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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 17 AUGUST 2011**

#### **A Conversation with Secretaries Hillary Clinton and Leon Panetta**

*(US Department of State – Press Release)*

QUESTION: Like many of my peers here, I've spent about five years out of the last ten in the Middle East and Afghanistan. One of the things that concerns me, as we see the budget tsunami approaching, is problems with the teaching of foreign language and culture. It's an incapacity we've had in the Force that persists now. How will we deal with that as we lose the hundreds of millions of dollars to throw at contracting solutions? Have we looked at ways that maybe State and Department of Defense can synergize efforts to teach? Have we looked at working with academia? Is that sort of restructuring and reengineering how we approach these missions that are budget sensitive going on?

SECRETARY PANETTA: I certainly think we've got to look at creative ways to be able to deal with it. I'm a believer in foreign language training. I think, unfortunately, this country hasn't devoted enough resources really to foreign language training. We've looked at the three Rs – reading, writing, and arithmetic – but we haven't looked at reality of the world that we deal with. And in order for – I mean, when I was CIA director, I did not think you could be a good intelligence analyst or operations guy without knowing languages. And I believe that for the Defense Department and I think for the State Department, there's a recognition that you need to have language in order to be able to relate to the world that we live in. So my goal would be, as we go through the budget, as we develop the restraints that we have to develop, that we are creative and not undermine the kind of teaching and language training that I think is essential to our ability not only to protect our security, but frankly to be a nation that is well educated.

#### **In Afghanistan's Garmser district, praise for a U.S. official's tireless work**

*(Washington Post)...*Rajiv Chandrasekaran

Since September 2009, this district along the Helmand River has seen five different Marine battalion commanders, two governors and two police chiefs. The only constant was a compact American whom everyone here calls Carter Sahib. The adoration stems from his unflinching politeness (he greeted people in the traditional Pashtun way, holding their hands for several minutes as a series of welcomes and praises to God were delivered), his willingness to take risks (he often traveled around in a police pickup instead of in an American armored vehicle with a squad of Marines), and his command of Pashto, the language of southern Afghanistan (he conversed fluently, engaging in rapid-fire exchanges with gray-bearded elders).

#### **Navies seek "pirate cultural adviser"**

*(The Telegraph)...*Colin Freeman

It must rank as one of the most unusual recruitment adverts ever placed, even by the standards of the European Union: the search is on for a "pirate cultural adviser" to help naval commanders understand the foes they face along the coast of Africa. The right candidate - who must have knowledge of the "business model and modus operandi" of pirates in the Indian Ocean - will be asked to teach officers of the [EU navies protecting shipping in one of the world's busiest waterways](#) how best to tackle the growing threat.

#### **More Students Learning Spanish at Younger Age**

*(San Antonio Express-News)...*Erin Eggers

The children who attend the Spanish immersion preschool are some of the youngest of a growing number of children in San Antonio studying Spanish language and Hispanic culture from an early age, often in near total immersion, rather than waiting until high school to learn. "Being bilingual is valued today by society, but it's also that children learn Spanish so quickly. They do it without realizing they're doing it. It's very natural for them," says [Susan Carvajal](#), the director of the Pineapple School.

## **[PBS Brings Little Pim to iPad with Spanish Educational App](#)**

*(Enhanced Online News- Press Release)*

**PBS** today announced [its newest educational app for iPad](#), [LITTLE PIM SPANISH](#), is now available on the App Store. Adding to its successful [PBS KIDS](#) mobile app lineup, the new curriculum-based app helps children acquire Spanish language vocabulary while playing games with Little Pim, an animated panda bear who is the star of the direct-to-DVD LITTLE PIM language series.

## **[PREVIOUS NEWS](#)**

### **[Opinion: Why is Bilingualism Seen as UnAmerican?](#)**

*(Fox News Latino)...Roxana Soto*

"...I've never really understood America's monolingual preference." Journalist and co-founder of SpanglishBaby.com Roxana Soto is perplexed by the reactions to an article she posted about dual language immersion education for her own daughter.

### **[Encouraging study in critical languages](#)**

*(Bureau of Labor Statistics)*

The Department of Labor in its Summer Occupational Outlook provides a summary of available federal programs that gives opportunities for high school and college students to learn strategic languages.

### **[Cultural Conundrums/Cross-cultural boundaries of information](#)**

*(The Daily Yomiuri)...Kate Elwood*

Kate Elwood is non-Japanese and living in Japan. She shares her experiences of how cultural differences appear in the spoken language. In an individualized Western culture people tend to use the first person more often while in Japan people tend to use second and third person. Read about the perceived differences.

### **[Welcome to the family](#)**

*(The Irish Times)...Sheila Wayman*

Ever thought of being a host family for students wanting to learn English? Here's our some stories and thoughts from some Irish families who have taken students into their home. Eating preferences, personal space, curfews, and other family rules can be cross-cultural challenges.

### **[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 Advisers 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.

### **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.