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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 25 AUGUST 2011**

#### **U.S. defense secretary Leon Panetta tours Monterey area military institutions**

(Monterey County Herald / Mercury News)...Larry Parsons

At DLI with hundreds of faculty members packed in rows behind him, Panetta lauded the importance of teaching foreign languages and cultures. That is critical to the United States' role in the world, its economy and its national security, he said. "The reality of the world is that it's global, and we have to understand that world," he said.

#### **Remarks by Secretary Panetta at the Defense Language Institute, Monterey, Calif.**

(U.S. Department of Defense – News Transcript)

Full transcript of Secretary Panetta's comments while visiting the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in Monterey, California.

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

(DLIFLC/AFPS)...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.

#### **Cross-Cultural Skills: Essential for Expatriate Success**

(Chronicle of Higher Education)...Rudolph Young

Knowing the local language is not essential in every country, and learning languages like Arabic and Mandarin is not for the fainthearted. Learning a local language is less relevant when an expatriate is on a short-term contract or in countries such as Singapore or the United Arab Emirates, where English is widely spoken in the business and education worlds. Showing a willingness to learn the language may be more important than knowing the language. A mere greeting in someone else's language or the ability to say "thank you" or "you are welcome" projects respect, humility, and openness. Cross-cultural competence also comes into play in management styles. Expatriates may soon discover that participative management is not always the best method to use in their new setting.

#### **Troops receive final training before deployment**

(PhillyBurbs.com)...Mark Zimmaro

Saddled in Humvees and navigating convoys through dirt paths in a tree-covered area, the troops practiced detecting improvised exploding devices and, more important, reacting to one that has detonated. "Unfortunately, this is still the weapon of choice in Afghanistan," said Army Lt. Col. Hugh "Lee" Elmore, 1st Battalion commander of the 307th Stryker Regiment, 174th Infantry Brigade. "We try to make this training as realistic to something they might see in real theater in Afghanistan." Local foreign language speakers and village role players interact with soldiers during a training exercise at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst this week.

#### **Overcoming Our Dearth of Language Skills**

(Small Wars Journal - Blog)...Morgan Smiley

Several threads on Army Professional Forums (APF), primarily in the Counterinsurgency (COIN) Operations and Security Force Assistance (SFA) forums, discuss the relevance and importance of cultural and language training in preparing future Army leaders for this "era of persistent conflict" that many, including the former [SECDEF Gates](#) and former [CJCS Mullen](#), see as part of our future. In order to fully appreciate any culture we are learning about, especially if we expect to conduct operations in that particular culture, it follows that learning the language will not only help one learn about that culture but be

able to operate more effectively once immersed in it. A 2010 Small Wars Journal article by LTG Michael Vane ([The US Army's Shift to Irregular Warfare](#)) also notes the importance of culture and language training by the US military due to the changing nature of the global security environment in which state-on-state conventional wars have been supplanted by smaller scale regional conflicts, trans-national and non-state terrorist actions, and other irregular security challenges conducted among local populations and lasting several years if not decades.

### **The Pentagon's Foreign-Language Frustrations**

*(TIME - Blog)*...Mark Thompson

The current push to train soldiers to speak the local languages in Afghanistan and Iraq was "haphazardly thrown together," Morgan Smiley, an active-duty Army officer, **posted** on *Small Wars Journal*, an independent website, Tuesday morning. A recent government report makes clear that – a decade into the war in Afghanistan – the Pentagon continues to bumble teaching its troops the local languages, a skill that ground commanders say is as valuable as a soldier's skill with a rifle. Several hours later, defense chief Panetta praised the Pentagon's efforts to improve the language skills in its arsenal, but conceded "frankly, more needs to be done."

### **The 16th World Congress of Applied Linguistics opens in Beijing**

*(People's Daily)*...Wang Jinxue

On Aug. 24, the 16th World Congress of Applied Linguistics, reputed as "the Olympic in the field of applied linguistics", was inaugurated in Beijing Foreign Studies University. This is the first time that the Congress has ever taken place in China. Sponsored by the International Association of Applied Linguistics (AILA) and organized by China English Language Education Association (CELEA), Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU), National Research Center for Foreign Language Education, and Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press, the prestigious conference will last for five days from Aug. 24 to 28. It has attracted more than 1,500 participants from 63 countries and regions. They will discuss linguistic issues focusing on the Congress theme "Harmony in Diversity: Language, Culture, Society".

## **PREVIOUS NEWS**

### **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=vhV3q7k3HJIH>).**

### **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."

### **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.