
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 05 AUGUST 2011

ROTCs return to Ivy League

(USA Today)...Jim Michaels

There are practical reasons for seeking more military candidates among the elite universities, say some experts. The military is increasingly involved in counterinsurgency campaigns that require officers with cultural and language skills, says the Pentagon. Gen. [David Petraeus](#), who led coalition efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan before being appointed to head the [CIA](#), has a doctorate from Princeton and has spoken of the value of a broad education for military officers. Counterinsurgencies in Iraq and Afghanistan have required officers who are leaders and can think creatively.

A Secret War in 120 Countries: The Pentagon's New Power Elite

(Pacific Free Press)...Nick Turse

"But the world changed over the last decade," he said. "Our strategic focus has shifted largely to the south... certainly within the special operations community, as we deal with the emerging threats from the places where the lights aren't." To that end, Olson launched "[Project Lawrence](#)," an effort to increase cultural proficiencies -- like advanced language training and better knowledge of local history and customs -- for overseas operations. The program is, of course, named after the British officer, Thomas Edward Lawrence (better known as "Lawrence of Arabia"), who teamed up with Arab fighters to wage a guerrilla war in the Middle East during World War I. Mentioning Afghanistan, Pakistan, Mali, and Indonesia, Olson added that SOCOM now needed "Lawrences of Wherever." While Olson made reference to only 51 countries of top concern to SOCOM, Col. Nye told me that on any given day, Special Operations forces are deployed in approximately 70 nations around the world.

Opinion: Why We Need Fulbrights

(Forbes)...Michael Noer

Congressional budget cuts to vital cultural-understanding programs are making America less competitive and less secure, say Cornell University's Glenn C. Altschuler and David J. Skorton. One of the key lessons of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 was that many U.S. politicians, diplomats and intelligence officers were flying blind due to a lack of understanding of the Islamic religion and relevant cultures in the Middle East and elsewhere. Recognizing this unmet need for better understanding of outside cultures, Congress increased support for two federal programs, Title VI and Fulbright-Hays, which enable American universities to immerse students in the cultures and languages of friends and foes around the world. Apparently, our elected officials aren't on the same page. Last spring Congress passed a continuing resolution that cripples programs crucial to our prosperity and national security.

Chinese servicemen must have global horizon

(Xinhua)

Colonel Chen Changqing, director of the Engineering and Chemical Division of a group army under the Jinan Military Area Command (MAC) of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), who headed for Sudan's Wau and Darfur three times to perform peacekeeping missions in May 2006, January 2009 and June 2010, recently received an interview with the PLA Daily at an engineer regiment of the PLA Jinan MAC. Chen Changqing said as reflected in performing peacekeeping missions, the officers and men of the Chinese PLA still needed to strengthen combat awareness, uplift combat quality and enhance cultural competence, especially foreign language proficiency.

UAE police brush up on their language skills with an emphasis on Chinese, Russian

(World Tribune)

The United Arab Emirates, besieged by an expatriate majority, has intensified efforts for police to learn foreign languages. Officials said foreign language skills would enhance police capabilities in law enforcement and counter-insurgency. They said this would also reduce dependency on interpreters.

Linguist Considers 'What Language Is' — And Isn't

(NPR)

Whether or not the first humans could speak is still a matter of debate, but most scientists agree that languages have been around for at least 80,000 years. The written word, in contrast, is relatively new. Humans have been putting words on tablets, textiles and paper only for approximately the past 5,500 years. Yet many assume the written word is superior to how humans actually speak. If a language isn't fixed on a page — like English, French, Spanish or Chinese — it isn't "real." And while many English speakers consider the English language to be relatively advanced, linguist John McWhorter says it's actually profoundly simpler than many ancient languages. In his book, *What Language Is: And What It Isn't and What It Could Be*, McWhorter, a professor of linguistics and Western civilization at Columbia University, debunks some of our most persistent myths about language.

'Taiwan Academies' to open first in US

(Taipei Times) ...Shih Hsiu-chuan

Taiwan is set to open institutes in New York, Los Angeles and Houston in the US in October as part of a project initiated by President Ma Ying-jeou (馬英九) to establish "Taiwan Academies" worldwide to promote "Taiwanese culture with Chinese characteristics," an official said yesterday. The US has granted permission for the establishment of Taiwan Academies after the "misunderstanding" that fee-charging language courses would open in Taiwan's representative offices in the US was clarified, Council for Cultural Affairs Minister Emile Sheng (盛治仁) said.

PREVIOUS NEWS

If you don't speak the language, you can't belong

(The Vancouver Sun) ...David Green

The requirement that immigrants who wish to marry a British citizen must learn English before coming to live in the United Kingdom is being challenged in the High Courts for discrimination and for obstruction to the right to family life.

BridgeBrazil Focuses on Business Language

(The Rio Times) ...Sam Green

A language school called BridgeBrazil is helping clients arriving in Brazil who do not speak Portuguese transition into the workplace. There is a large demand and interest in business-language proficiency as the 8th largest economy in the world is growing especially with oil companies and people arriving for work related to the 2014 World Cup (soccer) and the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

To Fight Radical Islam, U.S. Wants Muslim Allies

(New York Times) ...Scott Shane

"Rolling out a new strategy for combating radicalization, White House officials on Wednesday warned that casting broad suspicion on Muslim Americans is counterproductive and could backfire by alienating a religious minority and fueling extremism."

Boulder's Intercambio offers cultural training for service agencies

(Daily Camera) ...Erica Meltzer

For years Intercambio has helped immigrants learn how to adapt to American culture, but now the Boulder-based service agency is helping other nonprofits and government agencies learn more about immigrants' cultures. Intercambio is doing this by offering "Building Cultural Awareness" workshops for Boulder area service agencies.

Word Search

*(China Daily USA)...*Li Xing

The International Federation of Translators (FIT) is meeting this week as part of its world congress. The article talks about the vast improvement of Chinese translators over the past seven years. For the second-largest economy in the world there were 15,039 firms offering translation and/or localization services on mainland China by the end of 2009 with a total revenue of 1.9 billion dollars.

The Pentagon Enters the Social Web With a Call for Memetrackers

*(The Atlantic)...*Jared Keller

"The study of language offers a strategic opportunity for improved counterterrorist intelligence, in that it enables the possibility of understanding of the Other's perceptions and motivations, be he friend or foe," the two authors of *Computational Methods for Counterterrorism* wrote. "As we have seen, linguistic expressions have levels of meaning beyond the literal, which it is critical to address. This is true especially when dealing with texts from a high-context traditionalist culture such as those of Islamic terrorists and insurgents."

Study: Older Students May Learn Language Rules Faster

*(Education Week)...*Sarah D. Sparks

After years of sighing over reports touting the advantages of learning a second language as a toddler, it's always nice to see a study that gives hope to older second-language learners, like [this one](#) from Israel, presented at last week's [International Congress for the Study of Child Language](#) meeting in Montreal. There's a slew of research suggesting that children learn a second language most naturally and implicitly in infancy and toddlerhood. It's widely thought that the window for learning begins to close after age 7, when at least some schools might begin teaching foreign languages. Though [emerging research](#) suggests regular second-language exposure can help keep the window for learning open longer, evidence still stacks against someone like me—who, like many folks, took my first language classes in high school and college—becoming fluent in another language.

State Department Taps will.i.am for China Effort

*(New York Times)...*Larry Rohter – Subscription Required

The State Department is teaming up with the hip-hop artist [will.i.am](#), a founder of the Black Eyed Peas, to organize a concert in Beijing this year to encourage cultural and educational exchanges between the United States and China. The announcement came after Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton met on Friday in Washington with [will.i.am](#), above, a creator of the 2008 viral video "[Yes, We Can](#)" that boosted support for Barack Obama among the young, to discuss the Obama administration's "100,000 Strong Initiative," aimed at increasing the number and diversity of Americans studying in China. For the event [will.i.am](#) and other American and Chinese artists will perform; no date or location for the show has been specified.

Chinese teachers are on a U.S. mission

*(Los Angeles Times)...*Ricardo Lopez

In a few weeks, 176 Chinese teachers will head to kindergarten through 12th-grade classrooms across the country, from rural Kentucky towns to the tidy suburbs of Salt Lake City. Only two will remain in California, assigned to schools in Redding and Ojai.

Most had never before left China. They had come armed with hopes of succeeding in the classroom, with fears that American students would be difficult to manage and with impressions of U.S. culture based on a diet heavy in Hollywood films. The guest teacher program, started in 2007 and partly funded by the federal language initiative, Startalk, is an effort by the College Board and the Chinese government's Chinese Language Council International, also known as Hanban.

Chinese teachers open new doors in Bristol, Tenn.

*(Bristol Herald Courier)...*Roger Brown

Chinese school teacher Chen Xiaoqian laughed when asked what she and fellow countrywoman He Aiping hope students learn during the time the duo will spend as instructors in the Bristol school district. "Actually, we hope we can learn from our students as much as they learn from us," Chen Xiaoqian said Monday, as her smiling compatriot, He Aiping, nodded in agreement. During the next two years, Chen

Xiaoqian and He Aiping will teach Mandarin Chinese in the Bristol school district – which has some 4,000 students – through a partnership between the Bristol system and the Confucius Institute, a China-based organization that promotes the study of Chinese language and culture in the United States.

Oak Park schools budget adds \$2.1 million in new spending

*(OakPark.com)...*Terry Dean

Oak Park's elementary school district plans to spend roughly \$2 million for the 2011-12 school year on new staff, technology and an expansion of its foreign language program, among other proposed additions. The \$2.1 million was laid out by administration at the July 26 school board meeting, part of a discussion on the district's FY 2012 tentative budget. The final budget is slated for approval in September. Among the additions for the upcoming school year are two additional teachers for Holmes and Irving elementary schools. Two foreign language teachers will also be hired as the district expands its FLES (Foreign Language in the Elementary Schools) program. Among the new ticket items is \$30,000 budgeted for a backup network system in case the district suffers a power loss. That was the case two weeks ago when the district was virtually shut down during the rainstorm that knocked out power in the area.