
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 16 FEBRUARY 2011

Marines Prepare For Battle With New Weapon At Disposal

Inside a classroom at Camp Pendleton, some 15 Marines are learning the words that could help win a war. "What are you shooting at?" asks an instructor. A Marine responds, "What are you shooting at" in Dari, the main language of Afghanistan, where the Marines will be deployed this summer. "Do you think this course could save your life or others' lives?" asked 10News' Michael Chen. Definitely," said Sgt. Kenneth Johnson, who's been in two deployments to Iraq. In addition to the basic language classes, Marines now have the option of taking advanced Afghan language courses. In this six-week class, critical phrases are learned, along with 600 vocabulary words.

Filling Foreign Language Gap

The U.S. Marine Corps Center for Advanced Operational Culture Learning (CAOCL) <http://www.tecom.usmc.mil/caocl/> is DoD's most successful, service-initiated effort to date to provide basic language and culture skills before servicemembers deploy into harm's way. "This is what we call operational culture. That is what you need to know about the people, the cultural environment and the human environment on the ground that is going to make you successful in the operation," pointed out CAOCL Director, Jeff Bearor.

Female Engagement Team Brings Aid to School, Orphanage

Members of the 4th Combat Aviation Brigade's Female Engagement Team, stationed at Camp Marmal, Afghanistan, visited the Red Crescent Society's nearby orphanage and school Feb. 12, bringing with them school supplies and clothing items. "In the mission of aiding Afghanistan in getting back on its feet, governing itself, and securing itself, we want to make sure the women's needs are met as well," said U.S. Army 1st Lt. Rebecca Wagner, the officer in charge of 4th CAB's FET. "The FET is a way to get the Afghan women's voices heard."

Foreign language learning expanding

Sofia is in a two-way dual language program at Channing Memorial Elementary School that Elgin-based District U-46 hopes to roll out to other schools this fall. The idea is to boost the language skills of both students who speak English and Spanish by letting them learn from each other in the same classroom. The Channing program started in 2000, enrolling kindergartners who stay in the dual language system through sixth grade. Half of the classes are taught in English and the other half in Spanish with students urged to speak in the language of the lesson.

Campus to Increase Number of Foreign Language Class Sections

In order to increase the availability of high-demand foreign language classes, UC Berkeley will allocate over \$500,000 in the fall to add about 30 courses and sections as well as to accommodate about 500 more students, campus administrators announced Monday. The funding - derived from increased revenues from fee increases as well as from increased non-resident student enrollment - will go towards supporting an addition of eight Chinese courses, six Spanish courses, four Japanese courses and three Korean courses. It will also fund one additional section each for 10 other languages, including Arabic, German and Tagalog.

Arabic major more popular than ever at BU

According to R. Kevin Lacey, an associate professor of classical and Near Eastern studies and director of the undergraduate Arabic and Near Eastern Studies program, there are about 50 students who major or minor in the subject, more than double the 2008 figure. Nineteen students graduated with degrees in the subject this past May, BU's highest number in history. "Sometimes it takes a crisis to alert the public to

the importance of language studies," he said. "Unfortunately or fortunately, the conflict in Egypt will contribute to the feelings of young college students to study Arabic."

PREVIOUS NEWS

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.

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.