
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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Experiencing a revolution: West Point cadets witness history in Egypt

West Point cadets went to Egypt to study language but unwittingly became witnesses to history in the making. Eight members of the Class of 2012, Cadets Brett Schuck, Brendan Mahoney, Brendan Lopez, Patrick O'Shaughnessy, Matthew McGoffin, Kalan Snyder, Jason Steimelm and Bennett Holcomb, along with two U.S. Naval Academy midshipmen, arrived in Egypt Jan. 25, for a semester-long Study Abroad program at the American University in Cairo. "From the first day we flew into Cairo, despite the unpredictable situation, we all wanted to stay," Snyder said via e-mail. "It was electric. It wasn't the civil war we watched on the news. It was just an exciting time for the Egyptian people and we felt it was a rare privilege to be there, even when most Western reporters and others were afraid to come in."

ROTC Language Courses

Pentagon Channel clip focusing on the ROTC skill proficiency bonus with interviews from Ms. Nancy Weaver, DoD Senior Language Authority, and two Georgetown University cadets.

More officers headed for foreign liaison jobs

The Air Force is more than doubling its number of international jobs while at the same time ratcheting up standards for the career field. More than 1,050 officers will have foreign liaison assignments after the service adds 619 slots to its international affairs specialist program. Today, 531 officers serve abroad in outreach roles. "If we underestimate the significance of language, region and culture in our global endeavors, we do so at our own risk and to the detriment of our effectiveness," Schwartz told an audience last month at a Defense Department language and culture summit.

Reaching Afghanistan's hidden war widows in Helmand

After decades of conflict in Afghanistan, there are almost two million widows leading secluded, poverty-stricken lives. But now all-female army units are going into remote villages in an effort to integrate these women into wider society.

FETs communicate with Afghan women

"The female engagement team ... has been around for the past nine years, we are just starting to put a name on it now," said Lt. Col. Teresa Wolfgang, 404th Civil Affairs Battalion commander. "Fifty percent of the Afghan people are women; if you ignore 50 percent of the population, you're not going to get that much information. This is Afghan culture and we have to respect it, that's where the female engagement team comes into play."

Another "New Afghan Eagle" leaves for the United States

First Lt. Hamidullah Amin, a pilot candidate in the Afghan Air Force and student at the Afghan Air Force English immersion lab known as the "Thunder Lab" in here, flew from the Kabul International Airport to a partner nation in the Middle East to start pilot training Wednesday. Amin is also one of the last of the original flight to leave. He will head to Defense Language Institute where will receive advance English training. "Amin has to pass two English comprehension language tests covering information he learned at Thunder Lab. After a couple of refreshers and an exam, he will be admitted to flight school," said White.

Department adds three language majors

Binghamton University's Department of Asian and Asian American Studies is offering three new language majors beginning this semester — Japanese, Korean and Chinese — at a time when language programs are facing cuts across the SUNY system. "Creating a new major takes a long time," Nieman said. "We

have to generate resources, recruit faculty, develop courses and make proposals for the majors to SUNY and the State Department of Education. So, in reality, creation of the new majors began several years ago and is coming to fruition now."

Speaking in cultural tongues

This week could be a pivotal one for thousands of Lafayette Parish students as they attend lotteries and learn whether they will attend a School of Choice. Among the choices is the program that showed parents they could have a choice in public education. French Immersion has grown ninefold in two decades. French Immersion has served as more than a foreign language program. It has been a way to preserve culture in Louisiana, said Elaine Clément, community outreach coordinator for the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, or CODOFIL.

Application Is The Key To Learning A New Language, Fast

No, it's not the Rosetta Stone. Like most skills, the key to really acquiring a foreign language is to actually apply it. "Language hacker" Benny the Irish Polyglot (who learned to speak eight languages fluently within seven years) shares his best [zenhabits strategy](#) for learning a new language: start speaking it with other people *right now*.

PREVIOUS NEWS

The Forgotten Half: Female Engagement Teams

Half way around the world and 5 months into the de-employment has drastically changed my preconceived ideas of what my role would be as the provincial re-construction team's female medical officer. If you told me last June that I would be in Afghanistan meeting with provincial leaders from the Department of Public Health or Department of Women's Affairs to assist and mentor the development of the Afghan health system and improve the lives of families through women's empowerment; I would have looked around trying to figure out who you were talking to.

What Happens in Vagueness Stays in Vagueness: The decline and fall of American English, and stuff

I recently watched a television program in which a woman described a baby squirrel that she had found in her yard. "And he was like, you know, 'Helloooo, what are you looking at?' and stuff, and I'm like, you know, 'Can I, like, pick you up?,' and he goes, like, 'Brrrp brrrp brrrp,' and I'm like, you know, 'Whoa, that is so wow!'" She rambled on, speaking in self-quotations, sound effects, and other vocabulary substitutes, punctuating her sentences with facial tics and lateral eye shifts. All the while, however, she never said anything specific about her encounter with the squirrel. Uh-oh. It was a classic case of Vagueness, the linguistic virus that infected spoken language in the late twentieth century.

Foreign Languages Avoid Budget Cuts

At least one subject has remained off the chopping block despite multimillion-dollar budget cuts at Long Beach Unified School District. Student demand for foreign language programs, especially at the middle school level, continues to increase, said curriculum director Pamela Seki. Additionally, a minimum two years of foreign language is a typical college admission requirement that high schools must meet. "We are in a difficult time, but when schools have enough students interested in learning a language, then we find a way to make that happen," Seki said.

High school students to learn about Chinese language, culture

About 50 students from Boulder Creek High School and Gavilan Peak School in Anthem will learn about the Chinese language and culture on Feb. 24 at the Memorial Union. The Arizona State University Confucius Institute will provide the students with lunch in the MU, room 220, and they will be introduced to STARTALK, a Chinese language and culture camp that will be held in June on the Tempe campus, and the ASU Chinese Language Flagship program, which is for ASU undergraduates who seek to achieve

superior language proficiency in Mandarin Chinese while pursuing degrees in the academic major of their choice.

Foreign languages could close the gap

Students' reluctance to take a second year of a foreign language course before they finish high school may be what's keeping many students in the Wichita Falls Independent School District from graduating in the Recommended or Distinguished Achievement degree programs.

Linguist urges preservation of Taiwan's Austronesian languages

The Formosan languages are the most important cultural heritage of Taiwan and in dire need of preservation, according to Paul Jen-kuei Li, a Taiwanese linguist who has spent four decades studying Austronesian, the vast family of languages to which the Formosan languages belong. "Most people don't understand the importance of aboriginal languages in Taiwan, not even the aborigines themselves," Li said in a Jan. 25 interview with Taiwan Today.

ROTC Bonuses Beef Up Services' Language Capacity

A Defense Department pilot program to add foreign language proficiency to its officer corps is growing dramatically, the department's head of foreign languages said. The department began the ROTC Skill Proficiency Bonus in 2008 at the request of Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates to encourage the study of languages critical to the armed services. Congress authorized DOD's request as part of the 2009 National Defense Authorization Act, and the pilot program is funded through the Services until the end of 2013, when the authorization expires. Although it began with just 29 students, the program has grown to more than 1,800, Nancy Weaver, director of the Defense Language Office, said during a Feb. 18 interview with American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel.

Wednesday Warfighter: Reaching out to Women in Afghanistan

Special Operations Task Force-East united with Female Engagement Team members from the 734th Agribusiness Development Team and Kunar Provincial Reconstruction Team to provide medical assistance to women of a remote village in Kunar Province on Feb. 16.

DepEd to offer Mandarin, Arabic language courses to HS students

To produce more internationally-competitive graduates, the Department of Education (DepEd) will introduce two more foreign languages in pilot schools: Mandarin and Arabic. DepEd Bureau of Secondary Education chief Director Lolita Andrada said the Special Program in Foreign Language is for schools whose students master English early. Courses in Mandarin, widely used in world economic power China, and Arabic, spoken vastly in the Middle East market, will be offered in the coming school year.

Air traffic advisers aim high for Iraq's future

For trainees, the journey to become an air traffic control officer starts at the Defense Language Institutes at Taji or Tikrit, Iraq, where they study basic English for up to a year, depending on personal learning curves. The trainees advance to aviation English, which is the international aviation language, after scoring higher than a 60 on their basic English aptitude test.

Learn a foreign language to age-proof your brain

Want to keep your brain sharp? Pick up another language, or even better, several more [languages](#). New research suggests that learning foreign languages can protect your brain from cognitive problems as you grow older - and the more languages you speak, the bigger the mental boost.

First second foreign language proficiency test to be launched on May

The Language Training and Testing Center (LTTC) yesterday announced its plans to launch a first-ever Second Foreign Language Proficiency Test (SFLPT) in May which will offered as an evaluation of the ability of an individual to use and understand four different foreign languages, including Japanese, French, German, and Spanish.

Ole Miss Chinese Language Program in Demand

The Chinese Language Flagship Program at the University of Mississippi is chipping away the barriers between two cultures on opposite ends of the earth, both literally and figuratively. Donald Hyer, an Ole Miss professor and co-coordinator for the program, said the idea for the Chinese Language program was born almost a decade ago. "We talked to a couple of government officials who came to campus and said they were looking at universities for a program that would encourage American students to learn another language," he said. "With (co-coordinator) Michael Metcalf's connections and a little luck, we thought we could build a program that is second to none."

Should children learn a second language?

Does being bilingual help children learn to prioritize information, provide a defense against some effects of Alzheimer's or just provide a great workout for the brain? All of the above, according to studies discussed Friday at the [2011 American Assn. for the Advancement of Science](#) meeting in Washington D.C., where a number of researchers presented on the benefits of being bilingual. Among the findings: that infants raised in bilingual households can tell unfamiliar foreign languages apart and that bilingual speakers who rapidly switch between languages are better mental multitaskers than their monolingual counterparts.