

---

---

## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

---

---

### **CURRENT NEWS 30 JUNE 2011**

#### **AF Doctor Receives France's Highest Decoration**

*(Military.com)...*G.W. Pomeroy

An Air Force doctor whose medical expertise and French language skills were credited with helping save 14 U.S. Sailors' lives after the terrorist attack on the USS Cole in Yemen in 2000 received France's highest decoration at the French Embassy in Washington June 21. Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Byron L. Hepburn, 59th Medical Wing commander in San Antonio, received the "Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur," or French Legion of Honor, during the ceremony, which was hosted by senior French diplomatic officials and senior French military officials. The Legion of Honor was created in 1802 by Gen. Napoleon Bonaparte to recognize the dedication of both civilian and military personnel in serving France.

#### **American Councils Research Fellowships**

*(American Councils for International Education)*

With funds from the [U.S. Department of State \(Title VIII\)](#), American Councils administers several major grants for independent, overseas policy relevant research in the humanities and social sciences as well as language training. American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS is pleased to announce competition for [Title VIII Research Scholar Program](#), [Title VIII Combined Research and Language Training Program](#), and [Southeast European Language Training Program](#).

#### **Researchers Develop Robotic Language to Aid Communication Among Robots**

*(Azorobotics)...*Andy Choi

Based on the intricate set of rules followed by human languages, the team is trying to create a robot language which is in the form of sentences that combine action words that a robot can follow. Jeffrey Heinz, a linguist at the university, explained that a sentence according to a robot would mean a sequence of actions. Robots are being taught by the researchers to communicate with each other using sentences that club together actions performed by the robot in a specific order.

#### **Ministry to set up language training centres in all districts**

*(DailyMirror)...*Sandun A. Jayasekera

The National Language and Social Integration Ministry will give 25,000 public servants language training in order to bridge language gap in the state service, a senior source of the ministry said. Director General, National Language Training Institute, Prasad Herath said National Language and Social Integration Minister Vasudeva Nanyakkara instructed to expedite and expand the language training programme for public servants covering the entire country. He said the ministry expects to set up language training centres in all districts. Two language centres for English and Tamil have already been set up in Kurunegala.

#### **English teaching program shaky because of teacher shortage**

*(Vietnam.net)*

2011 is the first year in the 2011-2015 period, when Vietnam carries out the 10-year foreign language teaching program to general school students on a large scale, and the program on providing intensive foreign language courses to students at different training levels. However, many educators have raised doubts about the feasibility of the programs and think that this is a hasty decision to begin the program right in 2011, when Vietnam is still seriously lacking foreign language teachers.

## **PREVIOUS NEWS**

### **Commander: Special Operations Forces Under Stress**

*(Yahoo.com)*...Lolita C. Baldor

Vice Adm. William McRaven said demand for the elite forces around the world continues to grow, so there often isn't enough time to train between deployments. And he said the helicopters and other equipment they need are not available to units in the United States who are preparing to deploy. He said the short breaks between deployments limit training in key language skills and the regional and cultural expertise that enable the commandos to work well in other countries. And he noted that most of the helicopters needed for training are either at the warfront or in maintenance, making it difficult for aircrews to hone their skills.

### **Bill Will Improve Native Hawaiian Education, Akaka Said**

*(Hawaii Reporter)*

U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka (D-Hawaii), Chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs, introduced a bill to improve the education of Native people, the Native Culture, Language and Access for Success in Schools (Native CLASS) Act.

### **Federal cuts sting UW's global-language classes**

*(Seattle Times)*...Katherine Long

For years, the University of Washington's Jackson School of International Studies has taught an ever-changing menu of the hottest languages of the developing world — languages such as Arabic and Urdu, Hindi and Chinese. The school is one of the country's largest recipients of federal funding for less commonly taught languages and international study. But federal cutbacks approved in spring will deal a blow this fall to the school's ability to offer the classes and accompanying studies in global culture, economics and history.

### **Foundation Seeks to Compensate for Cuts in Federal International-Study Program**

*(The Chronicle of Higher Education)*

To make up for some of the budget cuts in the federal Fulbright-Hays study-abroad program, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is providing a one-time grant of \$3.16-million to establish new fellowships for overseas doctoral research. The program will be administered by the [Institute of International Education](#) and will support approximately 80 Ph.D. students in the humanities. The goal is to improve knowledge in non-Western languages and international-area studies.

### **National Museum of Language Hosts Annual Dinner**

*(Patch.com)*...Kimberly Davis

A longtime language educator and entrepreneur told a gathering of colleagues that they must promote the study of foreign language to ensure the future of the field. "We as language educators need to work together—not to promote our own language, but foreign language, in general," said Dr. Charles Stansfield, president of Second Language Testing Inc., in Rockville.

### **Researchers share useful lessons learned in evaluating emerging technologies**

*(EurekaAlert)*

Schlenoff and his colleagues used their SCORE approach to evaluate technologies as they progressed under two DARPA programs: ASSIST and TRANSTAC. In ASSIST, DARPA is funding efforts to instrument soldiers with wearable sensors—video cameras, microphones, global positioning devices and more—to continuously record activities while they are on a mission. TRANSTAC is driving the development of two-way speech-translation systems that enable speakers of different languages to communicate with each other in real-world situations, without an interpreter. By providing constructive feedback on system capabilities, the SCORE evaluative framework helps to drive innovation and performance improvements.

### [NYC Arabic school to re-open as high school](#)

*(Wall Street Journal)*

The Khalil Gibran International Academy was met with a firestorm of criticism when it opened as a dual-language middle school in 2007. Its founders said it would teach a diverse student body about Arabic language and culture. But opponents charged it would promote Islamic extremism. The school saw high staff turnover, cycling through four principals since its founding. But its biggest problem ended up being low enrollment, education officials said. Only 111 students study there now and the school never attracted many native speakers of Arabic. The new plan is to phase out the junior high and re-open as a high school in downtown Brooklyn, near the Atlantic Terminal transportation hub, in 2012. The changes involved extensive talks with the school's partner organizations, New Visions for Public Schools and the Arab-American Family Support Center.

### [Lincoln High students enjoy Arabic program](#)

*(DesMoinesRegister.com)*...Janet Klockenga

On Thursday 45 students will finish a three-week total immersion Arabic language and culture program. It was brought to the school through a \$100,000 grant from StarTalk, a program of the National Security Language Initiative formed by President George W. Bush in 2006. Its goal is to expand the teaching of strategically important world languages that are not widely taught in this country, including Arabic, Chinese, Dari, Hindi, Farsi, Portuguese, Russian, Swahili, Turkish and Urdu.

### [Cal State San Bernardino to offer Persian program](#)

*(Los Angeles Times)*...Carla Rivera

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 counties 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.

### [USA's 1st Punjabi charter school to open in California](#)

*(Newstrack India)*

The first Punjabi [charter school](#) of the United States of America will open in West Sacramento (California) in this August, according to reports. Named Sacramento Valley Charter School, its mission includes promoting 'a culture of strong social and family values' and it will provide a 'rigorous' [curriculum](#). Located on the property of Sikh [Temple](#) of Sacramento, it will provide free education from [kindergarten](#) to grade six (ultimately expanding to seventh and eighth grades), [after school](#) enrichment programs, Punjabi language education, school uniform, "more accountability", homework assistance, free vegetarian lunch and refreshments, free transportation, etc., reports suggest.

### [DLIFLC accepting nominations for the Hall of Fame](#)

*(DLIFLC)*

The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center is accepting nominations for the DLIFLC Hall of Fame by August 1, 2011. The purpose of the DLIFLC Hall of Fame is to honor the heroes of the Department of Defense language community who have contributed significantly to language and culture training. **ELIGIBILITY:** Any person who has made a lasting contribution to language training or military linguist operations in the Department of Defense is eligible for nomination to the Hall of Fame. However, to ensure that actions for which persons are nominated are of an enduring nature, and to prevent any appearance of impropriety, all actions must have occurred at least ten years prior to the date on which the nomination is submitted.