
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 04 MARCH 2011

AfPak Hands Strive for Cultural Awareness

Since 2009 DoD has fast-tracked cultural expertise and language ability to places where they're needed the most. AfPak Hands trains military and civilian personnel from all services, mostly mid-career officers, to serve as a core cadre to build trust between the U.S. military and local populations in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

One voice connects two nations

Language barriers are common during training between two countries, and in the case of Iron Fist, the annual exercise to enhance amphibious capabilities and increase interoperability between the U.S. and Japan, Lance Cpl. Westley Contrata was the solution.

DLI Prepares Service Members for Language, Culture in Afghanistan, Pakistan

The Defense Language Institute provided 16 weeks of language training to recent graduates in the AfPak Hands program. This intense language training consists of six hours classroom training a day plus homework five days a week. The Training Support Organization at Dam Neck was very supportive in getting this course underway in short order.

Cultural awareness key to success, Army official says

LTG Ken Keen notes the importance of being able to change gears on the fly. The military has to be culturally aware in order to respond to contingencies around the world. "Learning a language is opening a door to culture." Keen said.

The Best Undergraduate B-Schools of 2011

With U.S. job growth weak, business programs that top the latest Bloomberg Businessweek ranking are going global in a big way. Prospective students are looking for a "heavy emphasis" on international experience and universities are beginning to notice. Check out this article for examples of international programs and international experience requirements for different degree programs.

Afghan Hands bring unique skills to Afghan fight

Members of an innovative Afghan advising program known as Afghan Hands recently arrived in Afghanistan. These experts will come back to the same positions in another year and they will come back with all the experience they gained from their previous deployment.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Virginia OKs sign language as foreign language for schools

Virginia Assembly passed legislation that would require all colleges and universities to accept ASL courses as a fulfillment for any foreign language requirement. Maryland is already one of 35 states that already recognize ASL as a language and grants credit for ASL courses as a general studies requirement.

FBI hosts foreign language job fair

With the expansion of the FBI's role of safeguarding American and its people, they are continuing to create many new opportunities for linguists. See this article for focused languages and pay scale ranges for the Chicago, Illinois office.

Summer Foreign Language Courses Assist Teens with Language and Confidence

A foreign language immersion program is a great opportunity for teenagers to develop a sense of independence and learn a second language.

An innovative scheme is helping primary teachers brush up their language skills

Studies show that more than half of the teachers in Great Britain that are delivering foreign language study in primary schools have limited knowledge and skills of the language they are teaching. To prepare teachers to meet the challenge the University of Worcester has launched a course to "up-skill" those with some limited knowledge.

Speaking two languages a golden opportunity

This is an editorial about the concern over the Hispanic population not immersing their children with the Spanish-language at home.

Foreign Language Pains

Foreign language courses are a colossal waste of time. Need to understand why Americans don't speak foreign languages? Just read this article by a student from the University of Missouri at Kansas City. "I can understand foreign language being a necessity if it's something you will need to use directly with your degree. Say, if you're majoring in a foreign language or something like that. Otherwise, a foreign language course is a waste of time, money and energy."

Foreign Language Education Caught in Silly War of Words

Like the article above? The Johnson County Republican Party executive committee adopted a resolution Tuesday condemning the Bush-era Arabic language and cultural studies lessons planned for a few schools in south Arlington and Mansfield. One blogger wrote, "One Nation, One Language, One Culture."

In one of final addresses to Army, Gates describes vision for military's future

The Secretary of Defense Robert Gates urged West Point cadets to take career risks by taking assignments that in the past might have been seen by their peers as career dead-ends. "I would encourage you to become a master of other languages and cultures, a priority of mine since taking this post," he said.

Changes to Wyoming Hathaway scholarship in trouble

The battle over foreign language requirements for scholarship eligibility continues in the state of Wyoming. The House wants to make foreign language optional in high school for all four levels of the state-funded Hathaway scholarship, while the Senate wants to keep foreign language mandatory for the top two scholarship levels that award the most money.

Baylor Sophomore Receives Critical Language Scholarship to China

A Baylor University sophomore has received the Critical Language Scholarship provided by the U.S. State Department to study in an immersion program in China this summer.

English in Schools Too Easy for Pupils

Young people in Finland speak English so well that many schools have decided to step up the level of teaching. According to the Finnish National Board of Education, a change in curriculum might be on the cards. Many Finnish pupils find that their English language curriculum has few challenges to offer. They encounter a lot of English outside of school, because it has gained an important place in the Finnish youth culture and on the internet.