
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 07 MARCH 2011

National Foreign Language Week

National Foreign Language Week is celebrated this week (March 7-13, 2011). The official theme this year is "Languages Make the World Go 'Round". NFLW was inaugurated in the spring of 1957 by the Alpha Mu Gamma Honor Society at Los Angeles City College for the purpose of making Americans aware of the need and importance of foreign language study.

Commanders Cite Unpredictable Future Threats

Navy ADM Eric Olson of USSOCOM and Marine Corps GEN James Mattis of USCENTCOM discussed the status of their commands and their priorities during a hearing on their FY2012 budget requests with the House Armed Services Committee. Potential solutions will include promoting language skills and micro-regional expertise as essential military requirements.

Iran urged to declare Azerbaijani an official language

A conference of ethnic Azerbaijanis in Norway has urged the Iranian government to make Turkish an official language of Iran.

The Army's Foreign Area Officer Program: To Wither or to Improve?

"The Army has come a long way in establishing a professional FAO program that supports service and joint requirements. It must refocus the program, however, and provide the guidance, assignments and resources to make the program more relevant to the ongoing operations in which our military is engaged." This is quoted from a Small Wars Journal article by LTC Daniel Mouton.

4 Afghan women hope to break gender barriers

Four Afghan women are about to be the first to enter their service through officer candidate school. They will spend about 3 months improving their English at the Defense Language Institute at Lackland AFB, Texas before moving to the Army's Fort Rucker, AL for helicopter pilot training.

PREVIOUS NEWS

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.

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."