
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 18 JULY 2011

OPINION: Albright, Hagel: Language cuts endanger U.S.

(USA Today)...Madeleine Albright & Chuck Hagel

Our years of work in diplomacy and national security have made very clear to both of us the critical need to maintain and expand the cadre of Americans who have studied the history and politics of countries who affect our well-being. Specifically, the United States' ability to both confront challenges and exploit opportunities relies heavily on Americans being able to understand and speak less commonly taught languages. We believe that a grievous last-minute mistake was made when funding for International Education and Foreign Language Studies was cut for this fiscal year. In the context of billions and even trillions of cuts being discussed, a \$50 million reduction sounds insignificant. But this particular \$50 million cut from the [Department of Education's](#) budget amounted to a 40% reduction in the relatively small account that supports these programs at higher education institutions across the U.S. This is a dramatic cut that will have long-lasting and serious consequences — it not only threatens the nation's diplomatic, intelligence, and national security capacities, but also our ability to maximize our competitiveness in global markets. This cut was a last-minute decision made with the specter of a government shutdown hanging over it.

Learning Another Language: Goals and Challenges

(MLA)

The Modern Language Association has supported the teaching and study of languages for more than a century. The MLA's 2007 report *Foreign Languages and Higher Education* called for a transformation of university language curricula. In 2009, the MLA issued a survey report on language enrollment, documenting continued increase in student enrollments in college language courses and testifying to strong student interest in all the top ten languages studied in the United States. Yet despite student demand for language courses and public recognition of the opportunities of globalization, many college language programs have been reduced, closed, or threatened with closure. The MLA is prepared to consult with colleges and universities on strategies to strengthen their language programs. We call on higher education leaders to demonstrate creativity in envisioning better language programs that reach ever more students. Instead of shutting language programs, let us keep the door of learning open to the languages and cultures of the world.

AFGHANISTAN/PAKISTAN HANDS PROGRAM BUILDS ON RELATIONSHIP WITH AFGHAN STUDENTS

(US Fed News)

Afghan students from Marefat High School (MHS) presented Army Gen. David Petraeus, outgoing International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) commander, with a farewell portrait in Kabul, Afghanistan, July 11 to thank him for supporting a book they are creating. The book is a collection of 151 Dari proverbs collected and translated over the past 18 months by Navy Capt. Edward Zellem, an intelligence officer assigned to ISAF at the Presidential Palace in Kabul, Afghanistan. Zellem is a participant in the Afghanistan/Pakistan (AFPAK) Hands program, a language and cultural immersion initiative stood up under the direction of Adm. Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The book and ongoing relationship with Marefat High School is a direct result of the AFPAK Hands program.

High schoolers taking immersion language classes at NGCSU

(AccessNorthGa.com)

While it's common to hear a variety of languages spoken by North Georgia College & State University students and faculty, nearly 100 high school students are on campus this summer to learn Arabic, Chinese or Russian this summer. Both sessions of the Foreign Service Foreign Language Academy

(FSFLA) are full, as more than 350 applications were received for 96 slots, according to Dr. John Wilson, language education program developer and assistant director for the Center for Language Education at North Georgia. The students chosen hail from 17 different states across the nation, including Hawaii.

Female engagement teams train for Afghan future

(Af.mil)...Spc. Amanda M. Hills

PSYOP specialists Staff Sgt. Kailah M. Karl and Spc. Nataly L. Clapp, are the only females in their detachment and have been tasked to become part of a Female Engagement Team. This team is designed specifically to address the importance of proper interaction and relationship building with female Afghans during deployments. "The FET is a relatively new idea, and as far as we can tell right now, they're not really using the typical Psychological Operations element with FETs, which makes us excited about getting out there," said Karl. "Our whole job is affecting change, and it's what we do," Clapp added. "It's really nice we're not ignoring half the population."

Chinese official calls for more language, culture exchanges with foreign countries

(Shanghai Daily / Xinhua)

Chinese State Councilor Liu Yandong has called for more communications in language and culture among the people in China and foreign countries. Liu made the remarks during a meeting with the contestants of the 10th "Chinese Bridge" competition, an international Chinese proficiency competition for foreign college students, which opened Saturday in Changsha, capital of central Hunan Province. She said that language is a tool for cultural communications, and linguistic learning and exchanges can promote the mankind's civilization and progress in a broader reach.

Professor receives NSF grant to study language patterns in STEM classrooms

(William and Mary News)...Erin Zagursky

William & Mary Associate Professor [Anne Charity Hudley](#) has been awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to study how cultural and social language patterns affect learning and student assessment in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) classrooms. Charity Hudley, an associate professor of [education](#), [English](#) and [linguistics](#), received the grant with co-investigator Christine Mallinson, an assistant professor of language at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

PREVIOUS NEWS

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.

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.