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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 08 JULY 2011**

#### **State Pushes World Languages in Schools**

*(Global Atlanta)...*Trevor Williams

Nearly 380,000 students in grades 6-12, about 23 percent of all students enrolled in public schools, were taking world language courses in 2010. The total increased by 39 percent from 272,613 during the previous year, according to Jon Valentine, program specialist for world languages and international education at the Georgia Department of Education. The fact that the passionate 38-year-old's position even exists is a testimony to how forward-looking the state has been on the subject, he said. Though the state requires no foreign-language instruction for high school graduation, students at public universities need two years of credit to get a degree. The fact that colleges consider language proficiency in their admissions decisions has driven interest in high schools, Mr. Valentine said.

#### **Around the world: Honduras helps me see home**

*(Camp Lejeune Globe)...*Amy Binkley Carolina

I recently had the opportunity to bunker down in an orphanage in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, to do missions work and serve the people in the city and the surrounding villages for almost two weeks. Everything was foreign to me – the language, the culture and especially the intensity of the equator sun. Many of my friends in the Marine Corps have told stories of the culture shock they experienced while deployed overseas, but there's nothing like seeing suffering with your own eyes to put things in perspective.

#### **Federal Hill House To Launch Language Learning Curriculum**

*(Providence Business News – press release)*

The Federal Hill House Association (FHHA), which enjoys a four-star rating from BrightStars for its Early Learning and School Age programs—the highest of all community centers in RI—will introduce a new curriculum in September that will explore a revolutionary concept in educating young children—multilingual learning. The first of its kind in Rhode Island, this exclusive trilingual immersion curriculum will teach students English, Spanish, and Chinese (Mandarin), is tailored specifically for young children, and will be combined with enhanced childcare services from FHHA. Training for FHHA employees delivering the new curriculum begins in July.

#### **Sgt. Hendricks returning from overseas deployment**

*(Morris Daily Herald)*

Army Reserve Sgt. 1st Class John D. Hendricks is returning to the U.S. after a deployment to Iraq serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom/New Dawn, or Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations. Hendricks served in support of Operation New Dawn. The sergeant, a cryptologic linguist, is regularly assigned to the 325th Military Intelligence Battalion, at Fort Devens, Mass.

#### **Foreign police help summer tourists in Croatia**

*(Reuters)...*Zoran Radosavljevic

For many tourists, a dreamy summer holiday abroad can turn into a nightmare if they run into problems and don't speak the local language. Using rudimentary language skills and body language to describe the details of a theft, a car accident or worse can be challenging, particularly after a traumatic experience. In order to help overcome the language barrier between local authorities and the tourists who pack Croatia's Adriatic coast every summer, Croatian police have invited dozens of fellow officers from around Europe to take part in their "Safe Tourist Season" project.

### **[Atlanta Startup's App Helps Troops Speak With Afghans](#)**

*(Global Atlanta – press release)...*Trevor Williams

An Atlanta startup celebrated the Fourth of July by releasing an iPhone app that aims to help U.S. soldiers communicate in Afghanistan. TripLingo develops and sells apps that help businesspeople, students and now troops bridge the language gap while traveling, making trips more effective. The apps provide useful phrases for standard situations like eating and transportation, allowing the traveler to use a "slang slider" to select anything from formal, polished statements to "crazy" phrases only locals are likely to know. Each phrase includes audio pronunciation guide, and each version of the app includes a dictionary. The July 4 release is a free app in the Dari language, a Persian tongue spoken by half of Afghanistan's population, according to the CIA World Factbook. Dari is a strategic language for the Department of Defense.

### **[Lango, a Foreign Language Program for Kids, Expands with New School Partnerships](#)**

*(San Francisco Chronicle - press release)*

Schools across the country are adding foreign language classes for kids to their after-school enrichment options, fueled by demand from parents who increasingly understand the benefits of learning a second language at a young age.

## **[PREVIOUS NEWS](#)**

### **[Fresno State Iranian studies receives endowment](#)**

*(The Business Journal)*

The PARSA Community Foundation has contributed \$200,000 toward an endowment at California State University, Fresno as part of a series of grants promoting Iranian studies programs throughout North America. Part of a total of \$2.4 million in grants to various universities in the U.S. and Canada, the Fresno State grant will help establish the "PARSA Community Foundation Visiting Scholar in Persian and Cultural Studies" position. The PARSA grant is also matched dollar-for-dollar by the [Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute](#), and is pooled with a previous \$500,000 Roshan grant for a total \$900,000 endowment.

### **[English can be very confusing language to learn](#)**

*(Leavenworth Times)...*John Reichley

The new class of international military students (IMS) is at the fort and off and running in preparatory classes and getting to know each other. And those from non-English speaking countries are hard at work perfecting their skills in their new language. We sponsored the first student from a country that was part of the former Soviet Union, and he had to spend a year at the Defense Language Institute in San Antonio learning English. By the time he arrived here I thought he spoke it pretty well.

### **[The changing face of America's youth](#)**

*(CNN)...*John D. Sutter

For the first time in national history, the majority of young people in two states -- California and New Mexico -- now identify as Hispanic, according to census data released this year. In eight additional states -- Nevada, Arizona, Texas, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, Maryland and Hawaii -- white children are in the minority compared with peers from other racial and ethnic groups combined, according to data analyzed by William Frey at the Brookings Institution. The number of white children in the United States actually shrank by 4.3 million kids from 2000 to 2010, according to the analysis. A greater percentage of young Hispanics were born in the United States than their older counterparts, which may explain the language gap between younger Hispanics and the previous generation.

### **[English for Advanced Learners: Linguists Examine Obstacles to Native-Like Proficiency in Foreign Language Acquisition](#)**

*(Science Daily)*

"It appears that many of the obstacles that advanced learners find difficult to overcome are related to linguistic variation, to contexts in which fixed grammatical rules are not available, and several alternatives

of expression are possible," explains Professor Marcus Callies of the Department of English and Linguistics at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (JGU). He investigates the specific linguistic phenomena that advanced students of English in particular experience as difficult, and is convinced that the outcome of his research will not only help improve the training of university students who will become teachers of English at German high schools, but also assist early-career researchers to further develop their academic writing skills.

### **Budget Cuts Pose Challenge for Foreign Language Children**

*(Ed Exec)*

Tighter school budgets are making it difficult for schools with high numbers of children with English as a second language, according to a union leader in Bradford. Some schools have lost interpreter services as a result of staff cuts, according to Ian Murch, Bradford branch secretary of the National Union of Teachers.

### **Chinese to Be Taught in All Swedish Schools**

*(China Digital Times)*

"I want to see [Sweden](#) become the first country in [Europe](#) to introduce instruction in Chinese as a foreign language at all primary and secondary schools," said Jan Bjoerklund, who heads the Liberal Party, a junior member of the centre-right ruling coalition. "Not everyone in the business world speaks English. Very highly qualified activities are leaving Europe to move to China. Chinese will be much more important from an economic point of view than French or Spanish," he said.

### **Japanese goalkeeper Eiji Kawashima: 'Athletes should learn foreign language skills'**

*(The Mainichi Daily News)*

Japanese professional goalkeeper Eiji Kawashima has urged Japanese athletes to learn foreign language skills so that they can easily mingle with other players and fully demonstrate their abilities abroad.

"Communication is important for the goalkeeper, who moves other players around and serves as the backbone of the team. You can boost your profile by exchanging words," said Kawashima, a 28-year-old goalkeeper who joined Lierse, a Belgian professional football club, in July 2010. "I want to see athletes learning foreign languages and being able to try their luck with their own abilities abroad," he adds.

### **U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS: BRIDGING THE LANGUAGE GAP TO CREATE A BETTER AFGHANISTAN**

**(DVIDS)**

KABUL, Afghanistan – 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.

### **JAPANESE, KOREAN AND FOUR OTHERS CUT FROM NAVY FOREIGN LANGUAGE PAY LIST**

*(European Stars & Stripes)*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Proficient speakers of Japanese, Korean and four other languages will be receiving hundreds of dollars less in their Navy paychecks, beginning this month. Sailors will also no longer receive Foreign Language Proficiency Pay for knowing Haitian Creole, Vietnamese, Cantonese and Amoy Chinese as of Friday, according to Navy documents. The languages are now considered "enduring" and "prevalent in the force," meaning they are still strategically important, but that the numbers of speakers in the Navy exceeds mission needs. Several European languages, Thai and a few others fall under the same classifications. Only career linguists, Sailors assigned to a job coded for the language and expeditionary forces, will still receive extra pay for prevalent languages, according to a May 13 instruction signed by Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, chief of Navy personnel.

### **STUDENTS SOAK UP CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE**

*(Plainfield Patch)* In a mere 14 classes, students enrolled at Plainfield North High School's Chinese immersion summer school program learned about 300 Mandarin words and phrases. They can greet one another, introduce themselves and members of their families, count or order a meal in Chinatown. But a language isn't complete without learning the culture, meaning and background of those who natively

speak it, said Fred Yungshen Lu, president and director of the Startalk Nurture Program, a sponsor of the course.

**THE DEFENSE FOREIGN LANGUAGE INSTITUTE FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER (DLIFLC)**

(StartLearningLanguagesNow.Com)

The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) is regarded as one of the finest schools for foreign language instruction in the nation. As part of the Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), the Institute provides resident instruction at the Presidio of Monterey in 24 languages and several dialects, five days a week, seven hours per day, with two to three hours of homework each night. Courses last between 26 and 64 weeks, depending on the difficulty of the language.