
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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Two WVU students among first to participate in ROTC culture and language program

Anthony Jette volunteered at a health clinic in Peru; and James Godbout spent a few nights in the desert with the Moroccan military. Both West Virginia University juniors were among the first Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps students to participate in the Cadet Culture and Language Immersion Internship Program. The summer internship program, part of the Army ROTC's Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency Strategy, is designed to help Army ROTC students become well-rounded officers in the military. "Culture and language immersion prepares these future leaders to make better decisions, not only in the best interest of the U.S. but also of the country they are operating in. The internships help eliminate stereotypes and build mutual respect," said Major Mark Hennigan, assistant professor of Military Science.

Soldier bridges language gap in Thailand

Amid the bustle of Thai and U.S. leadership speaking through interpreters, working to bridge the language gap, there is one soldier who stands out from all the rest. Born in Bangkok, Son is fluent in both Thai and English and has been assisting communication efforts between the leadership of the Thai and U.S. armies during Cobra Gold 2011. Son learned basics of the English language in a Thai grade school, but he didn't become fluent until he and his family made a permanent move to San Diego when he was 15.

Holloman Airman: Gateway for Iraqis to American training

For most foreigners traveling to the United States, this is all they would need, but for Iraqis seeking a seat inside an American school house, U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Fatema Tahan from Bronx, N.Y., and an English language proficiency exam are part of their checklists. "This test is the first step in getting them there," said Tahan, 49th Maintenance Squadron unit training manager, Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. "English language testing is a critical component of the out-of-country training program for Iraq," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Dawn Rodeschin, ISAM training and travel chief. "The English comprehension level exam must be administered to prospective training candidates within 105 days of their training start dates in the U.S."

GAO praises government for progress on human capital management

GAO cited specific areas that pose problems for human capital management, including: A lack of staff at the [State Department](#) with foreign language skills in areas of geographic interest.

Does the European Union have a strategic culture?

'Strategic culture can be defined as a set of beliefs, attitudes and norms towards the use of military force', often moulded according to historical experience (Chappell 2009, p. 419). For the European Union (EU) Cornish and Edwards see it as 'the institutional confidence and processes to manage and deploy military force as part of the accepted range of legitimate and effective policy instruments' (2001, p. 587).

However, can this be realised 'within the constraints of a liberal, democratic politics that 'speaks softly and carries a big carrot'?' (Matlary 2006, p. 106) This essay will posit that the EU does have a strategic culture, but one still in infancy, beset by weaknesses and potentially insurmountable obstacles. To demonstrate this, we shall explore key diplomatic efforts to enhance European strategic integration, responses to world events and operational deployments, how these have progressively shaped a common strategic culture, and how numerous issues undermine it.

[U.C. Berkeley to spend \\$500,000 boosting foreign language classes](#)

The [University of California, Berkeley](#), plans to spend \$500,000 creating more foreign language classes in the next academic year. Ultimately, this push will result in 30 new language courses at Cal. Provost George Breslauer said the school is keen to spend some of the money it's getting from fee increases "to protect and enhance the quality of undergraduate instruction."

[At a Loss for Language](#)

THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES will no longer offer funding to Cornell's Modern Greek program, perpetuating the current trend of downsizing small departments to meet the demands of budget cuts. This most recent decision, which follows similar moves towards Russian, Swedish and Dutch programs, raises the question — as supporters of the Greek program pointed out in their petition — is Cornell still a place where any person can pursue any study?

[N.J. Moves to Weaken Teacher Tenure](#)

Teacher salaries would also be guided by evaluations instead of merely by the number of years a teacher has been employed and the type of post-graduate degrees earned. Better-rated teachers would get bigger pay raises, as would teachers in "high-need" schools or subjects in-demand, such as science and foreign language.

[Parents Want Language Immersion in Nyack's Elementary Schools](#)

A group of concerned parents are calling on district officials to put language studies back in Nyack School District elementary schools. ([Liberty](#), [Upper Nyack](#) and [Valley Cottage](#)). Heather Cornell, a Valley Cottage parent, is spearheading the effort to bring a language immersion program to the schools. Language immersion teaches youngsters an unfamiliar language by carrying out classes—be they math, science or history—in a foreign language. English-speaking children would be taught primarily in Spanish, and Spanish-speaking children would be taught primarily in English.

[Living Language](#)

Sam has been teaching the Carrier language at Nak'albun school for 28 years. Her mother Mildred Martin taught at the school for nine years before she left and Sam was asked to step in to fill the position. In those days, there was no curriculum and no resources, so Sam had to develop her own curriculum over the years, and created her own resources, making flashcards from scratch. Sam had helped her mother with classes, but didn't have any teacher training, however she had been brought up in the Carrier language, as both of her parents spoke the language at home.

[PREVIOUS NEWS](#)

[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."

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.