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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 15 SEPTEMBER 2011**

#### **SOF LEADER: A Salute to Special Operators, with Concern for Fraying of the Forces**

*(Special Operations Technology)...*Dave Ahearn (Interviewing ADM Eric Olson)

**Q: Understanding local cultures and languages is vital in conflicts of the 21st century. What are the major initiatives required to generate operators skilled in the languages and cultural skills for the AORs?**

**A:** To facilitate this understanding, SOF units strive to establish and maintain effective working relationships with our allies and key partner nations. This cooperation enables SOF to discreetly access regions where overt U.S. military presence may not be possible, train with indigenous forces, and ultimately shape the environment well ahead of the sound of guns and the start of major combat operations. On a practical level, the initiatives in this area all require the thorough review many of our military personnel policies with a focus on areas for innovation. For example, the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI) program is an illustration of how much capability can be recruited within the United States if we open our aperture to innovative personnel solutions. This concept should be broadened and institutionalized across DoD. The Afghanistan-Pakistan (AFPAK) Hands Program is another example.

#### **Worldview: Many Iraqis who helped the U.S. still awaiting visas**

*(The Inquirer Digital)...*Trudy Rubin

In July, I wrote about the plight of Iraqis who worked with U.S. soldiers and civilians but face death as "collaborators" when we leave. Their situation remains unresolved. Congress set up a special program in 2008 to grant these Iraqis 25,000 special immigrant visas (SIVs) over five years. Only 3,629 have been issued thus far; at least 1,500 are pending. "Ma'am: I am writing to tell you about the situation of the Iraqis who helped Americans here in Iraq. I have worked with the U.S. Army as a linguist [translator] for 17 months in Mosul, which is one of the most dangerous places in Iraq. I have been threatened by terrorists many times because of my job and I lost three members of my family as a result. I'm waiting to get the visa since March 2011. "It's very dangerous for me to stay in Iraq; now I can't see my family, I can't finish my school, and I can't have normal life as a human because too much people in Iraq think that everyone who helped the Americans is a traitor and should be killed. Please, if you can tell anyone to find a solution for us, because if the U.S. Army leaves Iraq by end of this year, we are all going to get killed by the militias."

#### **Army's Talking Technology**

*(SIGNAL)...*George I. Seffers

The U.S. Army is advancing language translation software. Military officials in Afghanistan cite the language barrier as one of the most vexing communications obstacles in the battlefield environment. It is a challenge, for example, for U.S. warfighters to communicate effectively with their coalition partners or with the Afghanistan National Security Forces, especially if they are talking over tactical radios during combat chaos. More critical still is the need for warfighters to communicate effectively with Afghan citizens and leaders at all levels. The U.S. Defense Department recognizes the vital role language translation plays in counterinsurgency operations. Robert Gates, former secretary of defense, issued a memo in May 2010 naming language as one of the seven pillars of the counterinsurgency strategy in Afghanistan, according to Michael Beaulieu, U.S. Army product director for the Machine Foreign Language Translation System (MFLTS). To meet the need, the Army hopes to begin initial fielding of a do-it-all language translation software by January 2015.

### **Huntsman Urges Students to 'Change the World'**

*(Patch.com)*...Carolyn Dube

It isn't everyday that presidential hopeful Jon Huntsman is welcomed by a marching band playing for his arrival, but Wednesday morning wasn't a typical morning for the former Utah governor. Huntsman's arrival in Merrimack marked his first campaign stop at a high school, where instead of speaking politics, he spoke Mandarin and instead of urging students to vote for him, he urged them to go out and change the world. Huntsman urged the students to stick with the language or any foreign language they decide to pursue, impressing upon them the value it will hold as they get older and experiences it will open up in their lives.

### **UNC language courses studied**

*(dailytarheel.com)*

UNC-system administrators are working to expand foreign language learning opportunities for students as part of an initiative they hope will save money in the long run. Representatives from 12 system schools participated in a teleconference Friday and discussed expanding the system's established language study consortia and creating new ways to collaborate, said Ruth Gross, head of N.C. State University's department of foreign languages and literatures, in an email.

### **Creole Program Gains Foothold**

*(Duke Today)*...Eric Ferreri

Created in 2009, the Creole course gained steam early last year when Duke faculty members created a much-publicized quickie version of it for medical personnel heading to Haiti following the devastating earthquake there. The program has since gained a foothold. Starting this semester, Creole satisfies Duke's foreign language requirement. Eventually, faculty in Romance Studies, where the course is based, would like to see it become a core piece of the Romance Studies curriculum and perhaps integrated into a Caribbean Studies concentration.

### **Belgium edges closer to forming government**

*(Financial Times)*...Stanley Pignal

Belgium edged towards a resolution of its [political stalemate](#) late on Wednesday, resolving a long-running dispute that has prevented the formation of a government since elections in June 2010. Negotiators from the eight political parties in talks to form a governing coalition reached an agreement on the linguistic status of Brussels suburbs, a highly-charged political issue that epitomizes the depth of divisions between the Dutch-speaking north and Francophone south of the country.

### **French FM attends language year launch**

*(China Daily)*...Zhang Yunbi & Zhao Shengnan

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe attended the opening ceremony of the French Language Year in China at Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU) on Tuesday with Chinese State Councilor Liu Yandong. BLCU started cooperating with Alliance Francaise, an international organization that aims to promote French language and culture around the world in 1998, with the construction of a French teaching center at the university.

### **Stanford researcher launches national K-12 English Language Learning initiative**

*(Stanford University News)*...Robin Migdol

Schoolchildren struggling to learn English in American public schools, and the educators responsible for teaching the language to them, will soon have resources to help ensure they meet the nationwide Common Core State Standards, in an initiative led by Stanford education Professor Kenji Hakuta. "This initiative is really to give access to the standards to a growing group of the student population which are English Language Learners – usually what happens is they're sort of an afterthought," said Hakuta, the Lee L. Jacks Professor of Education. "Let's try to better understand what the language needs are that are foundational to these content standards and try to be much more explicitly systematic in making that available to English Language Learners."

### **Berenstain Bears now speaking endangered language**

*(San Francisco Chronicle)*...James MacPherson

Papa Bear, Mama Bear and their cubs have helped children curb junk-food addictions and organize messy rooms for half a century. Now, from their tree house in idyllic Bear Country, the beloved Berenstain Bears are helping revive an endangered American Indian language. Lakota for the "Compassionate Bear Family," the animated series "Matho Waunsila Thiwahe" is the first animated series ever translated into an American Indian language and began airing this week on public television in North Dakota and South Dakota. Disney's classic movie "Bambi" was dubbed in Arapaho in the mid-1990s to help preserve that language and culture, but never before has an animated series been translated to help children learn new words and phrasings with each episode, said Wilhelm Meya, executive director of Lakota Language Consortium.

## **PREVIOUS NEWS**

### **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](http://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.

### **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.