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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 02 SEPTEMBER 2011**

#### **Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta Speech to DLIFLC**

*(YouTube)*

Full video of the Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta's speech while at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center on August 23, 2011.

#### **Thunder Lab produces Afghan Air Force "Best of the Best"**

*(dvids)...*Capt Jamie Humphries

In October 2010, the lab fully integrated the first four Afghan female officer candidate school graduates who have recently arrived in San Antonio, Texas, to start the Defense Language Institute Program. Once they obtain the minimum score necessary to advance from DLI, the students will continue to rotary-wing pilot training at Fort Rucker, Ala., with hopes of returning to Afghanistan to support the AAF in the Mi-17 helicopter.

#### **GDIT leads team to upgrade DOD language center infrastructure**

*(Washington Technology)...*David Hubler

The five-year Foreign Language Training and Training Support Services indefinite-delivery, indefinite-quantity contract calls for the team to assist the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, according to a General Dynamics announcement released Aug. 31. For its part, General Dynamics IT will provide state-of-the-art language training facilities equipped with Wi-Fi, classrooms and lounge areas in the Washington, D.C., metro area. The company also will assist with foreign language instruction; curriculum development and documentation; infrastructure support for individual, small-group classes and instructors; and long-distance support and instructor quality control for Mobile Training Teams.

#### **Cutting Back on Kazakh**

*(Inside higher Ed)...*Libby A. Nelson

In the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks, a university that wanted to offer courses in Pashto or Farsi seemed to have a smooth road ahead. The Education Department increased spending on foreign language programs, especially those teaching rare languages, and student interest was on the rise. But a decade later, programs in those languages, as well as many others that are infrequently taught but considered strategically important, face elimination on campuses after deep federal budget cuts.

#### **Green Bay launches college International Baccalaureate classes to teach students to think globally, critically**

*(Green Bay Press Gazette)...*Patti Zarling

The diploma tract is a two-year program that covers six academic areas: language, second language, math, science, individuals and society and the arts.

#### **Learning the language for the job**

*(Statepress.com)...*Olivia Brunacini

There are approximately 35.5 million homes that speak Spanish in the U.S., according to a 2009 American Community Survey done by the U.S. Census Bureau. Out of these 35.5 million homes, 45.7 percent of them are not able to speak English. This makes Spanish the second most popular language in the U.S. As a result, one could make the argument that Spanish is also an "official" language of the U.S. However, the U.S. is not sensitive enough to this fact. Ingrid Pufahl, author of "Foreign Language Teaching: What the United States Can Learn From Other Countries," claims that foreign languages are considered less important than math, science and English and are more readily cut when math and reading test scores drop.

## **PREVIOUS NEWS**

### **Fort Carson troops reflect on impact of language**

*(DLIFLC)*...Brian Lamar

"Because our interpreter choked up, I kind of took the lead and called out to the checkpoint and told them 'Hey, it's us, don't fire! We're Americans!' explained Masterson. "Once they heard me and realized everything was okay, things calmed down. I am thankful that just because I had some language skills, I was able to diffuse the situation and things didn't end up tragically," said Masterson.

### **DOD Groups Speed Equipment to Warfighters**

*(American Forces Press Service)*...Karen Parrish

Cavileer said CTTSO-managed projects completed or near completion include software that models blast effects in urban areas, a force protection package for austere locations, technology to identify suicide bombers at range, an enhanced mortar targeting system, and automated foreign-language search and translation tools.

### **BETA TEST ANNOUNCEMENT AND SOLICITATION FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR USMC FOREIGN AREA STAFF NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER (FAS) AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS STAFF NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS (RAS) PROGRAM**

*(Marines.mil)*

The Marine Corps needs a cadre of language, regional and culture (LREC) subject matter experts (SME(s)) at the tactical level to understand and effectively navigate this security environment. The FAS-RAS program aims to create LREC SME(s) at the SNCO level with the following three skill sets: regionally focused undergraduate or graduate coursework including a focus in foreign history, politics, economics, culture, and military; foreign language ability measured to the 1-1 level on the defense language proficiency test (DLPT); regional experience equivalent to three months immersion in country.

### **Flying the flag for North Africa's 'Berber spring'**

*(BBC)*...Sylvia Smith

While there has been much talk of the Arab spring, ethnic Berbers have played a key role in the changes sweeping through North Africa, which is leading to greater recognition for their culture and language.

### **Free Word of the Day Service Supports Study of Middle Eastern Languages**

*(Market Watch – PRESS RELEASE)*

Transparent Language, a leading provider of language-learning solutions for the government, military, education, library, and consumer markets, announced today the addition of three Middle Eastern languages to its Word of the Day service. With the addition of Dari, Pashto, and Urdu, Transparent Language Word of the Day is now available in 19 languages, including Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, Esperanto, French, German, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, English for Portuguese Speakers, and English for Spanish Speakers.

### **U.S. Higher Education System Failing To Teach Core Subjects; Judge Blocks AL Immigration Law**

*(Campus Progress)*...Jon Christian

A recent report by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni claims that three-fifths of colleges and universities require students to take core courses in three or fewer of seven basic subjects including math and foreign language. Mandating core courses is a political issue on college campuses, where it can be seen as passing judgment on the offerings of departments. According to ACTA's scoring system, the majority of the 1,007 schools analyzed were assigned a 'C' grade or worse.

### **First day, first grade, new language? No problem**

*(Salt Lake Tribune)*...Lisa Schencker

For many Utah students, the days of starting foreign language instruction slowly, in middle or high school, are over. Horizon Elementary in Murray is one of 57 schools — 16 more than last year — offering dual-immersion language classes often starting in first grade. Students spend half the day with an English-speaking teacher, and the other half with a teacher who speaks entirely in a foreign language — Spanish,

French or Mandarin Chinese — focusing on various subjects in each language. By sixth grade, they're expected to be fluent in both languages.

### **More high school students take second foreign language**

*(China Post)*

The number of high school students taking second foreign language courses in Taiwan has increased 2.7 times in the past decade while those taking certifying tests for foreign language proficiency soared by seven times. Officials at the Ministry of Education (MOE) said yesterday that high schools started offering second foreign language courses in 2001 and total the number of students taking the class increased by 270 percent to reach close to 90,000 in 2010. As high as 90 percent of students have passed the proficiency tests at all levels while the total number jumped by 700 percent, they said.

### **Montenegro lags over language on path to EU**

*(New Europe)*...Ivan Delibasic

The European Parliament's Delegation for South-East Europe Vice Chairman [Jelko Kacin](#) has criticised the Montenegrin opposition for hampering the country's [EU](#) accession prospects. Kacin acknowledged the question of language and culture as being important, but highlighted that what was also at stake is the beginning of Montenegro's accession negotiations. The Montenegrin opposition is considering a parliamentary boycott after the 2 September debate on amendments to the Law on General Education if an agreement is not reached on the status of the Serbian language in Montenegro's schools. The opposition set granting of equal status to the Serbian and Montenegrin languages in the country's education system as the prime condition for its support for the reform of the election law required by the EU to commence the accession negotiations.

### **Will Gadhafi defeat bring new freedom for Berbers in Libya?**

*(CNN – OPINION)*...Peter Fragiskatos

While the rebels in eastern Libya appeared divided and have struggled to make gains, their [counterparts in the western Nafusa Mountains](#) have enjoyed much greater success. Over the past few months, they have secured control over a wide area near the Tunisian border, a strategic position that helped open the way toward Tripoli, where the Gadhafi regime appears to have met its end. All this from a group of [inexperienced fighters](#) whose ranks include doctors, professors, students and even taxi drivers. But there is something else that makes the Nafusa rebels different from those who fought in the east: Many of them are Berbers. Taking advantage of the uprising against Gadhafi, Libya's Berber minority, around 10% of the population, is engaged in a [cultural revival](#). The teaching of Berber language courses and the airing of radio broadcasts, acts punishable by torture or even death only a few months ago, are now openly practiced and Berber activists are adamant about preserving their newfound freedom.

### **Three-fifths of colleges get C or worse in general education**

*(Washington Post)*...Daniel de Vise

An analysis of core education requirements at 1,007 colleges found that three-fifths of those schools require three or fewer of seven basic subjects, such as science, math and foreign language. This is the [third annual report on general education](#) by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, titled What Will They Learn? The group has set out to illustrate the failings of America's colleges in requiring students to learn essential subjects over the course of their education.