
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 06 SEPTEMBER 2011

Female Engagement Team Making Progress on Radio Literacy Program

(ISAF-Afghanistan)

The Female Engagement Team (FET) from 495th Romanian Infantry Battalion 'Stefan Soverth' engaged village leaders in Morad Khan Kalay, Shah Joy district Aug. 26. The FET discussed Radio Literacy Program and trying to establish the program for the village with the elders. The elders said they agree that Radio Literacy Program is a good program for the village and that it needed to be started soon. There will be another shura to discuss implementation.

Engineer helps build bridges in Afghanistan

(The Bolton News – UK)

A ROYAL Air Force engineer from Bolton is putting his language skills to the test to help rebuild Afghanistan. Flight Lieutenant Dave Collins is a communications electronics specialist and has been mostly based in Cyprus with the Joint Service Signals Unit since joining the RAF. But last year the 28-year-old decided he wanted to do something different — so he started a 15-month course in Pashto, the Afghan language spoken by an estimated 40 million people in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, India and a number of other Asian countries. Now he is helping military leaders to build bridges with tribal people in an area renowned for insurgency. After completing the course, Flt Lt Collins, who is engaged to Hayley, was assigned to the Military tabilisation Support Group the Nade Ali (South) district Helmand Province, attached to 45 to Commando Royal Marines, work as a military interpreter. He was deployed to an area in the Bolan Dashte desert, which has a history of insurgent activity and very little influence from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIRoA).

Female Engagement Team interacts with local citizens

*(dvids)...*Staff Sgt. Rebecca Petrie

Soldiers from the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, known as the Stonewall Brigade, Female Engagement Team and 3rd Platoon, Alpha Battery, 2nd Regiment, 8th Field Artillery Battalion, along with members of the Afghan National Police, worked together to conduct a joint foot patrol through the bazaar in Qalat, Aug. 21. The purpose of the patrol was to get a feel for the general attitude and perception of the local population toward the ANP, and to give a show of female presence to demonstrate equality between men and women.

Language immersion program encourages participants to dive in headfirst

*(Chicago Tribune)...*Dawn Turner Trice

The summer before Leslie Lancry went off to college in 1986, she transformed the backyard and basement of her Winnetka home into her very own French language immersion school. She passed out fliers around her neighborhood and soon she had eight 4-year-olds who came every weekday for two months. It didn't matter whether they played bingo in the basement or ran through the backyard sprinkler. They spoke only French. "As I became a teen, I learned more languages and by the time I was 18, I was convinced that the younger children are when they're immersed in a language, the more quickly they pick it up," said Lancry, 43, who is fluent in six languages and is the founder and CEO of Language Stars, a Chicago-based foreign language institute. "That summer, not every parent knew they'd be thrilled, but I knew it would have an impact on the kids."

Japanese linguist helps revive an Aboriginal language

*(ABC News)...*Natalie Poyhonen

TONY EASTLEY: It's taken 40 years but from almost the ashes of extinction, an Aboriginal language has been saved and is again being spoken on Palm Island in North Queensland. The last living speaker of the

Worrongo language is a Japanese professor who created a dictionary after learning it from one of the last native speakers in the early 1970s.

PREVIOUS NEWS

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.

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.