
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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Senior Defense Personnel Join the Effort in Afghanistan

Senior Department of Defense civilian employees recently concluded training at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, Ind., in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan later this year as part of the Ministry of Defense Advisor program. The program is a seven-week course designed to give these volunteers the tools necessary to help the Afghan Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior build their capacity to sustain a professional and accountable security apparatus, said Kelly Uribe, director of the Ministry of Defense Advisors program.

IU-National Guard partnership teaches officers Afghan languages, demonstrates winning approach

Last year a call went out to the brightest ROTC students across the nation -- and they answered. Recent graduates from Harvard, Indiana University, Virginia Tech and other universities traveled to a gritty urban-stylized National Guard facility in southeastern Indiana to immerse themselves in Afghan culture and language. The inaugural Second Lieutenant Afghan Language Program, offered through a burgeoning collaboration between the Indiana National Guard and Indiana University, was intense, effective and an encouraging sign of the potential for highly specialized training to prepare military service personnel from across the country for international deployments.

ROTC Offers Skills-Based Bonus

The ROTC Skill Proficiency Bonus Program pays a skill proficiency bonus to qualified ROTC students who take foreign language or culture classes. Students can earn as much as \$3,000 per year, depending on the classes they take. The highest stipends are paid for advanced-level classes in high-demand, strategic languages such as Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Swahili, Uzbek, Dari and Pashto. Students do not have to be language or linguistics majors to qualify for bonuses. ROTC students at colleges that do not offer foreign languages may be able to study at neighboring school's foreign language program and still receive the bonus.

Course Readies Civilians for Overseas Deployments

Each month, dozens of students converge here for the Civilian Expeditionary Workforce's predeployment course. The course aims to equip civilians with the skills needed to successfully support combat and humanitarian missions in Afghanistan, Iraq and other locations around the world. The students spend the first week here, participating in classes and a series of scenarios that expose them to different cultures and ways of life. They're taught cultural awareness and sensitivities, personal security, counterinsurgency, command structures, how to work with an interpreter, as well as how to become part of a team comprising primarily military members.

Fluent in another language? The CIA wants you

Many Americans don't learn a second or a third language from birth, let alone a language that the CIA or U.S. Foreign Service might want. The situation has forced U.S. government agencies to learn how to cultivate the most talented second-language speakers from among college students with little to no other-language expertise. "In U.S. education, we don't develop early bilinguals," said Catherine Doughty, a language expert at the University of Maryland. "We're dealing with monolinguals or people who have only studied foreign language, so that they don't really have any proficiency."

Panel Recommends Ways to Improve Military Diversity

The commission also recommended a new, broader definition of "diversity" that would add backgrounds and skills largely missing from today's military, such as recruiting people from more varied regions and

cultural backgrounds and with foreign-language skills and higher math, science and technological abilities.

[Capitol rally focuses on DREAM Act, more foreign language education](#)

More than 1,200 Illinois Muslims rallied at the Illinois Capitol on Wednesday, advocating legislative reforms such as teaching Arabic in public schools. "We are currently witnessing a time in our country's history where the ugly face of bigotry is sweeping across the nation," spokeswoman Janaan Hashim said. "The issues we raise today focus not for a better Muslim community, but for a better Illinois."

[Students Take Part in Foreign Language Week](#)

"We also have on the morning announcements, depending on what country is being honored for that day. Have them say hello in Spanish, hello in Polish, hello in Italian, hello in Chinese," said Rienan. The lessons go beyond the class room they are in the cafeteria too, where students get a different lunch every day this week.

[PREVIOUS NEWS](#)

[Global Learning Scales Up](#)

Becoming more global is a familiar refrain for many a school administrator or curriculum developer wrestling with delivering 21st century skills. Over the past decade, districts have expanded their foreign language programs, added Mandarin Chinese to the mix, and in some cases launched language immersion classes in their elementary schools. Others have opened entire schools designed around international education.

[Japan launches primary push to teach English](#)

Compulsory foreign language lessons start next month for all 10- to 12-year-olds, raising hopes among educators and industry leaders of ending a decades-long 'English deficit'. The new curriculum is to be introduced after intense lobbying from the business community, amid fears that Japan's competitive edge could be blunted unless it takes English communication as seriously as China and South Korea.

[Sweetwater's biliteracy effort is growing](#)

A novel biliteracy program at the [Sweetwater Union High School District](#) is becoming more popular and is attracting the attention of a statewide education group that would like to see the effort expand elsewhere in [California](#). The Sweetwater district is the only one in the county and just one of 33 in the state to offer qualifying students the seal of biliteracy on their diploma. The distinction is meant to show mastery in more than one language.

[Khalil Hall Dedication Ceremony](#)

Congressman Sam Farr, DLIFLC Commandant Col. Danial Pick, and family members of the late Alfie Khalil were on hand March 4 at the Presidio of Monterey for the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony of the DLIFLC's newest general instruction building, Khalil Hall. Khalil began as an Arabic instructor at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in 1979 and became the president of the American Federation of Government Employees from 1989 until his death in 2006.

[The Consortium for Language Teaching and Learning](#)

Links to language centers, national foreign language resource centers (Title VI), language consortia, and International Educational Exchange Organizations.

['Ga-Ga' for Daddy's Data](#)

MIT Professor Deb Roy studied ways caregivers influence how babies learn to talk by bringing his work home. He wired his house with 11 cameras and 14 microphones so he could analyze hours of footage to learn how his son acquired language in real life.

[Students bridge culture gaps over lunch](#)

“Language and Lunch” is a program that pairs students with one another’s language and provides them lunch and a comfortable environment for learning. This program is offered at Palomar College in San Marcos, California.

Language shouldn’t be so foreign

The state of Georgia requires high school students to have just two years of a foreign language to graduate and this is typical of many other states. However, schools should be doing more, though. It is arguably more beneficial to start earlier in order to learn more than just the basics.

Yakety Yak Doesn’t Look Back!

Yakety Yak Language Café in Edinburgh, Scotland started when the owner decided she would like to improve her own foreign language conversation skills over a cup of coffee or a glass of wine rather than in the formal atmosphere of a classroom. Over 150 people are now “yakking” in 7 different languages at the café.

Wheatley: For the Love of Language

What does a “Romance Language” major or any other language major from a liberal arts colleges sound like to an outsider? Are language majors worth the time and effort in the big picture of life and career? To get the author’s opinion read the full article.

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.

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.