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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 06 MAY 2011**

#### **DLIFLC alumni support Operation Tomodachi**

Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) graduates put their language training to good use in support of Operation Tomodachi after the recent disaster in Japan. Marine Lt. Col. James Kendall, a Foreign Area Officer (FAO) and Japanese linguist, was called to Camp Sendai only days after the disaster struck. He was soon working alongside Japanese Soldiers and officials to provide aid to victims of the disaster in the areas hardest hit by the tsunami.

#### **Air Force mourns professor killed in Afghanistan**

The Air Force community paid their respects Thursday afternoon to an Air Force Academy professor killed while serving a tour overseas. Maj. Philip Ambard, 44, was killed along with seven other members of the U.S. military and one civilian in a mass shooting in Kabul, Afghanistan. He was serving on a NATO team, training the Afghan Air Force. The attack is still under investigation. Ambard was one of the Academy's top rated foreign language professors. He began teaching at the Academy in 2003.

#### **Louisiana Board of Regents Eliminates 100 Degree Programs**

The Louisiana Board of Regents has [voted to eliminate 100 degree programs that produce too few graduates from state colleges and universities](#), 2theadvocate.com reports. Nearly 200 additional programs will be either consolidated or merged into other degrees. The cuts are a result of a review conducted last year of nearly 460 degree programs meant to identify those with the lowest completion rates. The plan, approved last week, will cut several foreign language programs. Southern University will lose both its Spanish and French degrees, while Louisiana State University is terminating its bachelor's degrees in Latin and German.

#### **SESSION Day 4: Chamorro Language Bill Moved to Voting File**

Bill No. 95-31 (COR) – by M. Silva Taijeron - AN ACT TO AMEND §8103(A), CHAPTER 8, TITLE 17 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO EXPANDING THE CHAMORRO LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CURRICULUM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

### **PREVIOUS NEWS**

#### **Bin Laden killing leaves questions for Afghan scholars**

At the Defense Critical Language and Culture Training Program in Missoula, where select soldiers endure a six-month cultural dunk tank before Afghan deployment, bin Laden's slaying was a show-stopper. The U.S. has a complicated relationship with parties in both Pakistan and Afghanistan. It carries out drone strikes in parts of Pakistan where al-Qaida are known to be, but not in others where potential targets are also located. It fights the Taliban, in Afghanistan, but has never placed the Afghan group on its terrorism list. At the military immersion school hosted by the Mike and Maureen Mansfield Center, Owen, a former senior intelligence officer for the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C., will be unpacking those questions for some time.

#### **ANALYSIS: Viewpoint Breaking Language Barriers**

Recruiting workers with strong foreign language skills, especially in national security roles, is an on-going struggle for federal agencies. But the National Security Education Program is providing some relief. Designed to build a broader and more qualified pool of candidates with foreign language and international

skills, NSEP focuses on the cultures of Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. The program is administered by the Defense Department and a 13-member advisory board chaired by Samuel D. Kleinman, deputy assistant secretary for readiness. Other members include senior officials from the Homeland Security, State, Commerce, Education and Energy departments.

### **Global Competence: The Knowledge and Skills Our Students Need**

These are necessary strategies for change, but insufficient to create the citizens, workers and leaders our nation needs in the 21st century. Missing in this formula for a world-class education is an urgent call for schools to produce students that actually know something about the world--its cultures, languages and how its economic, environmental and social systems work. The concept of global competence articulates the knowledge and skills students need in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Looking beyond English: MIT professor uses linguistics in an ESL classroom to teach scientific principles, empower a new generation of critical thinkers**

In fall 2008, Daniel Ginsberg, an English as a Second Language teacher at a [public high school](#) in Malden, Mass., approached MIT professor Wayne O'Neil asking about incorporating linguistics into his curriculum to allow students to compare and contrast English with their native languages. O'Neil's answer? Such a curriculum doesn't exist for ESL students — but he'd be happy to help design one. O'Neil, an MIT linguist who has been an advocate of linguistics education in secondary schools since the 1960s, has had plenty of experience developing curricula for both English and science classrooms. But he had never heard of an attempt to introduce linguistics to an ESL classroom — where students' language backgrounds can be highly varied — so as to help them develop an English vocabulary for talking about language.

### **FET: Female Marines Build Relationships in Helmand**

Sergeant Kimberly Nalepka and the rest of her Female Engagement Team squad play an integral role in counterinsurgency operations here. "I have a passion for what I am doing," Nalepka said. "We're here to help the people, and it's exciting because being able to have a deeper impact on the Marine Corps' mission is something I have always wanted to do. Interacting with the people is an amazing opportunity, and being able to see the smiles on their faces makes everything worthwhile, because a smile is universal no matter what language you speak."

### **Voices in Education: Jeanne Downey-Vanover**

We have a very strong language program; it is a little unusual compared to other schools. It is proficiency based in the five language skills: reading, writing, listening, speaking and culture. The thing that makes us very unusual is we have an immersion program. Once you cross the threshold, everything happens in the target language. We have about 630 girls in grades nine to 12 and about 400 in Spanish. [The school also teaches French and Latin.]

### **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.

### **[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."