
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 29 AUGUST 2011

Panetta: Language training critical to U.S. interests, security

(American Forces Press Service)... Donna Miles

Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta returned Aug. 23 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.

Bilingual babies' vocabulary linked to early brain differentiation

(EurekAlert)... Molly McElroy

Babies and children are whizzes at learning a second language, but that ability begins to fade as early as their first birthdays. Researchers at the University of Washington's Institute for Learning & Brain Sciences are investigating the brain mechanisms that contribute to infants' prowess at learning languages, with the hope that the findings could boost bilingualism in adults, too. In a new study, the researchers report that the brains of babies raised in bilingual households show a longer period of being flexible to different languages, especially if they hear a lot of language at home. The researchers also show that the relative amount of each language – English and Spanish – babies were exposed to affected their vocabulary as toddlers. The study, published online Aug. 17 in *Journal of Phonetics*, is the first to measure brain activity throughout infancy and relate it to language exposure and speaking ability.

Tennessee legislators make summer trip to China

(knoxnews.com)... Tom Humphrey

The organizer of a trip by 15 state legislators to China this summer says he returned with a "verbal commitment" from Chinese officials to match up to \$5 million in state money for establishing educational ties between the nation and Tennessee. The lawmakers, including Reps. Ryan Haynes and Harry Tindell of Knoxville, spent 10 days touring the Asian nation last month, to include a visit to the Hanban. Hanban, more properly known as the Chinese National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language, is affiliated with the Confucius Institute, a nonprofit public institution that promotes Chinese language and culture. According to its website, the institute is engaged in teaching the Chinese language at more than 300 locations around the world. Tennessee legislators were invited to China by Madam Xu Lin, executive director of the international Confucius Institute, through its University of Memphis operation, said Coley, a veteran of three prior trips to the People's Republic of China.

A look at the popularity of Mandarin as a foreign language

(Asian Correspondent)... Annie Chiu

Learning Chinese is becoming more and more popular around the world. It is reported that over 3,000 universities and colleges in 109 countries provide students with Chinese courses. In addition, more than 500 Confucius Schools have been set up around the world. Students in many countries, such as America, India, France and Russia can take Chinese courses. Even the Middle School students of these countries can choose Chinese courses as a second foreign language. First, Mandarin is becoming popular because of the great achievements that China has made in the last 30 years. Thirty years ago China was a poor and undeveloped country, but great changes have taken place in China since then. China has become the second biggest economy in the world. With the Beijing 2008 Olympics and the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai, the world has learned more about China and China has learned more about the world. China has played important roles in some international affairs.

Register for FLAG's World Language Program

(Suburban News – Press Release)

FLAG's World Language Program begins registration for the 2011-12 academic year. FLAG is offering French, Spanish and Mandarin classes to K-fifth grades, with levels appropriate to each child and in small class size. The Spanish II class complements the public school curriculum allowing the children to reinforce the oral skill they are learning in school. The French classes provide excellent preparation for children who will elect that language in sixth grade. In the Mandarin classes, children are introduced to the mandarin language and its rich culture.

PREVIOUS NEWS

After Cuts, Cornell Fights for Future of Eleven Languages

(The Cornell Daily Sun) ...Akane Otani

Cornell administrators and professors are fighting to save the university's "critical languages" program – which offers instruction in 11 lesser-known languages of national interest such as Thai and Khmer – after the federal government slashed approximately half of its funding on May 13. Provost Kent Fuchs decided in June that his office would temporarily provide 90-percent of the languages' lost funding. Beyond that, however, the future of the program looks bleak.

Lewis U's Startalk helps VVSD students learn a new language

(TribeLocal) ...Larry Randa

Twenty-three Valley View School District 365U high school students earned college credits while learning the basics of a new language over the summer through a free Lewis University program called "Startalk." "Students were selected on the basis of a number of factors, including their academic achievement and their commitment to continue studying the target language in the future," said Assistant Professor Serafima Gettys, coordinator of Lewis' Foreign Language Program.

Lockheed Martin (NYSE:LMT) Shows Off New Interpretation Service

(Stocks & Shares – Press Release)

Lockheed Martin (NYSE:LMT) has developed highly qualified linguist online interpretation service LinGo Link to remove language barriers. The service offers a real-time option that connects interpreters with different users at the same time. Macy W. Summers, Lockheed Martin (NYSE:LMT)'s IS&GS-Defense vice president, said, "Lockheed Martin (NYSE:LMT)'s unique solution provides language support to forces that in the past have not had access to qualified interpreters. LinGo Link serves as a force multiplier by allowing interpreters, skilled in multiple languages and dialects, to be used in different areas without the need to be physically present at each location".

First Day Of School For CMS

(Fox Charlotte)

It's a new era for Waddell formerly Smith Language Academy. It's a highly regarded K-8 foreign language immersion program. They made the big move to what was Waddell High School. As you might expect first day here is an adjustment. Ynez Olshausen, Principal says "a lot of tours going on today, teachers leading their kids around you can tell by their faces they look bewildered but they're enjoying it." Now because they're a K-8 you would think they'd be overwhelmed moving into a high school building but not so they had 24 mobile classrooms last year and the principal says they are using 100 percent of this building.

Cept to launch language courses

(Daily News & Analysis)

The Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology (Cept) University is all set to launch foreign language courses from September 12. The university will offer courses in French, German and Chinese languages. "Cept no more is an architecture only institute. It's a University and to expand its horizon, we have decided to launch this course in foreign language. When students will be architect or interior designers, they will also need command over languages of the countries they want to work in or clients they serve to. Basically, the initiative is to help students," said Khandwala.

[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 Zimmario

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 Death 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.