
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 27 JUNE 2011

US Army Corps of Engineers: Bridging the language gap to create a better Afghanistan

(dvids)...LaDonna Davis

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Joel VanEssen studied architecture in college with hopes of using his skills in the engineering field. But, in an unexpected twist of events, his aspirations took a sharp right turn in a field he had never even imagined. "As someone who went to school to study fields in math and science, learning a foreign language was something I never expected I'd do," VanEssen said. VanEssen became one of the first graduating classes of the AfPak Hands or Afghanistan Pakistan Hands program. The goal of the program is to teach service members and civilians the local languages of Pakistan and Afghanistan so that they can communicate with locals and help build U.S. relationships with foreign countries.

Translating Success

(Inside Higher Ed)...David Moltz

Many foreign language departments at four-year institutions have been [threatened](#) or [eliminated](#) in the past few years as administrators look to trim academic budgets. And language offerings are limited at many community colleges, which may offer Spanish and not much else. During these trying times, however, foreign language offerings have multiplied at Bergen Community College, a two-year institution in New Jersey that does not even require its students take a foreign language to earn an associate degree. What's Bergen's secret? Professors say it's listening to student interest and speaking to them with one voice about the skills they will need in an increasingly global society.

A Pre-College Summer To-Do List

(New York Times)...Lynn F. Jacobs & Jeremy S. Hyman

Brush up on a foreign language. At many colleges, the biggest single requirement is two years of a foreign language. Many freshmen have had a smattering (or more) of some foreign language in high school, whether it be Spanish or French, or for the more enterprising, and global-minded, Mandarin or Arabic. Whatever the case, the summer before college is an excellent time to get ahead on your language skills. If travel abroad is in your plans, pick a country that speaks the language you're working on; if Spanish is your intended tongue, volunteer work in most communities can put you in a situation where Spanish is routinely spoken.

Demand for Early Childhood Language Courses Reaches Epic Proportions

(Patch.com)...McCarton Ackerman

Brooklyn has long offered foreign language courses for parents interested in having their school-age children learn a second language. But the demand has recently shifted to an even younger set of learners. With parents ready to do just about anything to give their kids a leg up in school, many families are now raising their kids, who have often just spoken their first words, to be bilingual. From native French speakers looking to instill their home language in their children at an early age, to parents dropping off kids at Mandarin and Hebrew classes without speaking a word of it themselves, the demand for language programs in the neighborhood which cater to young children has reached a swelling point.

First Lady's Visit Lifts the Spirits of Peace Corps Volunteers in Botswana

(Huffington Post)...Ross Szabo

Meeting new people is part of the fun of being a Peace Corps Volunteer in Botswana. When I first arrived I lived in a village for 2 months to start learning the language and culture; I stayed with a host family and met someone new almost every day. Then I moved to the village I have lived in for the past year, and part of the integration process was to meet as many people as I could. I kind of got used to the normal conversations and daily routines. I can honestly say I never thought one of the people I would meet here

would be the First Lady of the United States, but that changed on Saturday when Mrs. Obama took the time to thank US Mission staff and Peace Corps Volunteers in Gaborone.

Advisors Aid Afghan Administration

(DoD Live)...Erik J. Leklem

Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) are preparing to assume leadership for security in seven areas of Afghanistan this summer. In many respects, the professionalism of the Afghan military and civilian leaders of the Ministries of Defense (MoD) and Interior (MoI) are critical to the success of this process.

Females bond over English class

(dvids)...Spc. Hillary Rustine

The room was filled with nervous giggles as looks darted from the students to the teachers as a female engagement team from Task Force Bronco tutored girls ranging in age from 12- to 20-years-old are being tutored in English. The U.S. Army female volunteers of 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division visited Zangui Village, June 22. After meeting with the local malik, Fahrman Shah, the Afghan girls and female soldiers sat together for English tutoring.

China's State News Agency Eyes Denver For English-Language Hub

(NASDAQ)

China's state-run news agency is considering Denver for a production facility and studio employing as many as 300 as it builds an international English-language news channel to eventually challenge CNN. A delegation of six Chinese officials representing the [CNC](#) World channel visited Colorado on Sunday and Monday, meeting separately with Gov. John Hickenlooper and Denver Mayor-elect Michael Hancock.

Opinion: Rethinking Civilian Assistance in Afghanistan

(New York Times)...Desaix Myers

Develop "expeditionary" civilians willing to be deployed to danger zones critical to national security for years not months. The military has an "AfPak Hands" program to develop a cadre of 750 officers with knowledge and expertise to work on the region's problems for five to seven years. Civilian agencies could do something similar, creating a team based in Washington, traveling frequently to the field, living in-country for up to 24 months, working the problem for four to five years, and developing the area and language expertise needed to do the job.

PREVIOUS NEWS

STUDENTS TRADE SUMMER WITH NATIONAL SECURITY LANGUAGE FOR YOUTH (NSLI-Y) SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

(Salt Lake City Tribune)

The budding linguists earned National Security Language Initiative for Youth Scholarships (NSLI-Y), a merit-based award that gives students a chance to learn one of seven, less commonly-taught languages through immersion programs in more than 10 countries. According to the NSLI-Y website, students stay with host families, attend language classes, visit notable sites, and participate in community service projects. The scholarship covers travel expenses, overseas and within the country, as well as living accommodations, meals and tuition. Learn more about NSLI-Y at:

<http://www.nsliforyouth.org/nslicms-1.1/>

AIR FORCE ROTC CADETS EMBRACE FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE INITIATIVES

(U.S. Air Force Website)

Six-hundred fifty ROTC cadets participated in the Language Enabled Airman Program and Project Global Officer, foreign language programs that allow cadets to honing leadership skills through cross-cultural competence, said officials here June 21. Each year the Arnold Air Society hosts a three-day conference for its Air Force ROTC members from across the U.S., and the service's leaders said they encourage involvement with LEAP, a career-long Air Force program meant to identify, develop, utilize and sustain foreign-language proficiency. Learn more about LEAP at: <http://www.culture.af.edu/leap/index.html>

GAO: DEFENSE NEEDS TO IMPROVE MANAGEMENT OF INCENTIVE PAY

(Gov.Exec)

Defense has at its disposal more than 60 special and incentive pay programs, including various enlistment and re-enlistment bonuses. The programs are used to staff hard-to-fill duty assignments, retain personnel with valuable skills and ensure comparability with civilian sector salaries. "Effective management of cash incentives is particularly important, given the current budgetary environment and the secretary of Defense's initiatives to instill a culture of savings and cost accountability across DoD," the report stated. Special pay and bonuses make up less than 1 percent of the department's overall budget.

DMU Editor Note: FLPB is discussed but not analyzed in detail. Download the report at:

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11631.pdf>

NAVY COLLEGE OFFICE FEATURES NEW COMPUTER LAB AND SERVICES

(Navy JaxAir News)

The Navy College Office has a foreign language lab where students can take computer-based exams to demonstrate proficiency in a variety of languages. Two common reasons why Sailors take such exams, according to O'Toole, is for additional pay and an opportunity to participate in special assignments.

However, O'Toole points out that, "Some languages are common throughout the Fleet. A large number of people speak Spanish in the Navy. That would not get you an additional stipend." O'Toole advises Sailors to be aware of what specific languages the Navy is willing to pay for before going this route to further their careers. Additionally, the Navy College Office offers tests in other disciplines for college credit such as history, math, science and business. College entrance exams such as SAT and ACT are offered as well.

PLANT A NEW LANGUAGE IN YOUR MIND

(MIT)

A world memory champion and a neuroscientist have joined forces to create a language-learning website called Memrise, which combines mnemonic tricks with a game to help users learn quickly and efficiently. Its carefully paced learning structure and competitive points system, the app's developers believe, make their site more effective than other language-learning tools. Memrise makes learning a game with virtual gardens that users must tend. As they do, they also earn points and thereby fight their way up a community-wide leaderboard. Mandarin Chinese and English are the only languages that have been rolled out yet, but others including French, Spanish, Italian, German, and Arabic can be used in beta form. Learn more about Memrise at: <http://www.memrise.com/welcome>

CAL STATE SAN BERNARDINO TO OFFER PERSIAN COURSE

(Los Angeles Times)

Cal State San Bernardino has received a \$195,000 federal grant to teach Persian, the national language of Iran, which is also widely spoken in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Turkey and other Central Asian countries that have become critical to U.S. business and security interests. The five-week program begins on June 27 and will provide housing, tuition, meals and field trips for up to 24 students who will have the option of continuing study during the academic year. Participants will also have the opportunity to study abroad in a Persian-speaking country next summer. The grant is part of the Strategic Language Initiative, a federal program based at Cal State Long Beach designed to develop professional language skills in Persian, also known as Farsi, as well as Russian, Korean, Mandarin Chinese, Arabic, Dari and Pashto at several of Cal State's 23 campuses.

CONFERENCE BRINGS SOF AND INDUSTRY TOGETHER

(Shadow Spear Special Operations)

The 2011 Special Operations Forces Industry Conference (SOFIC) and Exposition was held from 17–19 May at the Tampa Convention Center, Tampa, FL. Under the theme "SOF: Setting the Course," USSOCOM Commander, Admiral Eric T. Olson, gave the first Keynote Address. His speech addressed the capability areas of "Understand," "Communicate," "Move," and "Engage," which characterize the context in which SOF currently operates. He stressed that within this context, SOF needs to develop language and cultural experts, better understand what motivates the local people and how they make

their money, know when important events occur during the year, and recognize how climate and terrain impacts the social psyche of the population.

18 ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS TO JOIN POLISH FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN

(Springfield, IL State Journal Register)

Sgt. David Sworobowicz soon will be putting his Polish language skills to good use in Afghanistan. Sworobowicz, a Springfield resident who grew up near Chicago, is one of 18 Illinois National Guard soldiers who are deploying to Afghanistan with a Polish army unit. Their mission is to help the Afghan government provide security and build infrastructure in that country. The Illinois National Guard has had a partnership with Poland since 1993. Since then, the Illinois Army National Guard has participated in more than 30 exercises with Polish land forces. Purple's team represents the 14th rotation of Illinois Guard personnel supporting operations in either Afghanistan or Iraq.

CROSS CULTURAL SOLUTIONS (CCS) EMBARKING ON A SUMMER OF SERVICE

(The Wall Street Journal /MarketWatch)

It's the third day of summer, and Cross-Cultural Solutions (CCS) volunteers from around the world are embarking on another summer of service. This summer, volunteers from more than 20 countries -- including interns, 50-plus participants, families, and ambassadors from Eli Lilly and Company's Connecting Hearts Abroad program -- will contribute to sustainable community initiatives with CCS in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America. The summer season has always been a busy one for CCS. Last summer, over 1500 CCS volunteers served on more than 300 local community initiatives in communities around the world, logging over 117,000 hours of service. During summer 2010, CCS saw 124 teen volunteers, 133 interns, and 50 families that volunteered together. Learn more about CCS at: <http://www.crossculturalsolutions.org>