
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 19 AUGUST 2011

Remarks by the President of the US in a Town Hall Meeting in Atkinson, Illinois

(White House – Press Release)

I will tell you, though, just in case there are any French teachers here or foreign language teachers, having a foreign language, that's important, too. That makes you so much more employable -- (applause) -- because if you go to a company and they're doing business in France or Belgium or Switzerland or Europe somewhere, and they find out you've got that language skill, that's going to be important as well. And we don't do that as much as we should; we don't emphasize that as much as we should here in the United States. So congratulations -- proud of you.

Gen. Cone calls DLIFLC crown jewel of DoD language effort

(DLIFLC)

"DLI is the crown jewel of our Department of Defense's language and culture effort." These were the words of Gen. Robert Cone, commanding general of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), after visiting with students attending Dari classes at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center Aug 17. During Cone's visit, he met with DLIFLC leadership, received mission briefings and toured several classroom sites at the Presidio of Monterey. "It was an honor to have Gen. Cone here to show him how much time and effort that these servicemembers put into their training and how seriously we take our mission," said Col. Danial D. Pick, the Commandant of DLIFLC.

Female Marines launch first Musa Qal'eh woman's school

*(Camp Lejeune Globe)...*Lance Cpl. Clayton Vonderahe

The Marines with Female Engagement Teams 10 and 12 held their first literacy class for Afghan women in the Musa Qal'eh District, Aug. 2. The class, held in the district's women's center, is intended to teach local women basic principles of reading, writing and arithmetic. "We had about 26 girls show up for reading and writing classes," said Pfc. Brandie Hogan, a FET member and Spavanaw, Okla., native. "They're learning their letters, how to count right and how to identify their numbers."

English Too Easy for Hungarians

*(Wall Street Journal)...*Gergo Racz

Hungary's government wants to dethrone English as the most common foreign language taught in Hungarian schools. The reason: It's just too easy to learn. "It is fortunate if the first foreign language learned is not English. The initial, very quick and spectacular successes of English learning may evoke the false image in students that learning any foreign language is that simple," reads a draft bill obtained by news website Origo.hu that would amend Hungary's education laws. Besides giving a deceptive sense of achievement, English learning also makes acquiring other languages more difficult, the ministry argues. Reversing the order, on the other hand, makes learning English essentially effortless, it added.

Watch: China's Presumptive Premier-to-Be Busts Out English Skills

*(Wall Street Journal)...*Jason Dean and Chester Yung

Chinese Vice Premier Li Keqiang, widely expected to replace Wen Jiabao as premier in 18 months, showed off his English-language skills at a speech Thursday morning on a high-profile trip to Hong Kong. In the final moments of an 11-minute address at The University of Hong Kong, Mr. Li surprised an audience of top political and business leaders when he switched to speak in English, expressing confidently his praise for the accomplishments of Hong Kong's oldest university. Unlike most universities in China and Hong Kong, English is HKU's main language of instruction. "HKU...has become a key higher education institution in China, playing an increasingly important role in China's development and integration with the world," Mr. Li said, at times pausing to ensure that each word was spoken clearly.

Arabic linguist establishes business back home

(Wicked Local Hingham)...Sheila Pietrzak

An Arabic linguist and light armored vehicle (LAV) commander for the U.S. Marine Corps from 1995 to 2003, Hurley also worked for two consulting firms in Washington, D.C., helping them to expand their product offering and build their businesses before hanging his own shingle in Hingham over one year ago. Hurley's company, Aegens, provides U.S. clients with language capabilities, as well as intelligence analysis including background checks, among other services.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Asian languages on the decline in Australian schools

(ABC Radio Australia)

Australia's trade with Asia may be on the rise, but it has not been matched by an improvement in language skills. In fact, Asian language studies have atrophied in Australian schools over the past decade. Only six percent of Australian high school students now learn an Asian language. A new curriculum will be announced later this year, but business leaders are warning that without drastic changes, Australia's competitiveness in Asia will be at risk.

Young Emiratis back globalism but fear for identity

(The National)...Afshan Ahmed

Young Emiratis welcome the idea of globalisation but are wary of the effect it may have on their culture, a report released by the Emirates Foundation says. The report is the result of a study carried out by Dr Raad Al Shawi, a professor at UAE University, among 500 Emirati youth. "The findings show that the positive attitude to globalisation does not prevent citizens from clinging to their identity," said Dr Al Shawi. Dr Al Shawi said his study revealed a sense of pride among young people towards the country's heritage, family cohesion and Arabic values and customs. But he suggested there should be initiatives to reinforce the Arabic language and culture in a global setting. Dr Al Shawi recommended the promotion of tolerance while keeping the Arabic and Islamic culture and history.

W&L to Host Three Virginia Governor's Language Academies for Five Years

(Washington and Lee University News)

Following the success of this summer's Virginia Governor's French Academy at Washington and Lee University, Dick Kuettner, coordinator of the program, has announced that W&L has been selected to host three such "full-immersion" language academies in French, German and Spanish simultaneously for the next five years. "We are all very excited at the prospect of having the very best foreign language students in the state of Virginia on our campus for the next five summers," said Dean of the College Hank Dobin. "And we're very grateful to Dick Kuettner for all of his work to bring the Governor's Academies to W&L."

Should My Kid Learn Mandarin Chinese?

(Wall Street Journal)...Tom Scocca

I started to truly appreciate the power of early childhood Chinese-language education when our son, at the age of two, started speaking English wrong. "The blue of cup," he would say, meaning his blue cup. This wasn't a random preschool linguistic hiccup, we realized. He was trying to use Chinese syntax: "of" was standing in for the Mandarin particle "de" to turn the noun "blue" into an adjective. And his odd habit of indicating things by saying "this one" or "that one"—he was rendering the Chinese "zhege" and "neige" in English. That is, he was speaking Chinglish. Fun, right? If building an optimized little academic and economic performer were all there is to it, we'd have pulled him out of bilingual preschool long ago. Luckily, the reality of having a little Chinese learner underfoot is messier and more entertaining than that.

Transfire Automatically Translates Chats In 50 Languages on Your iPhone

(Gotta Be Mobile)...Josh Smith

If you've ever wished for the ability to chat without a language barrier in the way, Transfire app for the iPhone is a must download app. This app acts like a [Babel fish](#) for your iPhone, automatically translating

your chat sessions into 50 languages in real-time. The [Transfire app](#) is a free download and connects to Google Chat, allowing you to communicate in real-time with friends, family and co-workers who speak another language.

[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.