
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 12 SEPTEMBER 2011

Ten years after 9/11, we're still in the dark

(Washington Post - Opinion)...Omar Ashmawy

As we honor the past, we must also commit to the future. This commitment must include an expectation that all Americans responsible for protecting us possess the education and knowledge to do so and be committed to accuracy and learning. A good place to start would be language and culture training for our soldiers, and training in Islam and Arab culture and history for policymakers. Similar education should be made available to local law enforcement and community leaders. At the height of the Cold War, we encouraged our best and brightest to study Russian language and history. Ten years after Sept. 11, this is a basic but necessary step. Ignorance is our vulnerability, and we must begin somewhere. Those individuals we remember Sunday deserve better. We all do.

Meeting the Educational Needs of Military Families

(DoD Live)...Robert L. Gordon III

A critical component of the education review is an assessment of the rigor and effectiveness of the academic curricula experienced by our military children, regardless of their location. By assessing curricula, we will identify where we can implement and encourage changes to ensure that our children are receiving the level of quality education needed to prepare them to be successful. The curriculum assessment will also include analyzing curriculum standards with a particular focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), early childhood education, transition issues, and foreign languages.

White House Chooses Four Service Members As Fellows

(American Forces Press Service)...Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.

Lt. Clay Pell is a Coast Guard judge advocate general. Pell executes regular Coast Guard exchanges with China to improve military diplomacy, instructs courses on human rights and military justice, and has prosecuted crimes for the U.S. Marine Corps. Prior to military service, Pell worked for the Central Intelligence Agency, State Department, and international law firms. Pell helped lead a national campaign to increase funding for inexpensive, lifesaving medicines for children under five, and has supported Progreso Latino, the International Institute, and the China Working Group in their drive to instruct foreign languages in local schools and provide critical services to communities of new Americans.

Sept. 11 propelled her into military, marriage

(Seattle Times)...Lornet Turnbull

On Sept. 12, 2001, the then-26-year-old called an Air Force recruiting station near where she lived to inquire about becoming an officer. "I felt like something had completely changed in the world — yet here I was getting up and going to this job that meant nothing, really," she recalled. She was sworn into that branch, which would train her in Arabic and prepare her for service in two wars and a career in intelligence. She had no idea what kinds of jobs might be available to her in the military. At Arizona State University, where she earned a degree in French, Lavelanet also studied Hebrew, took a year of Spanish and dabbled in Arabic. Lavelanet had to pass a special aptitude test to gain entry to the Defense Language Institute in California. Her scores were off the chart.

The importance of cultural competence

(Oncology Nurse Advisor)...Helen H. Miller

The United States is the most diverse country in the world. Its citizens are of all backgrounds, cultures, languages, races, ethnicities, and beliefs. This diversity presents a challenge to the health care professional. How can we ensure that we deliver the most effective care to each patient, regardless of his

or her heritage? Measuring your own cultural competency can shed light on the depth of your knowledge about cultures different from your own. It can also reveal what more you should learn about a specific population's beliefs and values. Georgetown University has developed the Cultural Competence Health Practitioner Assessment (CCHPA) for this purpose. Nurses can download an assessment from the university's Center for Child and Human Development Web site (www.gucchdgeorgetown.net/nccc/clcfoa/). The public health section of the American Medical Association's Web site provides information on eliminating health disparities (www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/physician-resources/public-health/eliminating-health-disparities.page), and the Oncology Nursing Society's Multicultural Toolkit (www.ons.org/clinicalresources/specialpopulations/Transcultural/Toolkit) is another informative resource on cultural competency.

Immigrants sending kids to stay with family overseas

(New York Daily News)...Lois Barrett

For the Vasilakos family of Queens, sending their children to Greece for the summer has become an annual ritual. For Anastasia, 17, and Nicholas, 14, it's a way to stay connected with extended family, learn the culture and polish their language skills. "I realized that to have them go to summer camp here is great, but the money I spend on summer camp, I could spend the same amount and send them to Greece," said Irene Vasilakos, 43, of Whitestone. Her children travel every year with her parents to Greece, spending time in Kefalonia and Sparta. Vasilakos said she is sold on the benefits. "They are exposed to the culture of their heritage, they pick up the language, they spend time with Grandma and Grandpa," she said.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Why Some Languages Sound So Fast

(Time)...Jeffrey Kluger

It's an almost universal truth that any language you don't understand sounds like its being spoken at 200 miles per hour - a storm of alien syllables almost impossible to tease apart. That, we tell ourselves, is simply because the words make no sense to us. Surely our spoken English sounds just as fast to a native speaker of Urdu. And yet it's equally true that some languages seem to zip by faster than others. Spanish blows the doors off French; Japanese leaves German in the dust - or at least that's how they sound. To investigate this puzzle, researchers from the Universite de Lyon recruited 59 male and female volunteers who were native speakers of one of seven common languages - English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin and Spanish - and one not so common one: Vietnamese. They instructed them all to read 20 different texts, including the one about the housecat and the locked door, into a recorder. All of the volunteers read all 20 passages in their native languages. Any silences that lasted longer than 150 milliseconds were edited out, but the recordings were left otherwise untouched. ([Read about the death of a language.](#))

David Boren to speak in D.C. today

(The Norman Transcript)

University of Oklahoma President David Boren will be in Washington, D.C., tonight to be honored at a reception that will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the National Security Education Program. Boren was a U.S. senator who chaired the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence when he authored the bill that created the language and overseas study program.

UK will not 'outsource' foreign policy, says William Hague

(Guardian)...Nicholas Watt

Britain will not "outsource" parts of its foreign policy to the EU external action service, William Hague declared on Thursday as he outlined steps to boost the role of the Foreign Office. A new language school for diplomats will open at the Foreign Office. In a dig at the last government, he said: "We saw the much lamented axing of the Foreign Office language school and reduced investment in language skills, which led to fewer people being trained languages, for shorter periods and in scattered locations, without the esprit de corps that comes from our diplomats studying languages together.

Fewer people abroad learn German

(The Local)

Around 15 million people are learning German as a foreign language overseas, five million fewer than just ten years ago, according to new statistics from the Goethe Institute.

Federal Government Paying For Kindergarteners to Learn Chinese

(Fox News)...Richard Irwin

To accomplish this, it has given Walnut Valley Unified a \$1.2 million *Foreign Language Assistance Program* grant. The government saw a need for more language instruction, especially in critical languages such as Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Japanese and Korean," Walnut program specialist Jenny Kwan-Hata said. "So it decided to give school districts money to develop new language programs."

Swiss Effort to Save a Language Opens a Rift

(Wall Street Journal)...Deborah Ball

As kids return to school in Val Müstair, high in the eastern tip of the Swiss Alps, they are also entering the front lines of a bitter battle: the fight over the future of a centuries-old Latin dialect. The municipality (population 1,600) is a stronghold of Romansh, a language imported by Roman occupiers 2,000 years ago and still spoken by most locals. Today, its villagers are up in arms over authorities' attempt to push a sort of Romansh Esperanto on locals—one that officials defend as the only chance to save one of the last living relics of the Latin language.

Digital Diplomacy

(TIME)...Sam Gustin

For decades, U.S. diplomacy was conducted behind closed doors along the corridors of power. That was before Facebook, Twitter and YouTube — and Alec Ross, senior adviser for innovation to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Over the past two years, Ross, 39, has been incorporating those digital platforms into the daily lives of U.S. diplomats. Dozens of U.S. ambassadors around the world now use Facebook and Twitter, and the State Department boasts nine foreign-language Twitter accounts. These technologies, Ross argues, give the U.S. a new suite of tools for exerting "smart power" to advance its interests.

DLI chief was moved into action after 9/11

(Monterey County Herald)...Larry Parsons

Army Col. Danial Pick recalls his immediate thought as he watched smoke billow from the damaged Pentagon after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. "My first thought was, 'We need to get off foreign oil.' Don't ask me why. I remember it as clear as if it were today," said Pick, commandant of the Defense Language Institute and Foreign Language Center in Monterey. Pick, a Middle East specialist and 1996 Arabic language graduate of DLI, had to wait until the start of the Iraq war to get into battle. But he put his language skills — he also speaks Farsi, Dari and Assyrian — to more immediate use, translating materials captured by U.S. forces fighting the Taliban after the invasion of Afghanistan.

Exchange to aid Italian-language students

(NorthJersey.com)...Merry Firschein

Twenty-five Italian high school students who study English will become part of the student body this autumn as part of a new weeklong student exchange program. Twenty Pascack Valley Italian-language students will visit their counterparts in May. The program is the brainchild of world languages instructor Barbara Borghi, who teaches Italian. Through the exchange, district administrators and educators believe district students will improve their spoken-language skills and more easily understand Italian in different dialects, Borghi said. Borghi also said she hopes her students will gain "a more global perspective on the world at large."

Mandarin Charter School Pushes Educational Boundaries

(Free Times)...Trevor Baratko

If China is among South Carolina's top five export markets, shouldn't the state's youth be trained in communicating with business leaders in that market? Enter East Point Academy in Cayce, a preschool-through-2nd grade Chinese-immersion public charter school that started its inaugural school year in August. As part of the South Carolina Public Charter School District, East Point was approved and funded by the state, according to SCPCD Superintendent Wayne Brazell. "Language immersion provides students with the opportunity to learn another language with proficiency while also mastering content in English," Matthews says.

Verbling is like a Chatroulette for learning languages

(VentureBeat)...Jolie O'Dell

Verbling has something better in mind: Learning a *foreign language* by chatting with native speakers who also want to learn the language you speak.