [CDs](#) and other educational materials. The recall petition served to Chen claims he "believes that the United States will be subservient to China and manipulates students to serve China's government," among other claims.

Fairfax County Public Schools

Fairfax County Public Schools' (FCPS) [online registration for two-way immersion and partial-immersion](#) elementary school foreign language is open. Current prekindergarten students may apply for the two-way immersion program, and current kindergarten students may apply for the partial-immersion world language program for the 2011-12 school year. The deadline for registration is February 18. [Details](#).

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.