
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 15 JUNE 2011

Air Force lieutenant looks before he LEAPs

(AF.mil)...1st Lt. Scott Ghiringhelli

After completing his reserve officers' training and earning a Bachelor and Master of Science in aerospace engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1st Lt. Ryan Castonia could well have gone on to a great career as an engineer in the Air Force. That would have been a success story by anyone's standards, but he was not content to stop there. Beyond the natural career path as an engineer, he was slotted to be a pilot, and finally settled on a combat rescue officer, or CRO, position. He also managed to find his way to the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center as part of the Air Force's new Language Enabled Airman Program, or LEAP, despite having no prior language proficiency. He is among the first five Air Force lieutenants to come to DLIFLC and participate in LEAP. Lieutenant Castonia will graduate from the DLIFLC's Arabic-language program in July.

Cadets, midshipmen visit Horn of Africa, enhance understanding of regional affairs

(Army.mil)...Spc. 2nd Class Timothy Wilson

Six Army cadets from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., and six midshipmen from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., arrived at the Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa, May 26, 2011, to better understand the role of U.S. forces in the area. "The idea is to understand the local population," said French Colonel Frederick Gauthier, commanding officer of the Marine 5th Legion. The visit highlighted interaction between partner nations working together in a foreign environment. Speaking to the students, Gauthier said that interacting with his counterparts and experiencing the local cultural is invaluable.

Rising literacy in Afghanistan ensures transition

(Army.mil)...Rob McIlvaine

"Nine out of 10 were illiterate," said Lt. Gen. William B. Caldwell IV, commander of Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan and the NATO Training Mission. "Without literacy, we could not succeed." The Afghan National Army's 209th Corps and the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division's Female Engagement Team donated about \$3,000 worth of school supplies to the girls' school. Kirby is the team coordinator assigned to the 10th Mountain Division on Camp Mike Spann in northern Afghanistan.

Creative Learning Academy teachers bringing language to life

(pnj.com)...Erin Kourkounis

Paulette Drasutis and Maureen Leccese have taught Spanish for more than six decades combined. And, this year, the experience and dedication of the Creative Learning Academy teachers paid off. The pair are credited with the school's success in this year's National Spanish Examinations, which are administered online to seventh- and eighth-graders. "They just make the language come alive," Thompson said. "Ms. Drasutis has very high expectations as far as reading, writing and spelling. Ms. Leccese speaks Spanish in her classroom almost exclusively. The kids have beautiful accents."

State Puts the Burden of Foreign Language Exams on the District

(Patch.com)...Rick Karas

It's means bad in any language, and that's the reaction from Half Hollow Hills school officials upon learning the state will no longer fund or create foreign language proficiency exams at both the middle school and high school Regents level. The move, which will save the state \$700,000, was not unexpected, as the [eighth grade exams were already cut](#), and starting next year, the 10th grade Regents

will fall on the burden of the individual districts as well. It's a message local administrators did not want to hear from the state.

PREVIOUS NEWS

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."

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."