
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 22 JULY 2011

The gift of language: Army aviators teach English to local teens

(dvids)...Spc. Evan Lane

Adile Isafi and Emin Bajrami want what most people want: a good future for themselves and their country. And with help from soldiers from Camp Bondsteel, they are achieving that future. Every Tuesday and Thursday, soldiers spend their day off chatting with Adile and Emin, along with over 100 other students, preparing them for the Test of English as a Foreign Language. KFOR soldiers began hosting free English courses in 2007 in cooperation with Next Steps of Youth, a local non-governmental organization, said Naim Bajrami, the Task Force Aviation translator and liaison to the schools participating in the classes.

Expanded Foreign Service essential, report argues

(Federal Times)...Sean Reilly

Last year, the State Department said it needed 1,250 more positions to handle work in Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Middle East, besides expanding public diplomacy and increasing foreign language training. But in this year's budget belatedly approved in April, lawmakers only provided enough money to fill jobs left vacant by attrition. They have yet to act on the Obama administration's 2012 spending request, which seeks money for more than 300 Foreign Service posts at State and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Crouch End Army Reservist honoured for Afghan translation role

(Tottenham & Wood Green - UK)...Mike Gorham

"It was a very fulfilling role and I enjoyed having the opportunity to engage and speak with the Afghan people. I'm not a natural linguist so I've had to work very hard – Pashto has so many different dialects it's quite a difficult language to master." The linguist will spend the next five months brushing up his Pashto, the local Afghan language, before being redeployed in November.

Trilingual toddlers? Now's the time to teach your child another language

(Chicago Parent)...Anna Carlson

When it comes to kids and bilingualism, it's never too early to begin learning a second language, even if your child is a newborn, says Mary Lane, Kendall College School of Education assistant professor.

Howard County students immersed in world languages, cultures

(Baltimore Sun)...Joe Burris

Howard County's public schools received a grant from the federal government initiative STARTALK to teach it's elementary and middle school children Chinese this summer. It comes as the county's board of education approved a pilot program next school year for Laurel Woods and Waverly elementary schools for students in kindergarten through fifth grade. The school system's office of world languages is offering two camps that focuses on marine life themes, where students learn Chinese through studying types of sea animals as well as exploring currents and efforts to save bays. School officials say that focusing on a topic is more effective than merely teaching a general vocabulary. The four-week STARTALK camp concludes Friday.

ROK Continues Dynamic Deployment of Multi-Language Text-to-Speech Technologies

(Business Wire – Press Release)

ROK Global PLC, the mobile and web technology, applications and services company, has announced further deployments of ROK Talk, its multi-language text-to-speech conversion and translation technology for websites to REL Consultancy, Delia Online and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. ROK Talk, already licensed to more than 100 local government authorities, police forces and health trusts across the UK as

well as with 75 schools and colleges and with Blue Chip customers such as Aviva Ireland, is designed to enhance website accessibility and usability through converting written text on websites into real-time audible speech in a variety of major languages.

Russia sees Cebu as English language hub

(The Freeman)...Ehda M. Dagooc

Russian Federation Ambassador to the Philippines Niklay Kudashev said Cebu has the potential to attract Russian nationals to study ESL (English and Second Language) here because it offers not just expertise in teaching English, but significantly its charm to lure travelers. Initially, Cebu is now one of the most popular ESL destinations for Koreans; however, Kudashev said this strength should be expanded to attract other overseas market, especially the non-English speaking countries, like Russia.

PREVIOUS NEWS

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."

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.)