
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 03 OCTOBER 2011

AFPAK Hand director makes a difference

(DLIFLC)...Natela Cutter

For a man who survived a suicide bombing two feet away from his vehicle and still carries pieces of shrapnel in his face, Navy Capt. James Muir, who runs the Afghanistan/Pakistan (AFPAK) Hands program at the New Kabul Compound, has a remarkable sense of humor. "What is really remarkable about our AFPAK Hands is that their language and culture skills have allowed them to work at very high levels. For example, a group of them work in the Afghan Presidential Palace and have literally set up a situation room, equivalent to what you would find in the White House," explained Muir, as the vehicle came upon a roadblock set up by Afghan security forces. In a split second, Muir jumped out of the car, said a few words in Dari and the roadblock disappeared.

Language and culture training top priority for U.S Army

(DLIFLC)...LT Scott Ghiringhelli

Over the years, DLIFLC has expanded its capabilities by establishing Language Training Detachments (LTD) throughout the United States and abroad in addition to the training done in Monterey, Calif. Originally, instructors came from DLIFLC to teach Modern Standard Arabic and Pashto, which later changed to Arabic Iraqi and Dari. As the program evolved, more languages and full-time instructors were added forming a LTD that is now able to offer language training to all the officers attending CGSC year round. Richard Coon, the DLIFLC Program Manager at Fort Leavenworth, says he has seen a steady 50 percent in the number of students taking foreign language while attending CGSC.

Montgomery police struggle to keep up with county's growing foreign language population

(Maryland Community News Online)...Jeremy Arias

Mauricio Veiga, one of Montgomery County's foreign language-speaking police officers, says his Spanish fluency is a daily reminder of how important communication is to effective law enforcement. Veiga's language skills keep him in high demand. Sixty of the department's foreign language officers are Spanish-speakers, yet 70,471 of the county's 129,705 Spanish-speaking residents reported speaking English "less than very well," in a 2009 census survey. That works out to about 1,174 residents per Spanish-speaking officer. Spanish is the most widely-spoken foreign language in the county, followed by Chinese and African languages, according to the census survey.

Asia soars as its middle class rises

(The Sydney Morning Herald)...Matt Wade

The boom to our north will create a new world of mass consumers and Australia must find a way to know them. Jeffrey, who until recently worked at the Australian National University, says there needs to be more Australians in every walk of life with a better knowledge of people and places in Asia. "A coherent language policy would help," he says. "Teaching languages in Australia is difficult because of political compulsions, costs and the fact that seven or eight languages can make a case for being 'important' to Australians. But there are ways of ensuring substantial numbers of Australians become proficient in major Asian languages and, in doing so, engage regularly with friends and associates in Asian countries."

Williamson schools may teach Chinese in K-12

(The Tennessean)...Maria Giordano

The Williamson County School District's strategic plan calls for implementing a second-language program for kindergarten through 12th-grade students. School officials have not yet decided on which language, though they have narrowed the choices to Chinese, Spanish, French and German. A proposed partnership with the University of Memphis' Confucius Institute would set up a foundation for a Chinese

program. "In order for our children to be competitive, they need to know a second language," said Director of Schools Mike Looney. "Chinese is one that has bubbled to the surface early."

PREVIOUS NEWS

Listen: 10 Celebrities Who are Bilingual

(Entertainment Online)

Some can boast of such a feat while the rest of us just wish we paid attention in our **foreign language** classes. Check out and listen to these stars who not only paid attention, but attained proficiency.

This War Can Still Be Won

(New York Times)...Fernando M. Lujan

I am an Army Special Forces officer by trade, and spent the past year leading a small team of Dari- and Pashto-speaking Americans whose mission was to embed with Afghan Army units. We went weeks wearing Afghan uniforms and sleeping at tiny outposts, eating local food and staying up late speaking with Afghan soldiers in their own languages. While I can't pretend to know the intricacies of Afghan-Pakistani politics (nor can most "experts" on the evening news), I can describe the truth on the ground.

'Guardian angel' saves life of Gateway Inn employee

(San Antonio Express)...Spencer Berry

A Georgian army officer studying at the [Defense Language Institute's English Language Center](#) recently used his medical training to help save the life of a civilian employee at the DLI campus.

504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade Female Engagement Team makes a positive impact

(dvids)...Spc. Darryl L. Montgomery

Soldiers from Combined Task Force Viper helped organize a women's shura at the Spin Boldak District Center, Sept. 18, to interview local women and learn about their the areas of concern in the community. The 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment of the 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade attended the shura after an invitation was offered from the Spin Boldak District Gov. Abdul Ghani. Approximately 140 Afghan women and 40 Afghan children attended to discuss issues of concern with local leaders, according to Capt. Katherine Redding. The female soldiers involved are part of the Army's new Female Engagement Team program designed to help reach out to the women and children of Afghanistan.

In Battle to Save Chinese, It's Test vs. Test

(Wall Street Journal)...Brittany Hite

Chinese students' obsession with learning English is apparent. Chinese cities are littered with billboards and fliers for teaching institutes, and the demand for native-speaking teachers and tutors seems endless. For many, the TOEFL, or Test of English as a Foreign Language, ranks second only to the [infamous gaokao](#) college entrance exam as a driver of candle-burning study habits. Worried that this preoccupation with English is contributing to a decline in native language skills, officials at the Ministry of Education are now trying to get students to return to their linguistic roots. How? By introducing another test.

DLIFLC commandant examines language mission in Afghanistan

(DLIFLC)...Natela Cutter

Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center Commandant, Col. Danial D. Pick, spent a week during the Sept. 11 ten-year anniversary examining the Institute's language mission in Afghanistan. "I wanted to take a look at how effective our language training had been down range, and to be able to take those lessons learned back to the Institute to help improve our programs," stated Pick. DLIFLC has an active role in teaching language and culture to members of the Afghanistan/Pakistan (AFPAK) Hands, a program initiated by Adm. Mike Mullen in 2009 to train officers and senior enlisted servicemembers language and culture, enabling them establish rapport with the Afghan people and aid in the transition of power from coalition partners to the Afghan government.

Afghan colonel provides security, language assistance

(DLIFLC)...Natela Cutter

"I have about 500 students passing through here every two months," said Saberi, with a broad smile, but simultaneously shaking his head while working with his remote control to catch the evening news, this time about an insurgent rocket firing into the U.S. Embassy compound. Despite the news, Saberi has patience with his guests, several U.S. officers who have come to seek his help with support in language training for a group of newly minted Afghanistan/Pakistan (AFPAK) Hands. The AFPAK Hands program, initiated by Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 2009, is designed to provide language and culture training to officers and senior enlisted servicemembers for the areas they will be deployed to, thereby accelerating the transition of responsibility to the Afghan National Security Forces and Afghan government.

Lack of language skills costing British firms £21 billion

(Fresh Business Thinking)...Marcus Leach

The Forum of Private Business is warning that poor foreign language skills cost British businesses £21 billion per year, leaving them behind large companies which are increasingly investing in multilingual staff. Cardiff University's 2007 'Costing Babel' research revealed that UK businesses miss out on £21 billion annually in lost contracts. It followed an earlier study showing that the demand for non-English language skills in large European companies is greater than the demand for English — often seen by UK small and medium businesses (SMEs) as the international 'lingua franca' of business.

Female shura seeks education solutions

(RC-East.com – Combined Joint Task Force – 1)...1st Lt. Jeff M. Nagan

In post-Taliban Afghanistan, many women are emerging from the shadows after decades of oppression to meet unique challenges of a developing government. Despite years of progress, women still struggle to have a voice. In an effort to strengthen communication between women living in the villages of Surkh Rod, a district just west of Jalalabad, and the Department of Women's Affairs, community leaders held an all-female shura at the district center Sept. 19. "We want to get communication flowing between the districts and the provincial line directors," said U.S. Army Maj. Patricia Poindexter, Nangarhar Provincial Reconstruction Team female engagement team leader, "and that's exactly what happened here."

Minorities seeking recognition in new Libya

(Press TV)...Johnny Miller

Music is being played and the flags are being waived by the Tamazight people of Libya, also known as Berbers. With their own distinct language and culture, there's an estimated 700 000 of them in Libya or 10 percent of the population. They joined the revolution right from the beginning and now they want their rights. Gaddafi, also, effectively banned the speaking of the Tamazight language and refused to allow it to be taught in schools. The repealing of this ban is central to the Tamazight demands in this new Libya. Tamazight fighters have been instrumental in helping to overthrow Gaddafi's forces. Many of them are currently battling loyalist resistance in the southern town of Sabha. Meanwhile on the political front, the first Libyan National Tamazight Conference in Tripoli is a sellout. Their politicians and activist are pushing hard already for recognition of their culture.

Hit movie stirs up more interest in Aborigine culture

(Taipei Times)...Staff Writer

The film *Warriors of the Rainbow: Seediq Bale* has not only been a huge hit at movie theaters, but it has also attracted much attention in the nation's college classrooms. In addition, interest in Aborigine culture has started to blossom in higher education institutions. The Department of Ethnology at National Chengchi University has seen a surge in the number of students attending its long-standing Aboriginal languages course. Although the department has offered the course since 1997, student registrations increased threefold this year.