
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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A Tale of Two Shuras

(DoD Live)...Hila Hanif

Last week I attended my first shura at Regional-Command North, which hosted an all-female delegation of community activists, provincial council representatives, Directors of Women's Affairs, and Afghan National Police from the northern region. Afghan women would say, "Would your societies be as advanced if women were not participating in all areas, including the security sector? The same applies for our country. If a man has a desire to take a part in rebuilding his country, know that a woman has the very same desires." While the concept of female engagement is not entirely new, it is still young and evolving. Many of the women participate in FET activities in addition to other core duties of their unit, and often have the role of informing their colleagues and commanders who are new to the FET concept of the value that they bring to COIN activities. The two events complemented each other well, as Afghan and ISAF leaders work to identify the evolution of the role of women in peace and security.

Special Operations Has Special Networking Needs

(Signal Magazine)...Rita Boland

In Afghanistan, SOF warriors have even more of a counterinsurgency mission than they did in Iraq. That forces troops to form even smaller teams, which the nodes help stay connected. The terminals also directly support efforts to build stability operations in Afghanistan by giving command and control ability to small groups. Though the most common idea of SOF may be kinetic fights of the most sensitive nature, Wilcox says these warfighters have a number of missions, including nonkinetic nation building, adding that their language and culture skills play well into that type of situation.

Air Force leaders call for scholarship candidates

(Af.mil)...Debbie Gildea

Airmen who would like to study a foreign language as a full-time student, are interested in a White House fellowship, would like to serve a two-year fellowship in Japan, or would like to compete for an information assurance scholarship have until Aug. 31 to submit an application to the Air Force Personnel Center. "These are great growth and development opportunities for current and future leaders," said Col. David Slade, the AFPC assignments director. "Nomination packages take some time to prepare properly, so if you're interested, you should get started now." The Olmsted Scholar Program is an opportunity for Air Force line officers to study a foreign language at an international university overseas.

All Cultures are Not Equal

(Fort Liberty)

It is a popular, although largely unexamined, belief that all cultures are equal. To quote Dr. Mark Glazer of the University of Texas, "According to the tenets of cultural relativism, there are no inferior or superior cultures; all cultures are equal. To order cultures in an evolutionary scheme is unfeasible. All premises of good and bad and/or upper and lower are culture bound and ethnocentric. Put that way, we can see that schemes of evolution are ethnocentric not objective." This belief is based upon emotions and does not stand up to even the lightest intellectual examination, and yet it is taught in almost every anthropology program in the United States.

Language immersion improves literacy

(Reno Gazette-Journal)...Juan Lopez

Echo Loder was one of the seven Washoe County schools chosen to receive federal Title I School Improvement Grants. It was the only one to become a language academy. Echo Loder, a Title I school --

meaning a majority of the students are eligible for free or reduced-cost lunch -- is made up of 90 percent Hispanic students and all of its students receive free lunch, Hicks said. "If any school needed a language arts program, it was ours," he said. Now, just one year after instituting a stronger emphasis on language curriculum, Echo Loder is seeing payoffs.

[U.Va. Hosts Virginia Department of Education's Japanese Academy](#)

(UVa Today)

The state education department offers five language academies each summer for high school students at different institutions across the commonwealth; French, German and Spanish are offered as immersion programs, and Japanese and Chinese are partial-immersion academies. Rachel Stauffer, outreach coordinator for U.Va.'s **Asia Institute** in the **College of Arts & Sciences**, knows firsthand how meaningful the program can be. An alumna of the Russian Academy, she went on to major in Russian studies and earn a doctorate in **Slavic languages**. She said the faculty of the institute's **East Asia Center** was eager to bring the academy to U.Va., calling it "a terrific way to promote the Japanese program and **East Asian Studies** here at U.Va."

PREVIOUS NEWS

[LA Marine learns more than local language](#)

*(dvids)...*Cpl. Colby Brown

It looks like Sgt. Jose Hernandez is teaching an elementary level anatomy class, but he's actually learning the local language. He points to a local boy's arms, legs, ears and eyes -- naming each body part in Pashto. For the last month, Hernandez has been patrolling without an interpreter and has learned enough Pashto to hold a casual conversation. "If they see me taking an interest in learning their language, it shows I really care about what I talk to them about and they take it as a sign of respect," said Hernandez, the section leader of 2nd Section, Combined Anti-Armor Team 1, Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment.

[Funding Cuts Slash GU Language Programs in Half](#)

*(The Hoya)...*Mariah Byrne

The recent \$50 million reduction in the funding for International Education and Foreign Language Studies has almost halved funding for some Georgetown language programs, forcing several heavy hitters on the Hilltop to speak out against the cuts. For Georgetown's National Resource Centers — the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, the Asian Studies program and the Center for Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies — there has been a 47 percent cut in funding across the board for 2012. Primarily operations and programming budgets have been slashed, but some initiatives have lost all funding for this coming school year. The three centers grants for 2011 totaled \$1.4 million, according to Vice President of Federal Relations Scott Fleming, and the centers' directors say cutting this amount will be painful.

[Summer program teaches foreign languages](#)

*(Gainesvilletimes.com)...*Dallas Duncan

"I'm in the delayed entry program in the Navy," Ito said. "I wanted to get some languages under my belt ... and get more out of my travels." Ito is one of 96 students participating in the Foreign Service Foreign Language Academy program this summer at North Georgia College & State University. The college hosted the first academy session in June and the second began earlier this week. Students choose to study one language — Chinese, Arabic or Russian — and culture for eight hours a day, six days a week in the program, which is intended to be an intense immersion program for students planning careers in federal service.

[Imam Arrests Show Shift In Muslim Outreach Effort](#)

*(NPR)...*Dina Temple-Raston

Hafiz Khan is the leader of the Miami Mosque in west Miami — the oldest mosque in South Florida. His son runs the Masjid Jamaat al-Mumineen Mosque in Margate, Fla., just outside Miami. What makes these

particular arrests unusual is the way the local Muslim community reacted to them: The arrests didn't spark outrage or demonstrations. Instead, the way they were handled is being lauded as a model for the way law enforcement and communities should work together. Once the prayers had finished, an agent and a translator approached the imam. "[The agent] came into the *masjid* with his shoes off. And he went straight to the imam. He grabbed his hand, and he said, 'You're coming with me,' in Pashto," Akhtar said. (Khan's native language is Pashto.)

Bilingual kids tune into right stuff

(Futurity)...Cornell

Young children who learn a second language have a heightened ability to pay attention to what's important and to ignore what's not. "Our study showed that bilingualism in young children strengthens what is known as executive attention, which helps orient individuals in the sea of information coming in," says Sujin Yang, formerly a postdoctoral research associate at Cornell University and currently professor at Tyndale University College in Canada. "It helps them know what to pay attention to, what to ignore, and what action to take." The study is published in the July issue of [*Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*](#).

Hampstead woman gets unique internship in China

(Eagle-Tribute)...Cara Hogan

Alissa McKechnie, 22, is leaving soon to spend a year in China working as an intern testing new toys for Hasbro. The East Hampstead native is a senior at the University of Rhode Island, majoring in mechanical engineering and Mandarin Chinese. McKechnie is one of 20 students in the federally funded URI Chinese Language Flagship Program.

A Far East movement: Chinese school launches online tutoring program

(Stamfordadvocate.com)...Nicole Narea

Seven-year-old [Madison Kung](#) barely looks up from the screen of his iMac computer when his mother, Terri, calls his name. The Looney Tunes-like sound effects coming from the laptop speakers would suggest that he is engrossed in a video game. On the contrary -- it is his Chinese homework. The [Chinese Language School of Connecticut](#) has taught Mandarin as a second language to non-native students ranging from toddlers to adults since its creation in 2002, but, as it enters its 10th year of operation, the Riverside-based school is launching a new online learning system called iVuChinese.

Three Girl Scouts earn their Gold

(The RidgefieldPress.com)...Alyssa Mancinelli

Alexis Grevers, Allison Perlman and Olivia Waite from Ridgefield have all earned their Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award a girl can earn in Girl Scouting. Alexis developed and implemented a virtual foreign exchange program between students in Ridgefield and students in San Rafael, Argentina. She believes it is important for children to develop an appreciation for other cultures, second language proficiency, and an understanding of the world beyond their immediate environment. Her Gold Award project helped to bridge cultural and linguistic gaps, foster diversity and international relationships, and enhance classroom learning. Alexis created presentations for the students, ran classroom discussions, and hosted live interactive video exchanges. The exchange helped benefit both Ridgefield and Argentinean students by instilling a sense of appreciation and respect for other cultures.

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.