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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 16 JUNE 2011**

#### **Akaka Questions Panetta About Foreign Language Capabilities of the Defense Department**

*(YouTube)*

Senator Akaka poses a question to Leon Panetta about his plans to increase the Defense Department's foreign language speaking abilities. The exchange took place during Panetta's confirmation hearing to succeed Robert Gates as the U.S. Secretary of Defense. Akaka is a senior member of the Armed Services Committee.

#### **Aimless in High School, War Veteran Finds a New Mission**

*(Laguna Beach Independent)*...Jennifer Erickson

While deployed to Iraq, Staight was struck by the confusion that reigned in determining who and where the enemy was, with the conflicting reports about whether various groups were friends or foes at any given moment. And he immediately saw how communications could be improved if soldiers knew the local language and culture. Staight devised another difficult task, to begin teaching himself Arabic, learning useful phrases. On his second tour in 2005 to patrol and guard the government center in Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province, he became the platoon linguist, though his Arabic skills were still rudimentary. He saw the benefit of directly communicating with Iraqis to help improve their lives.

#### **Turning The iPad Into A Weapon**

*(Strategy Page)*

For use in the combat zone, troops usually put one of the many protective covers on their smart phone, Touch, or iPad and, so far, these devices have held up well under battlefield conditions. Meanwhile, some of the software written for earlier iPods, is now available for the Touch and iPhone. This includes the VCommunicator Mobile software and libraries. This system translates English phrases into many foreign languages. Each language takes up four gigabytes per language, so they easily fit on the Touch. The software displays graphics, showing either the phrase in Arabic, or a video of a soldier making the appropriate hand gesture (there are a lot of those in Arabic), and this looks great on the Touch. There are collections of phrases for specific situations, like checkpoint, raid or patrol.

#### **School districts are scrambling to pare budgets in response to the proposed billion-dollar cut in state funding**

*(Pittsburgh Post-Gazette)*...Mary Niederberger

There will be larger class sizes and fewer middle and elementary school foreign language classes, high school business and consumer science courses and elementary music programs throughout the region if the preliminary budgets approved by school boards in the wake of proposed state budget cuts become final.

#### **Dual-language schools lure students, parents back to LA Unified**

*(Southern California Public Radio)*...Adolfo Guzman-Lopez

For years, middle- and upper-middle-class parents in parts of Los Angeles Unified have sent their children to private schools, charter schools and schools outside the district. However, a nascent dual-language program is attracting some of them back to neighborhood schools. District administrators voted Tuesday to protect hundreds of dual-language teachers from being let go in the hope that the trickle of returning parents will develop into a stream.

#### **Breaking down the language barrier**

*(Mooreville Tribune)*...Megan Sprague

Angela Sendler is living out her dream of teaching by sharing what she knows best -- her native tongue. Originally from Peru, Sendler has lived in Mooresville for eight years, working much of that time as a real estate agent. That's how she first discovered a need in the Lake Norman area for more bilingual residents. "I was able to be in the middle, translating for both parties and help them to reach a deal. Because of that experience, I wanted to offer a unique opportunity to Lake Norman and give Spanish instruction to kids, adults and businesses." Sendler left the real estate world to start Learn Spanish NC, a language tutoring business that offers private and group classes to all ages. She is certified with the American Tutoring Association and says she is excited to "share her passion" with local residents.

## **PREVIOUS NEWS**

### **Air Force lieutenant looks before he LEAPs**

*(AF.mil)*...1<sup>st</sup> 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. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 is 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.

### **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.