
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 14 SEPTEMBER 2011

Ten Years After 9/11, America Still Has a Language Problem

(Huffington Post)...Nataly Kelly

"Tomorrow is zero hour." These are the words of warning that were issued in a communication from al-Qaeda operatives on September 10, 2001. The message, written in Arabic, was intercepted [successfully by U.S. intelligence on the same day](#). U.S. intelligence did not translate the message until September 12, the day after the terrorist attacks. America has a language problem, one that has not been solved in the decade since 9/11 took place. In the past 10 years, multi-billion-dollar contracts have been issued to defense contractors in order to provide interpreters and translators in battle in Iraq and Afghanistan. Who's going to put out the blaze? Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta intends to try. Monterey is also home to the Defense Language Institute, which trains military personnel in foreign languages. In fact, it was here that Panetta spoke just two weeks ago, addressing 3,500 students and faculty members.

It takes more than soldiers to protect America

(Careers in National Defense – Linguistics)

The Department of Defense employs more than 700,000 civilians in an array of critical positions worldwide, with opportunities for people from all walks of life. If a [competitive salary, great benefits](#), unsurpassed training, and the pride of defending our nation interests you, then find your future with us. Video of Frank "Chip" Von Heiland, Air Force ISR Senior Language Authority, explaining the importance of language capabilities to "win the peace".

Williamson County schools set sights on developing bilingual kids

(The Tennessean)...Maria Giordano

Kindergartners in Williamson County could soon be on their way to becoming fluent in a second language. It's only a goal for now, but school officials in the district are working toward the idea and have narrowed down the language choice to Mandarin Chinese, German, Spanish or French. Ultimately, whatever is selected would be taught to students from kindergarten through 12th grade, much like students around the world are taught English as a second language. "We're one of the only countries in the world where students don't walk away from their school experience knowing a second language," said Director of Schools Mike Looney. "We want to make sure our graduates are globally competitive."

Japan creates online 'chat robots' to converse with language students

(Telegraph)...Danielle Demetriou

A Japanese company claims to have invented the world's first artificial intelligence "chat robots" designed specifically to converse with English language students. The online characters – dubbed "chatbots" – employ high-speed speech recognition technology enabling them to conduct real time spoken conversations directly with students.

MI5 recruits "telephone spies" to listen in on London 2012 plots

(Mirror)...Chris Hughes

MI5 is recruiting "telephone spies" to listen in on plots against the 2012 Olympics. The Security Service hopes to find candidates able to eavesdrop on potential terrorists by getting foreign language speakers to play an interactive "game" online. To apply, just log on to the official MI5 website. Under "current jobs" find the Foreign Language Unit Language Analyst job section, with a starter salary of £24,750. Wannabe spooks can then tune into an audio tape of a conversation in a foreign language and are later quizzed about it.

Spanish Interactive Program for Young Learners Created by Scotch Plains Mom

*(My Central Jersey)...*Amanda Seewald

After nearly 10 years of providing innovative and interactive language learning opportunities to students across the area, Scotch Plains New Jersey educator and mother of two, Amanda Seewald, has now made her MARACAS Las Cuatro Estaciones curriculum and accompanying songs available to other parents and educators at www.maracas123.com, debuting a product that is affordable and easy-to-follow as a primary or supplemental language learning tool for K-4 students in the classroom, or at home. Parents now have a fun, interactive, comprehensive program with which to introduce and/or continue their child's Spanish education at home, regardless of their own language skills, with music, interactive play, literature, crafts and exploratory learning.

PREVIOUS NEWS

9/11: A call to duty

*(Wicked Local)...*Dan Mac Alpine

Chad Freeman was supposed to be a language specialist in the U.S. Army. It's why he chose the army over the Marines, the branch more in keeping with family tradition. The army was going to give him the chance to study foreign languages. Send him to its Defense Language Institute. And the Army kept its word. After basic training, Freeman received his specialty training. He then went to Germany. Safe and snug. "I wanted to serve my country and study language. I'd been raised to be very patriotic. The Army gave me the chance to kill two birds with one stone," said Freeman, who entered the service after high school graduation.

Big Army Must Improve People Management Or Lose Talent

*(Aol Defense - OPINION)...*Sydney J. Freedberg, Jr.

And those advisors have been in short supply over the last decade. During the Cold War and the 1990s, advising foreign troops had been a Special Forces mission, disdained by the "Big Army," where service outside U.S. units was not a recognized specialty and in fact hurt a soldier's promotion prospects. There was and is a Foreign Area Officer career track specializing in work abroad, but to this day FAOs are notoriously unlikely to reach high rank. Anyway, after 2003, there were nowhere near enough Special Forces and FAOs to mentor the entire Iraqi army and police. So the military grabbed personnel wherever it could, throwing individuals with no foreign experience onto hastily trained advisor teams.

Language target set by leading university

*(China Daily)...*Chen Jia

With an expanding economy and increasing global role, China's need for speakers of less-commonly taught languages will soar over the next decade, and the leading foreign language university has pledged to meet the rising demand. "The current number of languages we cover, 48, can't meet future need, so we plan to cover 89 less-commonly taught languages by 2020," Chen Yulu, president of Beijing Foreign Studies University, said. Its initial target is to offer 73 of these languages by the end of the 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-2015). The first step will concentrate on five Central Asian, and several South Asian, languages.

Sept. 11 impacts university academics

*(The Daily Campus – UCONN)...*Keri Cachmar

The Arabic language program has also grown in the last ten years. Arabic was offered as part of UConn's "Critical Language Program" for many years. A full-time instructor in-residence was then hired in 2007 to accommodate the growing program. In the fall of 2005, there were 22 students enrolled in Arabic language classes. In fall 2010, there were 190 students. Maha Darawsha, the current Arabic instructor, has accounted some of the program's growth to an increased interest in the Middle East, its language and culture. According to Darawsha, prior to 9/11, many students enrolled in Arabic courses because Arabic is part of their heritage and they wanted to learn more. "After 9/11, the case changed, there are more students who want to just explore the culture and language," said Darawsha.

Translation app makes menus multi-lingual

(MSNBC)

Foodie culture has sent America's culinary adventurers into the deepest regions of their local ethnic neighborhoods in search of new delicacies. Unfortunately for more open-minded eaters, they often find themselves confronted with unintelligible menus written in an intimidating foreign language. A new app from Purdue University helps intrepid restaurant goers overcome that language barrier by not only translating the menu, but providing instructions about food allergies in a number of different dialects.

FBI agents to recruit OU campus

(The Oklahoma Daily) ...Jeremy Choat

A career workshop is looking for students to join one of the most recognized organizations in the United States. Two FBI agents are on campus today to recruit those interested in an FBI career. An FBI special agent recruiter will be present to explain career paths and answer questions. The workshop is open to all majors but is specifically targeting majors in accounting, economics, business, political science and the health field. An FBI foreign language coordinator will also be on hand to talk to foreign language speakers, especially any non-European languages.

Language Policy

(Slideshare)

PowerPoint Slides focused on language policy that incorporates major languages of the world.

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.