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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 24 AUGUST 2011**

#### **Panetta: Language Training Critical to U.S. Interests, Security**

*(American Forces Press Service)...*Donna Miles

Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta today returned to the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center he championed as a congressman to praise the next generation of military linguists he called critical to the United States' future. Panetta told an assembly of about 2,500 soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines standing in formation on Soldier Field overlooking Monterey Bay that the language and cultural training they are receiving here is critical to the nation's economic, diplomatic and security interests. "It is absolutely vital to what the United States is all about," he said. "We live in a global world," the secretary said. "We have to understand that world if we ... are going to be able to not only defend this country, but to extend our relationships to others so that we can work together to defend the world that we live in."

**(For audio of Secretary Panetta's speech, please go to:**

**<https://www.wuala.com/duketate/Panetta@DLI/?key=vhV3q7k3HJH>).**

#### **Panetta Delivers Message Of Might In Visits To Monterey Military Institutions**

*(Monterey County Herald)...*Larry Parsons

Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta was back on his home turf Tuesday, visiting his native Monterey's two main military institutions. In the morning, Panetta spoke to a standing-room crowd of 1,500 faculty and students in the King Hall auditorium at the Naval Postgraduate School. Later, a cloudless, blue afternoon sky and thousands of service men and women in formation on the Soldier Field grass greeted Panetta at the Defense Language Institute.

#### **Marine SNCOs prepare cultural skills for duty**

*(dvids)...*Sgt. Deanne Hurla

"The future security environment demands that Marines of every rank possess increased understanding of the cultures, history, geography and demographics of the areas in which they will operate," said Gen. James Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, in regards to the Foreign Area Officer/Regional Area Officer program. Now, to supplement the FAO/RAO program, Marine staff non-commissioned officers are being called upon for the Foreign Area SNCO/Regional Area SNCO program. The purpose of the program is to develop strategic cultural insights to help Marine Air Ground Task Force commanders understand the complex human environment where Marines deploy. Regionally-focused FAOs clarify historical context, cultural significance, social perspectives and motivations of foreign societies and militaries.

#### **New Confucius Institute Expands W&M's Global Reach**

*(William & Mary News)...*Megan Shearin

A new institute devoted to promoting Chinese language and culture will enable the College of William and Mary to expand its global reach and strengthen its focus on internationalization in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Confucius Institute at William & Mary (WMCI), a collaborative program in partnership with Beijing Normal University (BNU) and the Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban), will work with the College to offer Chinese language and culture courses, provide teacher training, and support study abroad, officials announced Tuesday. Included in this institute will be a new partnership with local school districts and educational opportunities with higher education institutions throughout Virginia.

#### **Australia's diplomats overstretched: report**

*(Australia Network News)*

The report also found that staff from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs often lack the basic skills - particularly language skills - needed to effectively engage in diplomatic work. Only 10 per cent of

DFAT staff have a working-level proficiency in an Asian language. Jenny McGregor, CEO of Asialink - a group linked to the University of Melbourne which promotes public understanding of the countries of Asia region - says that language proficiency should be a priority. "There's no substitute for more than a working-level capacity in the language and we're making the point that in schools and in our tertiary institutions."

### **Indian troops complete joint exercise on Salisbury Plain**

*(British Forces News)*...Charlotte Cross

"What I have seen today shows that the application of technology and force multipliers acting as part of coalition forces far away from their mainland, building a logistical chain, and operating in a country with a different culture and language is a very valuable lesson my troops will take home. Any time two Armies get together like this there are phenomenal mutual gains."

## **PREVIOUS NEWS**

### **Biden Tells Chinese of Stuttering**

*(ABC News)*...Devin Dwyer

The thing that I'm most embarrassed about in my career of 38 years of having an opportunity to literally meet every major world leader in the last 38 years ... is -- and in the back of my head, I'm embarrassed in front of you -- I'm embarrassed I can't speak to you in Chinese," Biden confessed to his audience. "I would -- seriously -- I would rather be able to honor you and show my respect for you by speaking your language, as you honor me by speaking mine," he said. Biden said Chinese and American students who are studying to become bilingual will help bridge the language gap between the two countries and build continued goodwill.

### **Gen. Cone visits DLI**

*(Army.mil)*...TRADOC Public Affairs

General Robert Cone, commanding general of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), visited the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center Aug 17. "DLI has exceeded my expectations. What I saw was a sound and rigorous program that is fully taking advantage of technology and the imagination of the young generation of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines in the classroom and I think that the digital applications in technology and learning is what captivates the minds of these young 'millennials'," Cone said.

### **Students dive into language, culture**

*(Know - University of Texas)*...Jessica Sinn

Drinking tea in Russia symbolizes understanding and sharing with each other," said Cotey, a graduate teaching assistant and a native of Kazakhstan, a country in Central Asia. "Those who sit down at the dinner table must show appreciation and respect." This is one of the many cultural lessons students learned in the [Texas Language Center's](#) inaugural [Summer Language Institute](#), an intensive language immersion experience that allowed students to cover the equivalent of two years of language study. For 10 weeks, 18 students powered through two semesters of language courses taught by native-speaking lecturers and graduate teaching assistants. The program, which lasted from June 1 to Aug. 15, offered courses in Russian and Vietnamese. "These students have the wonderful opportunity to immerse themselves into a new culture on American soil," said Nadya Clayton, a lecturer in the [Department of Slavic and Eurasian](#) studies who taught second-year Russian during the first summer session of the program. "It's the next best thing to living abroad because they're taught by native speakers who often visit their homeland and keep up with the culture and language."

### **Vivat Latinitas!**

*(Slate)*...Ted Scheinman

At the beginning of the last century, A.E. Housman, that cantankerous giant of classical scholarship, was already complaining about "an age which is out of touch with Latinity." Around that time, philistines were

excising classics from the popular curriculum, and the subsequent 100 years have hardly improved Latin's apparent relevance in Western society. Classicists may tout the fact that Advanced Placement enrollment in Latin **doubled** between 1997 and 2007, but this mini-surge brought the number of upper-level high school Latinists to a minuscule 8,654—**literally 1 percent of the number of secondary school Latinists in the mid-1930s**. Like its nouns, Latin continues to decline. In the face of these grim prospects, I boarded a plane to Rome this summer to join the small network of scholars dedicated to preserving the language by actually speaking it. I found myself in the company of 16 other twenty somethings, puttering about the center of the ancient world chattering not in English or in Italian but —*ecce!*—in Latin.

### **A Virtual Trip to China Allows Middle Schoolers to Study Chinese**

*(Patch.com)*...Maureen Rossi

The future has officially arrived and Kings Park students are fully immersed. Last year a select group of middle school students from the gifted and talented program participated in a virtual learning program called MyChinese360. Piloted and paid for by Eastern Suffolk B.O.C.E.S., the program taught Kings Park children the fundamentals of Mandarin. "It was an interactive program with an instructor who was fluent in Mandarin and was located in China," said Dr. Ralph Cartisano, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Personnel.

### **Congressional Staffers Taste Soldier Life**

*(Military.com)*... Rob McIlvaine

"One of the things we try to do here is to train culture and language. Those are really the core skills when it comes to combat advisors, but at the same time we also have to teach combat skills, and you experienced some of that today. We train our guys how to drive MRAPs and medical skills. But the key thing is, out of the 157 tasks we have to train, we try to keep a balance between culture and language, and combat skills," he said. The model used for the advisors coming in, he said, is a 10-week course where they get language and culture training for a couple of weeks. This is followed by combat lifesaver, drivers training, weapons training, urban ops, and mounted combat patrol.

### **English the lingua franca in China**

*(The National)*...Daniel Bardsley

In a speech two years ago, the Chinese premier, Wen Jiabao, said there were 300 million people in the world's most populous nation studying English. Teaching English is a big business in China because, although all schoolchildren are supposed to take lessons in the subject from the age of six or seven, many parents believe it is worth paying for extra classes. Concerns are often raised that English is taught in schools with a view to just passing exams, so without additional training, children may lack the ability to communicate properly. According to figures reported in state media, the English-teaching industry was worth 15 billion yuan (Dh8.61bn) in 2009, and total revenues are increasing as much as 15 per cent annually. Estimates suggest 30,000 institutions in China offer English training, some online.

### **The benefits of e-learning a foreign language**

*(The Financial Express)*...Kevin Muller

Today, all of us dwell in a highly competitive world where "survival of the fittest" is the mantra, whether it's social, economic, political, biological or professional context we take into consideration. The need analysis reveals that apart from having a highly competent and efficient human resource, today's companies also have to have linguistically well equipped and culturally adapted mind sets in their workforce. A foreign language serves the purpose and also adds a flavour to the curriculum vitae.

### **Students step out of the classroom, into foreign country for intense language study**

*(Red and Black)*...Lindsey Cook

For students who studied abroad during the summer, hearing and speaking English also requires another adjustment from the last two months. This summer, university students traveled the globe to practice languages, discover new customs and live the foreign life. Back in America, with words of a different tongue in their heads, they're recommending study abroad to any student eager to improve his own language skills – and have an unforgettable time doing it.

### **Making the LEAP to a new culture**

*(Western News)*...Paul Mayne

Continuing Studies at Western, however, is working on making that changeover as seamless as possible through Language Enhancement Academic Program (LEAP), a mix of academic, cultural and social activities designed to help the students become comfortable with their new learning and living environment before the official start of classes. In its second year, LEAP is a 17-day program (52 hours) that includes classes, as well as social and cultural activities that will help students enhance their English language skills, make them more aware of the Canadian academic world as well as increase their social network.