
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 08 JUNE 2011

DOD Civilians Assist Afghan Defense Agencies

(American Forces Press Service)...Cheryl Pellerin

Four elements of the advisor program make it unique in the Defense Department, Uribe said. One of these is training. A seven-week course includes five weeks in Washington for professional advisor training, cultural awareness, country familiarization, language instruction and senior-level consultations and briefings, and two weeks at Camp Atterbury in Indiana for an evaluated exercise.

Study Finds Sudden Insights Key to Learning Words

(Education Week)...Sarah D. Sparks

The [study's findings](#) suggest that children—and, in fact, all new language learners—can build up concrete vocabulary from interacting with a complex learning environment, not just repeated exposure to words in isolation. In a study published in the May issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, researchers at the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard University conducted a series of four experiments on how adults and preschool children learn the meaning of unfamiliar words. The researchers focused on so-called “seed words,” basic nouns that form the foundation for text comprehension.

Learning to Be French in Brooklyn

(The Wall Street Journal)...Kavita Mokha

French dual-language programs, which didn't exist in New York City public schools five years ago, are booming across the city, spurred by lobbying efforts from the French community. By September 2011, six elementary schools, one middle school and one charter school will have French programs. In Brooklyn, Public School 133 in Park Slope and P.S. 110 in Greenpoint are expected to unveil programs starting this fall.

DoDLive Bloggers Roundtable: AFPAK Hands

(DoD Live)

We have scheduled a DoDLive Bloggers Roundtable with Navy [Lt. Cmdr. Joshua Frey](#) and Air Force [1st Lt. Eve McCloud](#) for Wednesday, June 8, at 10 a.m. EDT. They will discuss the Afghanistan Pakistan Hands program, which 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.

5 Reasons to Love Dual Language Immersion Programs

(Take Part)...Melanie Smollin

Over the past 15 years, traditional bilingual education programs have fallen out of favor in the United States. [Criticized](#) for isolating English-language learners (ELLs) in remedial classrooms with watered down instruction, states like California, Arizona and Massachusetts scrapped bilingual programs in favor of English language immersion. But bilingual education is receiving a makeover. With a new name, fresh face and totally different attitude, increasing numbers of American families are embracing dual language immersion.

After 90 Years, a Dictionary of an Ancient World

(The New York Times)...John Noble Wilford

Ninety years in the making, the 21-volume dictionary of the language of ancient Mesopotamia and its Babylonian and Assyrian dialects, unspoken for 2,000 years but preserved on clay tablets and in stone

inscriptions deciphered over the last two centuries, has finally been completed by scholars at the [University of Chicago](#).

Parents hope Jefferson Parish School Board saves foreign language immersion program

(The Times-Picayune)...Barri Bronston

As a graduate of Metairie Park Country Day School, Amy Berins Shapiro never imagined she would send her own children to public school. But something about the **foreign language immersion program** at J.C. Ellis Elementary School in **Metairie** made her rethink her stance. She enrolled her daughter, Lily, in the Spanish immersion kindergarten program, and after three weeks she knew she had made the right decision. Now her two other children, Zach and Emma, are in the program as well. "I was a believer the day she came home speaking Spanish," Shapiro said. "I had tears in my eyes. I thought, 'This is working.'"

Foreign language requirement could be scrapped

(The Irish Times)

In a surprise move the Minister for Education Ruairi Quinn has hinted that the foreign language requirement for students entering third level could be scrapped. He said the foreign language requirement "may need reconsideration in the light of the economic imperative to encourage more students to study the physical sciences in senior cycle"

PREVIOUS NEWS

Military's first Hindu chaplain brings a diverse background

(Stars and Stripes)...Chris Carroll

Dharm, 40, has been named the first Hindu chaplain to serve the Department of Defense. Hinduism, with nearly a billion adherents worldwide — but fewer than 1,000 active servicemembers, according to Pentagon statistics — was the largest of the world faiths not represented by a chaplain.

Afghan Language Aptitude Battery (ALAB)

(CASL)

This project is to develop a language aptitude test that helps NATO Training Mission personnel in Afghanistan select those students who are most likely to succeed at learning English. ALAB is designed to measure the potential language learning ability and academic ability of students in Afghanistan. We are working with a research team composed of scientists from CASL, Princeton University, Rice University, Michigan State University, and Mount Holyoke College on a final version of ALAB that will include an optimal set of measures of language learning ability, intelligence, and general cognitive ability.

Next Step for Attleboro College Grad is the U.S. Army

(AttleboroPatch)...Patricia Resende

The recent college grad joined URI's Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) when she was a sophomore. The program enabled her to get the training she needed to excel as a soldier. The Attleboro native and resident earned her Jump Wings at Airborne School in Fort Benning, GA, and in 2009 completed the Army's Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency (CULP) internship at the Panamanian Embassy, and a Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) internship with the 112th Signal Battalion at Fort Bragg, NC, in 2010.

Bilingual, bi-literate and bi-cultural

(California Catholic Daily)

Two Catholic elementary schools closed after decades in operation because of falling enrollment will be re-opened this fall by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles as "Dual Language Immersion" schools. "All Souls School is getting ready to reopen its doors in the Fall 2011 as a Dual Language Immersion school," says the school's website. "Students, starting in kindergarten, will begin to become bilingual, bi-literate and bi-

cultural in either English and Spanish or English and Mandarin.”

A Smarter Response to Eliminating Foreign Language Programs

(Huffington Post)...Ron Fairchild

Last week *Education Week* ran a story about [huge cuts to foreign language](#) programs across the country. When I was in California recently, I learned about a creative solution to this problem involving two parents, Dave and Ruth Finsthwait, who created an inexpensive Spanish language immersion program for schools, called [Sombrero Time](#). The beauty of their curriculum is that anyone who is a native Spanish speaker can use it with elementary school students and teach them Spanish. Their motto is "Learn Spanish in Spanish." For the past four years, Sombrero time has been testing and refining the curriculum and delivery methodology ensuring that WHAT and HOW students learn is effective and relevant to their education and future life experience.

Kindergarteners to learn Chinese in math, science lessons

(Cumberland Times-News)...Kristin Harty Barkley

Starting in the fall of 2012, a select group of 5-year-olds from across the county will start learning about the Chinese language and culture through a “partial immersion” program. That means half their classes will be taught in Chinese. “The Chinese language will not be taught as a subject as it traditionally is in our schools,” said West Side’s Principal Molly Stewart. “The students will follow the kindergarten curriculum, but language arts and social studies will be taught in English. Math, science and health will be taught in Chinese. ... They’re really going to be immersed in the Chinese culture.”

Letters to the Editor: International-Education Programs Should Be Continued

(The Chronicle of Higher Education)

Mr. Montgomery writes that three Title VI programs (National Resource Centers, Language Resource Centers, and Centers for International Business Education) "provide excellent resources for advanced research" and suggests that the resources developed over the years now suffice—not acknowledging that all (including the grants to the University of Denver, where he once worked) are primarily training programs that annually impact thousands of undergraduate and graduate students, as well as in-service teachers. He does not even mention the competitive Title VI fellowship program for students who combine study of less commonly taught languages with training in a wide variety of disciplines and professions, or that a significant number of the fellowship program’s awardees eventually enter government service.

N.J. congressmen introduce legislation to use \$50M in federal funds for foreign-language education

(The Star-Ledger)...Julia Terruso

When Rep. Rush Holt heard about FBI storerooms stacked with untranslated documents and U.S. businesses losing contracts for want of bilingual negotiating power, it became clear to him the country had a language problem. The solution, decided Holt (D-12th Dist.) and others who advocate more extensive foreign-language instruction, lies in bolstering the nation’s budget-strapped K-12 programs. As a start, Holt and Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) have introduced legislation in both the House and Senate to provide \$50 million in federal funds for public school students to learn foreign languages, starting in kindergarten.

Radio Battalion Helps ANGLICO Intercept Insurgents

(dvids)...Lance Cpl. Bryan Nygaard

Marines see a man walking, he does not see them. He hunches down and starts to dig. The Marines believe he is planting an improvised explosive device, but they do not know for sure. There is nothing that identifies him as the enemy. “When Radio Battalion got out here, they opened our eyes as to where the Taliban were hiding. They’re the Marine Corps’ greatest asset out here right now. Those guys are money.” Where Radio Bn. makes its money is in giving coalition units indication and warning of insurgent activity. The battalion consists of linguists and signal analysts who identify enemy communication and help units identify potential areas of enemy activity.

Language as a social construct

(ynet.com)

Dr. Daniel Dor, a linguist, explores facets of most amazing invention humans have created collectively. 'By definition, language is something that is bigger than the individual person. The essence of language is in society - not the brain itself'. Dor is a linguist whose research and theory uncover the social constructs of language. In this, Dor challenges Noam Chomsky's theory of language - the leading linguistic theory of the second part of the 20th century – that explores language as a cognitive capacity.

Misadventures with translator apps

(The Washington Post)...Jason Wilson

Embarrassed at how my Spanish had deteriorated over the years, I recently decided to download a few translator apps for [iPad](#) and [iPod Touch](#) before a trip to Spain. I browsed around the App Store, downloading English-Spanish editions of [Google Translate](#), [SpeechTrans](#) and [Jibbigo](#), three of the most popular apps.