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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 07 MAY 2011**

#### **Md.-Based Intelligence Agencies Helped Track Bin Laden**

*(Baltimore Sun)*...Scott Calvert

One day last year, a trusted courier for Osama bin Laden answered a phone call that might have been wholly unremarkable except for one thing — the National Security Agency was apparently listening in. That intercepted call helped American intelligence officials track the courier all the way to the walled compound in Pakistan where bin Laden was hiding. The discovery eventually led to last week's midnight assault by Navy SEALs who killed the al-Qaida leader, ending a pursuit that began in the mid-1990s.

#### **The Military's quest for a universal translator**

*(Public Radio International)*...Alex Gallafent

The US military has been producing specialist interpreters for decades -- people who spend years learning Arabic, Chinese and other challenging languages. They're the kind of people Rye Barcott depended on. He's a former Marine captain who served in Iraq. For Barcott, there's no substitute for having a flesh-and-blood interpreter by your side when you're gathering intelligence, specifically, a trusted linguist who can translate all aspects of a conversation -- the verbal and the non-verbal. But as Barcott points out, few units, especially in the infantry, have access to human interpreters. Machine translation could help, with basic information at least.

#### **India turns to sports, economics and culture to try to stop renewal of Kashmir protests**

*(The Associated Press)*...Ajjaz Hussain

After facing three summers of violent separatist protests in Kashmir, the Indian government is trying to prevent another outburst of rage with a new approach: charm. It's starting cricket and soccer clubs, holding out the hope of new jobs, and teaching troops to speak the local language as it changes tactics in this Muslim-majority region where residents have long demanded either independence or a merger with neighbouring Pakistan.

#### **Poor language skills 'leave Britons out of EU jobs'**

*(BBC)*...Gillian Hargreaves

Only 5% of the jobs in the European Parliament and Commission are taken by British workers - although the UK contains 12% of the EU's population. The government is aiming to reverse a decline in language study in schools.

#### **Spain's job seekers flock back to class**

*(Daily Nation)*

Spain's economic downturn is sending jobless workers flocking back to school to learn other languages — mainly English — to boost their appeal to employers, providing a boon for language academies. Nearly one in two Spaniards, or 46.6 per cent, cannot speak a foreign language, the fourth highest level in the European Union after Romania, Hungary and Portugal, according to European Union statistics agency Eurostat.

#### **Translating and interpreting is a growing, but uneven, industry**

*(Philly Inquirer)*

Dale Eggett, who will finish a master's degree in less than three weeks, will go to work the week after, having had no problem landing a job. "I did have multiple, multiple job offers," said Eggett, whose Spanish and computer skills put him in the forefront of a burgeoning field. The global marketplace for interpreting, translating, and other language services was estimated at \$26.3 billion in 2010 and is projected to reach \$38.1 billion by 2013.

## PREVIOUS NEWS

### 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.

### 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, Pashto 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.