
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 13 JUNE 2011

Remarks by Secretary Gates During Troop Visit at Forward Operating Base Sharana, Paktika Province, Afghanistan

(Defense.gov)

Q: (Inaudible.) As you know, the 101st is the first -- (inaudible) -- female engagement team. You know, we've been very successful out on the battlefield. My question to you, sir, is what is the female engagement team hold -- (inaudible) -- as far as training and funding for further training for female engagement teams?

SEC. GATES: Well, I think that -- actually, I heard a complaint about this from one of the female soldiers a couple of years ago that they were going out with regular foot patrols to engage with Afghan women and so on. But because women weren't allowed in combat, they weren't getting combat training even though they were as much in the fight on those engagement teams as they can be. So I think -- I can't say we've made a lot of progress in that respect, but I think your question reminds me to push the issue when I get back because it doesn't seem right -- I mean, we have a difference between the doctrine and the reality. And the reality is we've got a lot of women going out with our foot patrols, and they need to have the proper training when they're going to do that.

Bilingualism boosts economy and health

(nj.com)

Travel abroad and you're likely to meet college students in places such as Spain who speak English and French, for example. Despite lip service about the "global economy," few public officials here have committed educational resources on a scale to prepare students to take their place in the new economic order. That's why it's good to hear Rep. Rush Holt (D-12th Dist.) and Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) propose legislation that gives \$50 million to support foreign language education across the country — from kindergarten through high school. Thomas Seay, a Holt staffer, said this is the third time the bill has been introduced, but the first time with a Senate version, which "makes it more credible." It's still a long shot, given the economy's continuing doldrums.

Women Soldiers to deploy as Afghanistan 'female engagement team'

(Army.mil)...New York National Guard

As part of their pre-deployment training, members of 2nd Bn., 108th Reg., went to Fort Drum to take a cultural crash course on matters such as common Dari phrases and how to properly eat with one's hands. "They're trying to prepare us for the culture over in Afghanistan and our expectations for what to expect," said Spc. Mary Bobb. "I'm hoping that we're going to interact with the Afghan females, because they don't have voices over there. We're hoping we can be a voice for them and express how they feel and what they want and what they're not getting. And then we can pass that up to their chain of command."

Matter of interpretation: Danbury court interpreters face daily challenges

(NewsTimes.com)...Libor Jany

Whenever the prosecutor called the name of a non-English speaking defendant, Lombardi strode over to the defense table. For the rest of the hearing, the former high school Spanish teacher hovered next to a defendant, translating legal abstractions in Spanish, his voice mingling with those of the judge and prosecutor, as he delivered a running play-by-play of what was being said. Lombardi is one of only three full-time interpreters -- two Spanish and one Portuguese -- and one part-time Spanish interpreter for the Danbury Judicial District.

Their View: NMSU president helps build educational partnerships in China

(Silver City Sun-News)...Barbara Couture

One of our greatest economic challenges and opportunities! And NMSU is right there, ready to help with both. I recently returned from a great trip to confirm ongoing partnerships with Chinese universities and establish new ones for NMSU. We traveled to China with NMSU's Vimal Chaitanya (vice president for Research), Ken Hammond (director, Confucius Institute) and education faculty members Dana Christman and Jeanette Haynes Writer. In addition to meeting with leaders of Chinese universities, I also met Madame Xu Lin, director-general of Hanban, the Chinese national language and culture institute that funds our Confucius Institute. Did you know that our institute provides Chinese language instruction for 3,000 students in New Mexico's public schools?

Does Bilingualism Help Children Learn to Read?

(Early Advantage)

Dr. Ellen Bialystok, one of the world's foremost experts on bilingualism among children, led a group of researchers from York University in analyzing the effects of bilingualism on a group of over 100 children learning to read. Summarizing the results, Dr. Bialystok commented, "Our research has shown that reading progress amongst all bilingual children is improved" over monolingual children. In a separate statement, she said, "I think there's a lot of worry out there about other languages conflicting with a child's ability to learn to read in English, but that's absolutely not the case. Parents should not hesitate to share their native tongue with their children—it's a gift."

Japan's NHK studies sign language technology

(Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union)

Researchers at Japan's public broadcaster, NHK, are studying how to transform Japanese into computer-animated Japanese Sign Language (JSL) automatically. The NHK Science & Technology Research Laboratories have developed a Japanese-JSL dictionary containing about 4,900 signs stored as digital 3D motion capture data.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Virginia Public Schools Approve 13 Virtual Programs

(NBC Washington) ... Sara Beladi

Virginia high school students who are looking to get a head start on, say, business law or a swoon-worthy foreign language now has the opportunity. Virginia education officials have approved 13 virtual-school programs that can provide online instruction to public school students, starting this September. The state [Department of Education](#) announced Monday that school divisions will be able to contract with the approved providers to expand course offerings through virtual-school programs, such as [Apex Learning](#), [BYU Independent Study](#) and [Chesterfield County Public Schools](#). Gov. Bob McDonnell advocated the expansion of virtual schools in his education agenda.

Azerbaijan's public servants lack national language skills, says commission

(Hurriyet Daily News)

Most of those seeking to become public servants in Azerbaijan have a poor knowledge of the Azerbaijani language, the country's Public Service Commission chairman said in an interview Thursday. Speaking to Trend News Agency, Bahram Khalilov said interviews with public servant candidates had left him dissatisfied with applicants' knowledge of the national language. "A civil servant must know the Azerbaijani language perfectly," he told Trend. "Taking into account that the paperwork in state bodies is in the Azerbaijani language, one of the important conditions is civil servants' knowledge of the Azerbaijani language."

US students to study Azerbaijani in Baku

(News.Az)

A group of 11 American scholars arrived in Baku on June 10 to study Azerbaijani under US Department of State's Critical Language Scholarship program. This year's Critical Language Scholars include beginner, intermediate, and advanced Azerbaijani-speakers. The program will be hosted by the

Azerbaijan University of Languages and provides group-based intensive language instruction for a minimum of 20 hours per week and structured cultural enrichment experiences.

Ga Dangmes in Diaspora lament over dying Ga language

(GhanaWeb)

Dr. Dodoo noted that the Queen's language was the official language of the country and should be regarded as such, adding that 'if any language at all will be used for communication, it should be the language of the indigenes, and not any foreign language.' He appealed to the government, through the Ministry of Education, to ensure that the teaching of the Ga language in public and private schools is adhered to and respected, in line with the country's Constitution. Dwelling on the increase in the population of Accra, Dr. Dodoo said Ga youth graduates were at risk in acquisition of profitable jobs, as they have to compete with other students.

Presidio community remembers fallen comrades

(Army.mil)...Steven L. Shepard

Service members fire a salute during the Memorial Day ceremony here May 26. During the event, students, staff and guests of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center observed military personnel who have lost their lives and paid the ultimate sacrifice. A special tribute was given to Sgt. Andrew J. Creighton of Laurel, Del., who died July 4, 2010, while conducting operations in the Oruzgan Province of Afghanistan. Creighton was a graduate of the Korean Basic Course at DLIFLC and a veteran of both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom-Philippines.

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](#) 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.