
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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Military language training draws words of praise

Since January, 64 paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division's 4th Brigade Combat Team have spent their days learning to read, write and speak basic Dari, the most common language among the people of Afghanistan, and delving into the country's culture and history. The Army has taught the same 16-week course at Fort Drum in New York, Fort Polk in Louisiana and Fort Campbell in Kentucky. Marine Corps base Camp Lejeune will graduate its first class this summer from a 52-week course in Dari, Pashtu and Urdu, two other languages of the region.

Want to learn Pashto? There's an app for that

Language specialists in Indiana University's College of Arts and Sciences have developed a new application for the iPad that will help people working in strategic areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan to read and write in Pashto, one of the region's primary languages.

What Bilingualism Is NOT

Among shared misunderstandings, one is that bilingualism is a rare phenomenon. In fact, it has been estimated that more than half of the world's population is bilingual, that is uses two or more languages in everyday life. Bilingualism is found in all parts of the world, at all levels of society, in all age groups. Another common misconception is that bilinguals have equal knowledge of their languages. In fact, bilinguals know their languages to the level that they need them and many are dominant in one of them.

KU grad donates \$1.6 million for students to study in Germany

A Kansas University alumnus has donated \$1.6 million to KU to support scholarships for a German study abroad program. Carl Krehbiel, who graduated in 1970 with a degree in Germanic languages and international relations, established an endowed fund that will support an estimated 15 new scholarships, said William Keel, professor and chairman of KU's department of Germanic languages and literatures.

Translating the Web While You Learn

A new website will offer free language lessons—and use the results to render Web pages in other tongues. The creators of a website called [Duolingo](#) want to translate the world's Web pages into new languages by harnessing the efforts of people who are learning those languages.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Flournoy: Asia Will be Heart of U.S. Security Policy

While the United States is confronting terrorism and hostile regimes in places like Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran and Libya, leaders also are looking eastward to shape U.S. security policy for the long-term, the Pentagon's top policy official said last night. "When future historians look back at this era, I am convinced that the rise of Asia will be noted as the central geo-strategic fact of our time," Michèle Flournoy, undersecretary of defense for policy, told a packed room of policy experts at Johns Hopkins University's "Rethinking Seminar" here.

Brigade Leaders Cite Value of Intelligence

McKim said the idea that “every soldier is a sensor” still holds true, and that a woman soldier on a female engagement team could be the person who learns a critical piece of information. “That one thing might be the key to opening up why people are fighting in a particular area,” he said.

No Signal in Afghanistan? University’s iPad Language App Will Still Work

U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan and parts of Pakistan frequently have trouble talking with local residents, who speak Pashto, which has 44 letters and its own unique calligraphy. Now there’s a [free iPad app](#) that provides a tutorial, and it will work even in remote areas because the entire program resides on the tablet computer. “We assumed some users will be in the military, who will use it in areas without any data connection,” says Sukhrob Karimov, an information and communication technology specialist at Indiana University’s Center for Languages of the Central Asian Region. “So we decided to build it so all the sources are in the app. Once installed on the iPad you can use it anywhere.”

Contract Linguist Positions Available - Foreign Language Career Day

The Federal Bureau of Investigation invites residents of San Diego and Imperial County to attend a Foreign Language Career Day on Saturday, May 7, 2011, at 11000 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90024. Come any time between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. You must have a detailed resume. Full-time and part-time opportunities exist. No specific education or professional backgrounds are required. A high level of fluency in English and foreign language is required to perform translation, monitoring, and interpretation services. You will be undergoing a pre-application on-site language skills assessment.

Vermont courts seek standards for interpreters

Linda Li often interpreted court proceedings for Chinese immigrants facing deportation or caught in family disputes.. She grew up in Hong Kong speaking Cantonese and English and later learned Mandarin. But when she started interpreting those languages in Vermont’s courts seven years ago, she struggled to pick up another language spoken in the courtroom: legalese. These days, foreign-language interpreters working in Vermont’s courts nearly always have some legal training, as well as a Black’s Law Dictionary. But the judiciary has yet to standardize requirements for interpretation.

Appalachian holds Russian language institute for high school students in July

High school students who have been studying Russian online through the N.C. Virtual High School have an opportunity to attend a two-week institute at Appalachian State University focusing on the Russian language and culture. Appalachian’s 2011 StarTalk North Carolina Student Summer Institute in Russian will be a two-week, residential immersion Russian language and culture program held on campus July 18-31. The residential immersion program will help students further develop their oral, reading and writing skills. In-class and out-of-class activities will center on the theme of Discover the World of Russian Fairy Tales and connect it with the art and music of Russian culture.

The Role of Language Centers in CLAC

The Cultures and Languages Across the Curriculum (CLAC) discussion blog has comments from Cindy Evans, Director of Foreign Language Resource Center at Skidmore College. She provides her thoughts on the potential role for language centers in support of CLAC initiatives.

Vanderbilt Army ROTC Cadets are Selected for CULP

Five Vanderbilt Army ROTC Cadets will travel abroad this summer to participate in the Army’s Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency (CULP) Program.

‘Mission possible’ to teach the police English

Teaching a foreign language in India was an uphill task as a majority of trainers came from states with very heavy accents and some just detested the language because they found it tough to speak. After five days of training in the language at Delhi’s Police Training College, the trainers were correcting their seniors while speaking in English.

English adopted as a world language

49 countries have English as an official language and that does not count the United States or Great Britain. Learning English is serious business in nearly all nations.

ROTC Language and Culture Training Grants

Today's top government grant is Project Global Officers. This is a DoD funded initiative to promote foreign language study specifically through immersion by going abroad and being given intercultural dialogue opportunities.

Petraeus' war legacy befits his future post at CIA

Petraeus will bring to the CIA an appreciation of human intelligence and the need to understand culture, history and language. "He's very astute about intelligence matters," Crane said.

Face of Defense: Lance Corporal Provides Leadership

Mullin, who attended Clio Area High School, helped to develop pattern analysis for E Company's area of operations during the unit's deployment. He also was effective in gathering intelligence because of his ability to successfully communicate with Afghans, sometimes without the help of an interpreter.

Interpreters sought to bridge language gap with storm victims

A week and a half after deadly storms hit North Carolina, the destruction is still evident at Stony Brook. That's the development where four children died as a result of the storm. Many of the residents there are Hispanic and don't speak much English, and that's created even more difficulties. David Marshall is one of a handful of interpreters helping to bridge the language gap. "If I'm just speaking something you don't understand, how can I connect with you," Marshall said. "I'm not saying it's impossible, but we have a huge challenge here."

College campuses add language immersion programs

Colleges and universities nationwide are creating and expanding existing language immersion programs, under which students live together while learning a language around the clock. Dustin Cowell, who teaches Arabic at Wisconsin-Madison and is chair of the Department of African Languages and Literature, says foreign-language immersion programs are effective because the language becomes a part of the students when they use it to express their feelings or to talk about ordinary, everyday activities.

Cuts Threaten Fellowships, Foreign Language Tutorials

Unless the Education Department acts to spread out painful federal cuts among a broad set of programs, UCLA may be forced to eliminate some foreign languages with small enrollments, such as Czech, that are offered in advanced tutorials as well as to reduce staff and training programs in international education. "These programs are essential for ensuring U.S. global competitiveness and national security, and for our knowledge about the world beyond the United States," said Randal Johnson, vice provost for international studies at UCLA, a Brazilian film scholar and fluent Portuguese speaker who began learning the language under the fellowship programs that would be affected.