
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 14 JUNE 2011

NPS Faculty Deploy, Bring Cultural Education to the Deckplates

(Navy.mil)...Amanda D. Stein

The training was given by embarked members of a Regional Security Education Program (RSEP) team from the Naval Postgraduate School (NSP). RSEP brings the experts directly to the fleet, working with the Center for Language, Regional Expertise and Culture (CLREC) to offer briefings on the regions to which strike groups will be deploying. The objective is not to provide tactical information or intelligence, but to give military personnel an understanding of the operational relevance of their mission within an historical and strategic construct.

Neuroscientist says bilingual kids have healthier brains

(Daily News & Analysis)

A Canadian neuroscientist has said that people who speak two languages have much healthier brains. Ellen Bialystok, a distinguished research professor of psychology at York University in Toronto, Canada, said speaking two or more languages on a regular basis from a young age could have a positive effect on the brain.

Civilian feds help Afghanistan help itself

(FederalNewsRadio)

An interview with Kelly Uribe, Senior Policy Lead and Program Manager for the Ministry of Defense Advisors Program; Rick Pollitt, Senior Civilian Advisor in Kabul for DoD and a senior civilian advisor to the Afghan Ministry of Interior Chief of Logistics. (Can listen to mp3 as well as text).

Dist. 181 considers teaching foreign language in elementary schools

(Tribe Local)...Bridget Doyle

In order to better prepare students for high school foreign language classes, Hinsdale Elementary School District 181 is using recently awarded state grant money to form a committee and decide how best to teach languages to its younger students.

Avoiding an Unneeded Flap Over FLAP

(National Review Online)...Jim Geregthy

On May 25, the House Education and the Workforce Committee passed its first major package of reforms under new chairman John Kline (R., Minn.), eliminating more than 40 inefficient, duplicative federal education programs. "There are more than 80 programs under current elementary and secondary education law, and that's just too complicated and too great a burden for our schools and local districts," Kline [declared](#) when the bill passed out of committee. "It's time to weed out the programs that aren't working and focus on initiatives that lead to real success in the nation's classrooms."

PREVIOUS NEWS

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.

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.