
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 15 AUGUST 2011

Official Reports Security Progress in Afghanistan

(American Forces Press Service)...Donna Miles

Our goal is to deny safe havens to al-Qaida and to deny insurgents the ability to overthrow the Afghan government," Michael D. Lumpkin, acting assistant secretary of defense for special operations and low-intensity conflict, said yesterday at the Ministry of Defense Advisors Program first-anniversary conference. "Although progress in Afghanistan is substantial and our strategy is on track, significant challenges remain," Lumpkin said. U.S., Afghan and coalition forces have dislodged insurgents from key strongholds in the south and improved security through much of the northern, western and capital regions, he said. But eastern Afghanistan remains problematic, he acknowledged. There, the physical terrain, culture, geography and presence of safe havens in Pakistan all present "a complex set of challenges" he said are distinct from those in other parts of Afghanistan.

2-38 Cav. creates new FET, links GIRoA to Afghan women

(dvids)...Senior Airman Jessica Lockoski

"Afghan women comprise about 50 percent of the country's population," she added. "That's a large portion of people who could bear great influence among society. Sometimes in Pashto culture, the elder female may have a lot influence behind closed doors in her village."

Peace Institute honors Afghan defense advisers program

(UPI.com)...Rema Rahman

The U.S. Institute of Peace had a celebration Thursday to honor 17 U.S. civilians who spent one year in Afghanistan as part of the Ministry of Defense Advisors Program, helping train forces to ease the transition of power. "The basic purpose ... is to move the Afghans steadily toward self-reliance," said David Clifton, who was part of the first group to deploy last May. It's important to realize that "civilians will have a very key role in making this happen." Clifton, who was chief adviser for development to the Afghan Ministry of the Interior, stressed the importance of acknowledging cultural differences when agreeing on how things should be done.

Latvia's recently-elected president says no plans to "forget" Russian

(Ria Novosti)

Andris Berzins, who took oath as Latvian president less than two months ago, said in an interview with the Russian-language Chas daily he will not pretend to forget Russian language like his predecessor did. "I have spoken and I will speak Russian," the recently elected president said. "Of course, I will speak Latvian during official speeches, when it is obligatory according to the protocol. But in some unofficial situations, when it's easier to deliver my opinion in Russian, I will speak Russian, or English, or German. Why not?" "It may sound cliched, but we must learn foreign languages... Knowing Russian may be an advantage in many situations, and it's unwise to reject it," Berzins said.

A Lifetime Quest to Finish a Monumental Encyclopedia of Iran

(New York Times)...Patricia Cohen

At 53, he embarked on his magnum opus, a definitive encyclopedia of Iranian history and culture. At 75, he started looking for a successor. He didn't find one so he kept going himself. Now he's 91. He's up to "K." "My mission is to finish the encyclopedia," he said recently from his office at Columbia University's Center for Iranian Studies. He knows he won't be able to do it personally, especially since the task keeps expanding as progress is made. There are topics to be added and entries to be updated. So Mr. Yarshater has tried to make sure the work will continue by establishing a private foundation with a \$12 million endowment and finally choosing three scholars to replace him as general editor.

Anthropology Grad Wins Fulbright to Teach in Indonesia

(TRIBlocal)...LaTonya Taylor

Brumm, who graduated in May with a degree in anthropology and communication, is one of three recent Wheaton graduates who were awarded Fulbright grants. Brumm received an English Teaching Assistantship to fund her participation in the exchange program, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. The goal of the program is to foster leadership, learning and empathy between cultures.

Adayana Develops Immersive Learning Solution To Teach U.S Culture To International Students

(Adayana – Press Release)

Adayana Government Group, an organizational performance optimization company, announced today it was awarded a contract and completed implementation of a computer-based, immersive learning solution to teach U.S. cultural norms to foreign military personnel studying at the Defense Language Institute English Language Center (DLIELC) at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. The solution, called VALIDATE (Voice-Activated Learning in Direct-Applied Training & Education), is an interactive 3D game that creates U.S. cultural awareness and embeds language practice. VALIDATE features culturally smart avatars that require voice-activated responses as students work their way through 12 customized scenarios in a virtual world mirroring everyday locations and interactions.

PREVIOUS NEWS

FBI's Newark Field Office Looking for Special Agents

(NBC – New York)

If you're something of a science or tech geek, are fluent in Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Russian, Farsi, or Punjabi, or have a military or law enforcement background, you may be just the special agent the FBI is looking for. The FBI's Newark, N.J., field office is accepting applications for special agent positions from now through Sept. 23, the agency said Thursday. It's looking particularly for individuals with foreign language fluency, particularly in languages that involve U.S. national security interests, such as Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Russian, Farsi, Punjabi, etc.

Female Engagement Team blazes trails in Afghanistan

(Virginia National Guard)...Staff Sgt. Rebecca Petrie

A Stryker pulls up. The ramp lowers, and four Soldiers dismount, weapons at the ready, assault packs slung over their shoulders. The Afghan sun mercilessly beats down on their solid frames, swollen beads of perspiration growing heavy on each forehead. The leader lifts a hand and wipes the trickle of sweat from her eyes. This is the Female Engagement Team of Zabul province, part of a new military program aimed at reaching out to the women of Afghanistan while still respecting cultural boundaries. "FET is providing a voice and opportunities to women and children for a better tomorrow," said Maj. Maria Rodriguez, the outgoing officer in charge of the Combined Team Zabul FET.

Czech Police plan to recruit foreigners

(Czechposition.com)

The Czech Police anti-organized crime unit (ÚOOZ) wants to recruit foreigners legally resident in the Czech Republic from countries and cultures of organized crime syndicates operating here. Currently, only Czech citizens can serve in the police, a condition commanders say is hampering anti-crime work. "Members of special police units often don't have sufficient language skills, especially in obscurer languages, various dialects and slang. At the same time quality interpreting services are not available for some languages, and too expensive for others, and [external translators] can often not be used in the field," the Interior Ministry says in its proposal, a copy of which was obtained by the daily *Právo*.

First Marshallese class to be offered in Fall 2011

(University of Hawai'i)

For the first time, beginning in the Fall 2011 semester, the UH Manoa Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures will be offering regular classes in Marshallese language and culture. Interest in Marshallese language and culture has been building on the Manoa campus over the past several years, and retired UH Manoa linguist Byron Bender has generously acted as a volunteer mentor and advisor to students who formed informal Marshallese-language study groups. With the introduction of formal classes, UH Mānoa students and others will be able to sign up for just one course or a sequence of courses. The introduction of Marshallese is made possible, in part, by the Center for Pacific Islands Studies Title VI National Resource Center Grant for 2010-2013. One of the primary goals of this grant is to support the teaching of less-commonly taught languages.

Schools to base placement system on language skills

(The Copenhagen Post)...Jennifer Buley

As schools throughout Copenhagen flung their doors open this week and began the 2011-2012 school year, a programme called 'Copenhagener Model 2.0' was rolled out, with a new strategy to voluntarily place students with language difficulties in classes with more fluent classmates. In the programme's first incarnation, which ran between 2005 and 2010, some 900 children with foreign backgrounds were voluntarily switched from under-performing local schools to better-performing schools in other areas where the majority of children were native Danish speakers and test scores were generally higher. Now authorities have redefined the terms by which students are identified for the programme. Ethnicity will no longer be the deciding factor for which children are offered spots in more successful schools. Instead, the level of the child's language abilities – regardless of ethnic background – will be pivotal.

Multilingual Video SEO: Go Global By Marketing Video In Multiple Languages

(ReelSeo)...Christian Arno

Trying to optimize your videos can be like an art-form at times, but what happens when you want to go global? With foreign language use online growing at phenomenal rates, more and more video producers—amateurs and professionals alike—are choosing to go multilingual. And it certainly makes sense. A recent Eurobarometer survey found that 9 out of 10 EU Internet users preferred to use their native language to read or watch content on the Internet. For the amateur video producer or marketer, it's doubtful that you've got a load of spare cash lying about (who has?!) for professional translators. Google Translate is a handy online tool that be used when you're desperate, but do be warned it's far from perfect. Don't just assume that Google and YouTube are the mainstays for your shiny new multilingual videos. In China, for example, Baidu is the search engine of choice and YouTube is famously banned!

Federal Agencies Take Action to Digitally Document Nearly 50 Endangered Languages

(National Science Foundation – PRESS RELEASE)

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) today announced the award of 10 fellowships and 24 institutional grants totaling \$3.9 million in the agencies' ongoing Documenting Endangered Languages (DEL) program. This is the seventh round of their campaign to preserve records of languages threatened with extinction. Experts estimate that more than half of the approximately 7,000 currently used human languages are bound for oblivion in this century, and the window of opportunity for high-quality language field documentation, they say, narrows with each passing year. These new DEL awards will support digital documentation work on almost 50 endangered languages, enhance the computational infrastructure of the field and provide training for the next generation of researchers.

Enlisting Allah

(The Atlantic)...Brian Mockenhaupt

SOON AFTER HE DEPLOYED to southern Afghanistan this spring, Lieutenant Commander Nathan Solomon, a Navy chaplain, learned of a disconcerting and persistent belief among the locals in northern Marja: the Afghan soldiers stationed there weren't Muslim. The Taliban had convinced many in this stretch of Helmand province that the Afghan soldiers—most of whom were from northern and eastern Afghanistan and spoke Dari instead of Pashto, the local language—were nearly as foreign as the U.S. marines patrolling alongside them. Solomon and his Afghan liaison, Abdul Khabir, a mullah and an army captain, suggested that installing audio speakers at the joint patrol bases to announce the five-times-daily Muslim call to prayer might help. The first speakers brought quick results. "We didn't know they pray like

we do,” one man told a joint patrol of marines and Afghan soldiers. “It makes us trust them more, knowing we all share the same faith.”

Program orients foreign teaching assistants to American culture

(The StateNews.com)...Brittney Dee

On Monday, future educators from 25 countries gathered at MSU for the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant, or FLTA, Orientation Program. The Fulbright Program, sponsored by the U.S. government, is designed to increase mutual understanding among citizens of the U.S. and other countries around the world. The FLTA Orientation Program is held for future teaching assistants from other countries who will come to the U.S. to teach their native language for a year. Participation in the program, which introduces the teaching assistants to U.S. culture and prepares them for their future teaching positions, is required before FLTAs can begin teaching.