
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 14 JULY 2011

First Afghan Female Military Pilots Arrive In U.S. For Training

*(Reuters.com)...*Jim Forsyth

...But she and three fellow Afghan women, the first of their gender to qualify as pilots in the Afghan Army, may help change attitudes about women in their conservative Muslim homeland where women's voices often go unheard. Afghanistan's first crop of female military pilots arrived for training this week, where they will first study English at the Defense Language Institute at Lackland. Dozens of male Afghan pilots have gone through similar training in the United States. After six to eight months of language study, they will travel to Fort Rucker in Alabama for helicopter pilot training in the U.S. Army "Thunder Lab" program.

Special Forces teach language and regional studies to higher levels

(DLIFLC)

On a typically hot summer day at Fort Bragg, Special Forces are "braving" the weather in their air-conditioned classrooms with stacks of books on the table – all in Modern Standard Arabic. Though life may seem considerably easier while sitting in a classroom, these Soldiers know that the success of their missions will most likely hinge on their ability to learn - and really understand – the Arabic Iraqi dialect, one of the most difficult languages to learn for English speakers. "We are providing support for intermediate language courses which are designed to bring the students up to an Interagency Language Roundtable level 2," said Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) Assistant Site Director Mike Carter, at the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School's (USAJFKSWCS) Directorate of Regional Studies and Education (DRSE).

Army awards linguistic services contract

(UPI.com)

The U.S. Department of the Army has selected Global Linguist Solutions to compete for language interpretation and translation services. The indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity Defense Language Interpretation Translation Enterprise contract has a total value of \$9.7 billion. GLS and five other companies will compete for task orders under the award. The multiple award is a hybrid contract to provide translation and interpretation services for personnel, equipment, supplies, facilities, transportation, tools, materials, supervision and other items and any other non-personal services necessary to perform language interpretation and translation services for Force Projection Operations mission area only.

Purdue Researcher Creates Technology, Founds Company to Help Students Speak Foreign Languages

(Enhanced Online News)

A Purdue University researcher has developed technology that helps students learn a foreign language through monitored individualized lessons performed outside the classroom. [Atsushi Fukada](#), associate professor of Japanese and linguistics in the [College of Liberal Arts](#), developed Speak Everywhere technology to help students learn to speak a foreign language. He said learning to speak a foreign language in a classroom is more challenging than learning to read or write. "In foreign language education, becoming able to speak fluently is the top priority, but speaking is the only skill that cannot be given as homework easily," he said. "Speaking practice takes place in class, but class time is limited and there are other things teachers must cover. In reality, speaking receives arguably the least amount of time and attention in class."

Families of killed soldiers sue United States defense contractor

*(The Associated Press)...*Richard Lardner

Nasir Ahmad Ahmadi was hired to work as an interpreter alongside American troops in Afghanistan. But soldiers were alarmed by his strange behavior, his inability to do the job and the foul condition of his living quarters. They suspected he used drugs. Just a few months after he arrived at an Army Special Forces base near Kabul, Ahmadi was ordered to pack his bags and leave. Instead of getting ready for the next flight out, Ahmadi grabbed an AK-47 assault rifle from another interpreter's room on the base and started shooting. He killed two unarmed soldiers and wounded a third.

ASTM releases language proficiency testing standards

We are pleased to announce that [ASTM](#) has approved industry standards for assessing language proficiency! [The standards are available from the ASTM web site](#) for a fee. The NLSC organized and chaired the sub-committee that developed these standards because, while we accept volunteers who speak any language, we focus on the less-common ones. Many, maybe most, of these languages do not yet have proficiency tests. Our concern was how to develop reliable tests for these languages when there were no standards for creating them.

Translation and Interpreting Workshops

(USMC)

T/I workshops offer three themes: 1) *Exploring the T/I Professions*: Ideal for individuals interested in exploring career options in translation and interpreting and for translators and interpreters seeking cross-training opportunities to develop new skill sets; 2) *T/I Skill-builders*: Ideal for individuals already working as translators or interpreters who wish to strengthen existing skill sets. Many participants work in language combinations for which there are few formal training opportunities in the United States or are international students and practitioners seeking short-term training opportunities in the United States; 3) *T/I Master Classes*: Ideal for practitioners, students in other advanced T/I degree programs, and those seeking targeted training opportunities with distinguished professionals. Master classes may also consist of offerings for current or future T/I instructors in programs at other institutions.

The Great American Language Gap

*(Oregon Herald.com)...*Tom Malone

When it comes to international relations between our fellow North American countries, our country strives to maintain a peaceful stance, but in order to cultivate friendly relations with our Mexican and Canadian neighbors, we must be able to communicate. Though many Oregonians may never visit Mexico or the French speaking areas of Canada (nearly 80% of Quebec citizens use French), the language barrier in the United States grows larger every year. According to CIA.gov, English comprises only 82% of the languages spoken in the United States, while Spanish sits at 10.7%. It makes sense for Europeans to learn multiple languages since they are positioned around vastly different countries that each use different languages (23 officially). The US rests between two countries that use different idioms. We only have to learn two languages besides English to effectively communicate with our neighbors. We have the opportunity to do so, so why don't we?

PREVIOUS NEWS

Fury Brigade graduates from first Dari language class

(DLIFLC)

Sixty paratroopers of the Fury Brigade 4th Combat Team (BCT), 82nd Airborne Division, graduated from a 16-week Dari language program June 27, becoming the first group of Soldiers to have completed training at the newly established Afghanistan/Pakistan (AFPAK) General Purpose Force (GPF) Language Training Detachment (LTD). The course, administered by the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC), is designed to teach basic language and culture skills to predeploying Soldiers and provide language-enabled servicemembers who will be key to successful combined operations with Afghan coalition partners.

U.S. Government Turns to Basis Technology for Arabic & Afghan Name Translation

(U.S. Politics Today – Press Release)

Basis Technology today announced that the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency has licensed its Highlight Language Analysis Suite for use throughout the defense and intelligence community. This multi-year license allows hundreds of analysts to quickly and consistently translate names of people and places from Arabic, Pashto and Dari into English within familiar Microsoft Office applications. Future enhancements will include support for additional languages that meet the requirements of the U.S. Government.

Pacific Partnership 2011 Shares Culture, Stories with Micronesian Children

(Navy.mil) ...Airman 1st Class Haleigh Greer

Members of the Pacific Partnership 2011 (PP11) team from USS Cleveland (LPD 7) participated in Pohnpei Public Library's Library Camp, in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), July 12. "School is out for the summer, but some parents want their kids to stay active and continue learning. So they send them to library camp," said Lt. Phillip Ridley, Pacific Partnership 2011 chaplain. "Here they are learning library skills, playing sports with each other, and learning about different parts of the world. Each child gets a 'passport,' and when they finish learning about a new country, they get a sticker to show they have completed that country."

Could you spell that? In Spanish

(Fox 59/Reuters)

Evelyn Juarez repeated to the panel of six judges and then flawlessly spelled it to win the first national Spanish-language spelling bee in the United States. The 13-year-old Juarez, a seventh grader from Santa Cruz, New Mexico, won the two-hour contest on Saturday by battling with 11 contestants assembled from across the country at Albuquerque's National Hispanic Cultural Center. "Our spelling contest was incredibly rigorous," David Briseno, the executive director of New Mexico's Association for Bilingual Education, the group who arranged the contest, said on Sunday.

Degree program in Mandarin Chinese approved at University of Rhode Island

(projo.com) ...Gina Macris

When Mandarin Chinese 101 first appeared in the course catalog at the University of Rhode Island in the fall of 2004, 30 students immediately filled all the available seats. In the fall of 2010, about 170 students enrolled, almost all of them taking a second semester in the spring. On June 27, while some of those students continued their studies in China, the Board of Governors for Higher Education gave the language program official sanction, approving a bachelor's degree in Mandarin Chinese.

AZ school to host teacher from Egypt

(Kvoa.com)

According to a press release, Mohamed El-Dwiny from Egypt has been awarded a fellowship from the U.S. Department of State to participate in the 2011 Teachers of Critical Languages Program. Mr. El-Dwiny is one of a total of 25 teachers who have been selected from China and Egypt for participation. He will teach Arabic for a full academic year at Safford Engineering/Technology Magnet School in Tucson, AZ. The Teachers of Critical Languages Program is designed to increase the study and acquisition of important world languages in U.S. schools. This program enables primary and secondary schools to strengthen their teaching of Arabic and Mandarin by bringing Egyptian and Chinese teachers of English as a Foreign Language to the U.S. to teach Arabic and Chinese language and culture for an academic year. In addition, Arabic and Chinese teachers have the opportunity to learn more about U.S. teaching methodologies, culture, and society, as well as to improve their English language proficiency.

More Students Study Foreign Languages

(GPB News) ...Maura Walz

More Georgia students are now studying foreign languages. Two years ago, 17 percent of public high school students were enrolled in language classes. Last year that number jumped to nearly a quarter of all high school students studying global languages. Jon Valentine, who heads the state education department's international education programs, says the jump in numbers of students enrolled in language classes was a surprise because the state abandoned its foreign language graduation requirement two years ago when it switched to a single diploma program. Valentine says that part of the

increase can be traced to Georgia's public universities, which now require two years foreign language study for admittance. But he also says high schools are starting to promote language study to a broader range of students.

Your Foreign Language Skills Aren't Perfect? Lighten Up.

(HuffingtonPost.com)...Lev Raphael

Preparing to go to Germany last fall on a book tour, I took an on-line grammar test from a language school. Big mistake. I've never been good at grammar even in English, and I bombed, despite having studied some basic German. I told this to a friend who teaches German and he said, "Forgot it. Nobody's going to test you over there. The key thing is, can you communicate? If you make mistakes, so what? Don't let yourself be paralyzed by grammar. It'll stop you having fun." It was terrific advice.

IUPUI center helps foreign doctors make their English better

(Indystar.com)...Shari Rudavsky

The first year of practicing medicine isn't easy. The hours are long and the expectations are high. But Dr. Diana Morales Zelaya, a family medicine resident at the Indiana University School of Medicine, had another challenge: She had just moved to the United States. Like many in IU's family medicine residency program, Morales Zelaya not only had to adjust to her new role as a doctor, she also had to master a new culture and language. Fortunately for Morales Zelaya, before she saw her first patient in July 2010, she received help from the Indiana Center for Intercultural Communication at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Such training is required in orientation for IU's family medicine residents, who spend three years perfecting clinical skills after receiving their medical degrees.

East Meets West

(Patch.com)...Sue Rogers

Pick up a newspaper, read a book about the global economy, stop and think about the next 100 years. Clearly, China will have a significant influence on pretty much every facet of our lives, our children's lives and our grandchildren's lives. With its booming industry and rapidly expanding cities, it has been predicted by many that China will soon become the world's biggest economy, surpassing the U.S. There are various dialects of Chinese already being spoken by billions worldwide, but according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, there are only 60,000 K-12 students in the United States that are studying Chinese. Compare this with the 300 million students in China currently studying English. According to the The American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages, "Language and communication are at the heart of the human experience. The United States must educate students who are linguistically and culturally equipped to communicate successfully in a pluralistic American society and abroad. This imperative envisions a future in which ALL students will develop and maintain proficiency in English and at least one other language, modern or classical."