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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 15 JULY 2011**

#### **Former soldier in Saddam's army now U.S. Soldier helping improve Iraq**

*(Army.mil)*...Sgt. David Bryant

Sgt. Mahad Ahmed, a 36th Infantry Division translator working as a mayor's cell noncommissioned officer, Headquarters and Support Company, 36th Division Special Troops Battalion, was born in Baghdad in 1976, three years before Saddam Hussein officially took control. Ahmed hates Al Qaeda and the ideology they espouse. Their brutal treatment of the Iraqi people is one of the reasons he decided to fight them as a U.S. Soldier. After completing basic training and advanced individual training as a 09L, Ahmed worked for a time assisting recruiters in finding more translators. He was soon deployed with the 56th Infantry Brigade Combat Team to his native country, where he served as a translator a mere 15 miles from his old home.

#### **Marine translator returns to Okinawa, stands out among peers**

*(Marines.mil)*...Pfc. Daniel E. Valle

Cpl. Johnathan K. Brooks, an artillery electronics technician, with Headquarters Battery, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, is fluent in Japanese; an asset that has proven itself to be very valuable as a Marine stationed in Japan. "Being bilingual means I'm on standby to communicate with the Japanese for our commanding officer," said Brooks. "When he visits the mayor or meets with Japanese officials, I act as his translator." Brooks advises Marines who speak other languages to take the Defense Language Proficiency Test, not only to receive the extra pay that comes with being able to speak another language, but for the experience of being a translator.

#### **ATN announces COIN, female engagement team training**

*(Fort Leavenworth Lamp)*...Diane R. Walker

The Army Training Network's new online training materials focus on brigade counterinsurgency, cultural sensitivity, and concussions and traumatic brain injuries to prepare units and Soldiers for deployment to Afghanistan. The ATN also now offers training for female engagement team representatives. These female Soldiers deploy to Afghanistan trained for culturally respectful engagement with Afghan women. All Army maneuver battalions and joint-sourced provincial reconstruction teams deploying to Operation Enduring Freedom after Aug. 31 are required to include FET-trained personnel. ATN, a one-stop Army training center, is available to anyone with an Army Knowledge Online log-in ID or Common Access Card.

#### **National Language Service Corps News**

*(NLSC News)*

The National Language Service Corps (NLSC) announces the approval and release of industry standards for assessing language proficiency by [ASTM International](#), one of the largest voluntary standards development organizations in the world. The NLSC established the sub-committee that developed these standards. As part of this effort, the sub-committee has moved out from under the Consumer Products committee (which covers products ranging from baby carriages to wall coverings) to be its own committee on Language Services and Products. This new committee is responsible for standards on language teaching, translation and interpretation.

#### **Kibot: South Korean Robot Reads, Sings and Teaches Toddlers English**

*(ABC News)*...Joohee Cho

A robot designed to teach kids to speak another language won't take no for an answer in any language. If left alone, it starts moving around the house looking for the kids and bugs them to play. The Kibot is designed to be part tutor and part babysitter for South Korea's hard working parents who are intent on making sure their children grow up bilingual in a country where English has become a prerequisite for

admission at prominent private schools. For many Korean parents in Gina's tech-savvy generation, a new intelligent robot for toddlers is worth the hefty price of \$450.

## **PREVIOUS NEWS**

### **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?

### **Fury Brigade graduates from first Dari language class**

(DLIFLC)

Sixty paratroopers of the Fury Brigade 4<sup>th</sup> Combat Team (BCT), 82<sup>nd</sup> 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.