

---

---

## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

---

---

### **CURRENT NEWS 09 JUNE 2011**

#### **Civilian feds helping Afghan Defense**

*(FederalNewsRadio.com)*

It isn't just troops on the ground in Afghanistan. Civilians who work for Defense are also there, working alongside their Afghan counterparts to build effective defense institutions. [Defense.gov](http://Defense.gov) reports that 32 advisors are in Afghanistan with the Ministry of Defense Advisors Program. Twenty seven more are being trained. The goal is to have 100 senior defense advisors in Afghanistan.

#### **Foreign language enrollment up, but still 'unsatisfactory'**

*(NYSSBA)...Paul Heiser*

The number of American public K-12 students enrolled in foreign language courses increased by more than 3 percent from 2004-05 to 2007-08, yet only 18.5 percent of all students were enrolled in a foreign language class, according to the latest survey by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

#### **Reservists complete combat aviation advisor training**

*(Media Newswire)*

Training with their active-duty counterparts, five 919th Special Operations Wing reservists completed the baseline certification course May 27 that will lead to their recognition as combat aviation advisors. The four phases of the CAA training begin with 12 weeks of introductory education and practical training culminating in the four-day exercise known as Raven Claw. This is followed by several months each of foreign language and flight training in various rotary or fixed-wing aircraft that are typical of partner nation air forces.

#### **Whiz Kid: Groves Junior to Study Arabic in Jordan This Summer**

*(BirminghamPatch)...Laura Houser*

This ambitious teen received a Security Language Initiative for Youth Scholarship from the U.S. State Department for immersion training in languages not typically taught in high school. Blue will study Arabic in Amman, Jordan, before returning to Groves for her senior year as a forensic team co-captain. The elite scholarship lets 650 teens study one of seven languages "through formal and informal education and daily interaction with host country families and communities." Trip preparations include studying the Arabic alphabet, counting and basic phrases, Blume says.

#### **The foreign language dilemma: Sí or oui?**

*(Washington Post)...Lurdes Abruscato*

Our household is locked in battle over a seemingly mindless decision: Should our middle schooler take Spanish or French next year when the foreign-language program kicks in for his grade level? At first glance, it should be easy enough to decide – only two choices, really (actually three if you add “don't take a language” to the options), but not so fast, amigos.

#### **Beijing commuters train brains in jams**

*(China Daily/Asia News Network)...Cao Yin*

More Beijing commuters are spending time stuck in traffic jams to polish their language skills, with sales of smart phone applications seeing a sharp rise this year. "Dictionaries and language study programs, such as for English, French and Japanese, account for most of the mobile software downloaded by our users," said Zhang Keping at Shoujile Yuan, a website that sells apps for cell phones.

### **[Amharic heritage language class to teach reading, writing, culture to Ethiopian high school students in Los Angeles](#)**

*(Daily Bruin)*...Stephen Stewart

Rahel Woldegaber understands how difficult it can be to teach children another language. Born and raised in Ethiopia, Woldegaber is a native speaker of Amharic, the official language of Ethiopia. After moving to Los Angeles several years ago, Woldegaber faces the challenge of raising her own children to speak Amharic. Along with teaching her children Amharic, Woldegaber will also be leading a summer Amharic heritage class through the UCLA Center for World Languages.

### **[PREVIOUS NEWS](#)**

#### **[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"

### **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 112<sup>th</sup> 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.”