
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 22 APRIL 2011

Army, Navy Add Citizenship Option To Boot Camp

(Yahoo.com)...Susanne M. Schafer, Associated Press

Military service has long been one route to U.S. citizenship. Now the Army and Navy, in need of specialists and language skills in wartime, are speeding things up by allowing recruits to wrap up the process while they're still in basic training.

DLIFLC Alumni support Operation Tomodachi

Col. Craig J. Agena, Chief of the Bilateral Coordination Action Team's U.S. contingency at Camp Sendai, visited the Nobiru and Rikuzen-Ono train stations in Higashi Matsushira with other U.S. and Japanese military members, as well as city officials. Agena, who attended the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center's Japanese school as part of the Foreign Area Officer (FAO) program in 1991 and 1992, was called to duty in support of Operation Tomodachi shortly after the disaster struck.

California Guard linguists bridge language gaps in Salvadoran exercise

"Tener otro idioma es de poseer una segunda alma." In English, it reads: "To have another language is to possess another soul." To understand that quote in both languages means more than possessing two souls. It can also mean the ability to bridge the barrier between people, countries and, sometimes, armies. That is what soldiers of the 223rd Military Intelligence Battalion, California Army National Guard, are doing as linguists in El Salvador. "It's not as easy as people think," said Spc. Charles Chang, of the 223rd. Chang put his translating abilities to the test last month during the opening ceremony of Beyond the Horizon 2011, a training exercise to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of El Salvador most affected by Hurricane Ida in 2009.

Make foreign language a must?

In the near future, all Madison County students may have to take a foreign language, according to the long-range plan that was unanimously approved by the Madison County School Board April 11. The long-range plan was created by parents, teachers and students and will act as a sort of instructional road map for Madison public schools through 2017, Superintendent Matt Eberhardt told The Eagle in an interview last week.

Madison Schools Aim to Add More Language Classes

Madison County's school board and superintendent are taking a hard look at some new requirements for students. They want to get as many of them as possible into a foreign language class, but that could take away from other electives and from their dwindling budget.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Sailor's language skills key to Bulkeley VBSS team success

Operations Specialist 1st Class Christopher Kashou, a new member of the VBSS team aboard Bulkeley, is a Palestinian-American who grew up speaking Arabic. "OS1 has become our hero here! His first trip out with the VBSS team proved to be a huge success since we were able to use his language skills to our advantage," said Ensign Michael Seymour, Bulkeley's boarding officer. "It feels good to be contributing to the [U.S. Navy's] 'global force for good' with the skills I was taught as a child. Arabic is a skill I am lucky to

have, and I am thrilled to be a part of the VBSS team, helping them communicate with people who speak Arabic," said Kashou.

DARPA initiates overarching language translation research Publishes Broad Agency Announcement for Broad Operational Language Translation (BOLT) program

BOLT seeks to accurately translate Mandarin Chinese and multiple dialects of Arabic into English from all types of media, specifically focused on the challenging task of informal conversational speech, email text and instant messaging. "BOLT also aims to allow users to conduct English-language queries that retrieve targeted information from multi-lingual sources. BOLT would give users the ability to conduct robust searches that yield the most relevant results," he said.

Marine makes a difference in Afghanistan

"FET does what we can't do," said Sgt. Mackenzie D. Atkins, a station team non-commissioned officer with the Police Embedded Team in Now Zad. "FET is a very underrated asset." Atkins went on to highlight the importance of gaining the trust of the women and children in the area, stating how children are typically more likely to approach the female Marines with information and updates. "There were no girls in school before the last FET team got here," Hogan said. "I love to see the kids in school. The children that are in school are the ones who are going to change Afghanistan in the long run," Hogan began. "You can't change the mind of most of the adults, but you can change the minds of the people who will one day run this country."

Universities may face up to 40 percent budget cuts in global studies

International studies centers nationwide — including seven at UNC — might lose almost half their funding, depending on how the U.S. Department of Education interprets a federal funding bill. If cuts that high are implemented, administrators said they might have to cut foreign language class offerings, research and outreach programs, and staff — at a time when the Obama administration has been focusing on promoting globalization and international issues.

U.S. State Department Reaches Out To The World Online

Last month, hoping to elicit a condemnation after news that Iranian opposition leaders Mir Hossein Musavi and Mehdi Karrubi had been placed under house arrest, Iranian democracy activist Amir Hossein Etemadi signed in to Twitter and sent a message to the U.S. State Department's newly launched Persian-language account, @USAdarFarsi. Since then, Etemadi has sent more messages to the State Department through its [Persian-language Facebook page](#). One recent note said he hoped that as the U.S. government expands its foreign-language presence on social-media sites, it takes Iranian voices increasingly into account.

Bilingual Babies Learn Language in the Womb

Researchers tested one group of newborns who only heard English in the womb and the others who heard English and Tagalog. The infants exposed to two languages during pregnancy showed an equal preference for each one.

New polyglot translator app arrives on the iPhone: Wordictionary Instant Translator

Though it doesn't offer the smooth, built-into-camera-view augmented reality experience of the [Word Lens app](#), we found it easy to use; a cross-hair in the middle of the camera viewer means you can zero in on what you need translating- good if you have a pass knowledge of a foreign language but you've come unstuck on one word. The app offers more than the Word Lens' limited Spanish to English option, with functionality in traditional Chinese, simplified Chinese, English, Japanese, Korean, French, Germany, Italian, and Spanish. Keep on "view and translate" and words will appear above the cross-hair, with a translation displayed for the currently selected. (We found our results were powered by Google translate, so be prepared for the not-so-occasional funny answer.)

NC A&T Cuts French, Spanish Majors

Dozens of NC A&T students protested on Tuesday after university officials decided to cut some foreign language majors. Students were informed last month that French and Spanish degree programs would be phased out over the next three years. Students with more than 60 credits will be allowed to continue, but

others will have to change majors or go to a different school. Classes will still be offered at Bennett College and UNCG. Provost Dr. Linda Adams said the decision to cut the programs came after a review from the [North Carolina](#) General Administration. Fewer than 20 students graduated with a foreign language degree in the past two years, Adams said. However, that did not stop a group of students from protesting and trying to save the programs.

Inland students' interest increases in foreign languages, mostly Spanish

Arlington High School students in Riverside say they're taking Spanish, or French, because knowing another language will be helpful in a global economy. "I want to be a doctor, and many doctors have to learn Spanish," said 11th-grader Heather Wilson in a Spanish 3 Honors class. "Many jobs require you to be bilingual." Ninth-grader Gerson Sandoval said he's taking French 1 because "most continents have French as a primary language or a secondary language." Some of his classmates said they already know Spanish and English and want to learn a third language.

IPS is meeting the challenge of teaching kids who don't speak English

In Indianapolis Public Schools, there are nearly 3,900 -- about 12 percent of the total -- who show up for school speaking 46 languages, but little or no English. They speak Chinese, Yoruba, Dinka, Urdu, Swahili or Gujarati. Sometimes they speak French, Russian or German.

Preserving Indigenous Languages Via Twitter

[Twitter](#)'s robust community of non-English speakers just got another boost with the launch of a new site called [Indigenous Tweets](#). The site, created by St. Louis-based computational linguistics professor Kevin Patrick Scannell, collects tweets from more than 70 languages. These range from better-known tongues such as Haitian Creole and Basque to the downright esoteric Gamilaraay, an Australian indigenous language with approximately three living speakers.

Na'vi Linguist Speaks at CSUF

The creator of Na'vi, the language of the fictional people of Pandora in *Avatar*, spoke at the 20th annual Linguistics Symposium Monday. Frommer defined linguistics as the "scientific study of language." "It helps you when learning other languages. It helps you appreciate languages more," Frommer said. But more than anything, Frommer finds the study of language fascinating. That fascination is what drove him to create a language that is similar to many other languages in that it is 30 to 40 percent wordier than English.