
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 19 JULY 2011

Air Force Culture and Language Center accepting applications for fall LEAP board

(Af.mil)

Active-duty officers, as well as graduating ROTC and Air Force Academy cadets, can apply now for the Air Force Culture and Language Center's Language Enabled Airman Program. The AFCLC, part of Air University's Spaatz Center for Officer Education here, is accepting applications for the fall 2011 LEAP board. Applications will be accepted now until Sept. 5, in preparation for the Sept. 14 and 15 LEAP selection board. LEAP is an Air Force-wide initiative designed to "grow the bench" of foreign-language capable Airmen to meet Air Force language requirements, said AFCLC Language Department director Jay Warwick. "LEAP is a career-long program designed to sustain and enhance language and cross-cultural skills, with the end goal of producing a language speaker who can perform their core job duties in their respective foreign language," Warwick said.

Engaging women on the frontline

(NATO)

Receiving two pigeons as a gift might sound unusual, even to those used to working in Afghanistan. But to Sergeant Jeanette Corrales and her Female Engagement Team (FET) colleagues, the two birds represent how well they have managed to bond with the local Afghan community. The pigeons can be seen most days wandering around side-by-side in the FET's sleeping area and camp. They were presented to the FET as a "thank you" for the help they have given to Khwannen, a widow with eight children, two of whom are mentally disabled.

Sangin FET Marines reach out to local women during 1/5 operation

(Marines.mil)...Cpl. Katherine Keleher

"One-Five and the ANA's mission was to disrupt the enemy of movement so they could try and catch some known Taliban fighters in the area. FET was to search local females and to do engagements with the women, to find out what was unusual in the area." We're the voices for these women. They are over 50 percent of the population here in Afghanistan," Towns explained. "We try to decide what's going to benefit them without disrespecting their culture, as far as education for the little girls, giving them schools, or as far as putting a woman in a government position here."

PM urges more education reforms

(Viet Nam News)

Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung last Sunday urged the educational sector to continue management and finance reforms to improve education quality. The PM also told local authorities to improve the quality of foreign language instruction and to continue investing in schools. In the 2011-2012 school year, high school education should provide basic knowledge as well as practical job skills to students, he added.

Multi-Lingual Children Take Over Upper Manhattan, As The Carousel Of Languages Opens Two New Locations

(PRWeb – Press Release)

The Carousel Of Languages LLC. , New York City's Premier Foreign Language Immersion Program For Infants, Toddlers and Young Children, Opens Upper East Side and Upper West Side Locations For Fall 2011.

PREVIOUS NEWS

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)...Sp. 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.

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.