
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 08 AUGUST 2011

Local Marine reaches out to women in Afghanistan

(Marietta Daily Journal)...Kyle Dominy

Lance Cpl. Jacqueline Veres has been in the Helmand province of Afghanistan since March, working with a Female Engagement Team, a special force designed to build relationships and gather information from Afghan women. "We are here for counterinsurgency and to win the trust and confidence of the Afghan women, men and children," Veres said. "We are the voice for over 50 percent of the population." Cultural restrictions in Afghanistan forbid a woman from speaking to a man who is neither their husband nor a close relative.

Female engagement team helps child recover from cancer

(RC-East.com)...Spc. John Iasiello

The Female Engagement Team from Company D, 1st Battalion, 279th Infantry Brigade, Task Force Creek, and medics from Operational Detachment Alpha, both under Task Force Duke, helped save the life of a local female child stricken with cancer. Company D's FET was invited by Operational Detachment Alpha medics to assist with the care and treatment of "Bebe," the name given to her to protect her family from retribution from the Taliban.

La.'s Tunica tribe revives its lost language

(Associated Press)

Brenda Lintinger decided to do more than learn a new language — she set out to resurrect the ancient tongue of her own Tunica Indian tribe, words that had not been uttered for more than 60 years. In spring 2010, the 51-year-old Tunica Tribal Council member had been searching the website of Tulane University in New Orleans when she noticed that the school specialized in lesser-known languages.

Sacramento Valley Charter School: Redefining education in an innovative way

(Examiner.com)...Amrik Singh

A Press Conference was held in West Sacramento Gurdwara at 5 PM on August 6, 2011 to brief people regarding the opening of a charter school in their neighborhood. Sacramento Valley Charter School Board of Directors answered an array of questions about school's programs, which would prepare students to compete and excel on a global level. In addition to English, Science, Math and American history, students will have the opportunity to learn Punjabi as a Foreign Language. Board members said that learning a foreign language helps in developing cognitive and critical skills which are necessary for a strong foundation in other subjects as well.

PREVIOUS NEWS

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.

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.