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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 25 JULY 2011**

#### **Afghan women hope to break new ground in the sky**

*(CNN)*...Tracy Sabo

In a flower-filled courtyard near San Antonio, adult education students gather during a break, some celebrating the passage of final English exams and some discussing an upcoming social event. The scene resembles very little of a typical campus. Everyone here is in a military uniform, each representing one of 80 countries. Loudly competing voices are conversing in dozens of different languages, each conversation competing against thunderous U.S. Air Force C-5 cargo planes training overhead. Lackland Air Force Base's Defense Language Institute English Language Center (DLIELC) has been teaching the English language to foreign military students for over 55 years. Approximately 10% of its enrollment at any given time is made of up females; however, this marks the first time the school has welcomed Afghan women to its student body.

#### **The federal government's brain power is shrinking**

*(CNNMoney)*...Shelley DuBois

The federal government -- our nation's largest employer -- is about to suffer a serious brain drain. And the Department of Defense, the biggest employer within the federal government, is not sitting pretty. Besides the 1.4 million active duty men and women employed by the Department of Defense, the agency also has a civilian workforce of over 700,000. One-third of those 700,000 employees will be eligible for retirement in 2015, as will 90% of civilian senior executives. Among these civilian employees are engineers, language specialists, and intelligence personnel.

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

*(People's Daily Online)*

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. The "Chinese Bridge" competition has attracted over 100,000 college students from more than 70 countries over the past ten years, and contestants have improved their Chinese language, experienced the Chinese culture and established deep friendship with others during the competition, Liu said.

#### **Police Seeking Volunteers With Second-Language Skills**

*(Sun Gazette)*

The Arlington County Police Department is seeking volunteers fluent in Spanish, French, Mongolian, Arabic and African dialects to participate in its "Bilingual Ride-a-Long" program. Volunteers are asked to commit 10 hours per month, with flexibility in scheduling. Volunteers will ride with a patrol officer assigned to neighborhoods where translation may be necessary, and may be called upon to assist with translation during investigations throughout the county.

#### **The power of Creole**

*(Boston.com)*...Leon Neyfakh

When Michel DeGraff was a young boy in Haiti, his older brother brought home a notice from school reminding students and parents of certain classroom rules. At the top of the list was "no weapons." And right below it, DeGraff still remembers: "No Creole." Students were supposed to use French, and French only. It was like this all over the country, and still is. Despite the fact that the vast majority of Haitian children grow up hearing and speaking exclusively Haitian Creole—the language used in their villages and homes, in their music, and in their proverbs, jokes, and jingles—the minute they start school they are

forced to start all over in a language they don't know. French is the language of Haiti's tiny ruling class, and for children who come from that world, this poses no problem. But for all the others, being forced to use French makes it nearly impossible to learn.

### **Campers Learn Chinese Language and Culture in Monongalia County**

*(WOWK – Channel 13)*...Kelly Rippen

School was in session for 80 campers in Monongalia County on Friday, but not all of it was in English. StarTalk hosted its second annual Chinese language and culture camp at Cheat Lake Elementary. The West Virginia Department of Education sponsors the program, which gives kids a unique opportunity to have a hands-on cultural experience. Three Monongalia County residents who are natives of China helped educate the students. "I think there is a push with the relationship between China and the United States financially and otherwise that Chinese will become a larger part of the world language study. I don't know that it will ever take over Spanish, but it definitely will become larger," said Debbie Nicholson, coordinator for the West Virginia Department of Education.

### **Languages on New Guinea vanish without a whisper**

*(China Daily)*...Jerome Rivet

Who will speak Iniai in 2050? Or Faiwol? Moskona? Wahgi? Probably nobody, as the languages of New Guinea - the world's greatest linguistic reservoir - are disappearing in a tide of indifference. Yoseph Wally, an anthropologist at Cendrawasih University in Jayapura, keeps his ears open when he visits villages to hear what language the locals are speaking. "It's Indonesian more and more. Only the oldest people still speak in the local dialect," he said. In some villages he visits, not a single person can understand a word of the traditional language. "Certain languages disappeared very quickly, like Muris, which was spoken in an area near here until about 15 years ago," he said.

### **Chico State student bound for Egypt**

*(ChicoER.com)*

Jose Valdovinos, a graduate student at Chico State University, has won a fellowship that will enable him to study for a year in Egypt. Valdovinos, who is working toward a degree in American politics and international relations, will study Arab language, politics and culture at the American University in Cairo. He hopes to live with a host family during his stay in Egypt. "A host family will keep me in touch with the basic level of government — its people," he was quoted as saying in a news release. "It doesn't matter what race or creed, it is family that makes up our nations, and it is important to keep in touch with that." The \$24,000 grant he won is a Boren Fellowship. It is funded by the National Security Education Program. Valdovinos is the first Chico State student to receive this fellowship.

### **Bridging the gap between cultures**

*(China Daily)*...Li Xing & Tan Yingzi

Grouped in pairs, the 16 students pointed at different spots on a map and talked about going to a restaurant, a library or a park. The topics seemed easy, but discussing them was not. In this Chinese class, expanded for a press visit, the students had to fumble for the right vocabulary, sounds and tones. "*Ni qu tu shu guan gan shen me?* (What are you going to do in a library?)" B. Rose Hansen, their Chinese language teacher, asked one student. He paused, then answered. "*Du shu* (Read a book)." Sometimes a pair started in English and turned to Chinese once they felt more comfortable with the sentences they needed to practice.

### **Duke's Summer Institute on Law, Language and Culture underway**

*(Duke Law News)*

Duke Law welcomed a contingent of internationally trained lawyers, judges, and legal scholars to its [Summer Institute on Law, Language, and Culture](#) (SILLC) on July 18. At 28 members, the class is the largest the six-year-old program has enrolled. Twenty-two SILLC students are preparing to pursue LLM degrees at Duke while two will be visiting scholars in the coming academic year, and four will join the inaugural LLM class at the University of North Carolina School of Law.

## **PREVIOUS NEWS**

### **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.

### **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.