
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 05 OCTOBER 2011

Third Language Enabled Airmen Board meets, selects participants

(Af.mil)

Air Force foreign language experts recently met at the Air Force Culture and Language Center here to select the latest participants for the Language Enabled Airman Program. Nearly 600 people from across the Air Force applied for the program. Barbara Barger, the Air Force Senior Language Authority, will validate the results, and selected members will be notified no later than Oct. 17, said officials at the AFCLC. The target goal for this selection board was 300 new LEAP participants. LEAP is a career-spanning program to select, develop and increase Airmen's foreign language capability and cross-cultural competence, according to Jay Warwick, the AFCLC deputy director and the head of the AFCLC's language department.

Not So Foreign Languages

(Inside Higher Ed)...Scott Jaschik

[West Virginia University](#) announced this semester that it no longer has a department of foreign languages, and that's not because budget cuts eliminated any programs of study. Rather, the university renamed the program; it's now the department of world languages, literatures and linguistics. Across the country, [Grossmont College](#), a two-year institution in Southern California, changed its foreign languages department to a world languages department this fall as well. These colleges follow others that have made that switch over the last five or so years. In Massachusetts, the Five College Foreign Language Resource Center was renamed the [Five College Center for the Study of World Languages](#).

Faculty tries to assuage language woes

(SMU The Daily Campus)...Elizabeth Russ & Denise DuPont

We would like to thank Arnaud Zimmern very much for supporting the study of foreign languages at SMU in his recent column, "Don't let foreign languages fall to the wayside." In the fall of 2008, when the General Education Review Committee began to discuss the new university curriculum with groups on campus, the first comment we heard was a request for enhanced language instruction. Members of the Student Senate spoke of this need first, and their petition was echoed by faculty from divisions all over SMU. With the implementation of the new university-wide second language requirement in the fall of 2012, all students who are not already bilingual will be expected to improve their skills in a second language to the equivalent of two semesters past their level upon enrollment at SMU, up to the end of the intermediate sequence of the language of their choice.

Dual-language classes put Unified English and Spanish speakers in one room

(The Journal Times)...Lindsay Fiori

"El agua está destruyendo nuestro castillo," she said Thursday, telling the kindergarteners seated around her that the water was about to destroy their sand castle. "I don't like when that happens." As Faz spoke, her Spanish and English students all caught on and responded accordingly. They held up paper plates they'd drawn sad faces on to show the sand castle-destroying wave would make them "triste." It was a standard day in Faz's dual-language classroom at Jones Elementary School.

Learning Chinese offers Murfreesboro students window on the world

(The Tennessean)...Meagland Ragland-Hudgins

For the second year in a row, Murfreesboro City Schools' [Discovery School](#) at Reeves-Rogers is hosting a teacher from China. Ye Cheng's visit, which will last the entire school year, was funded by the Teachers of Critical Languages Program run by the U.S. Department of State. The program is open to American

schools looking to develop or establish a program in Chinese or Arabic. Cheng has taught English in China for 13 years but didn't learn the language in a school setting.

[Ireland 'needs clear strategy' for foreign language education](#)

(School Days)...Donal Walsh

Primary and secondary schools need to do more to provide their students with a good knowledge of foreign languages if Ireland is to compete on the international stage. This is according to a study from the Royal Irish Academy (RIA), which warned a lack of skills in this area could be damaging the country's economy, RTE reports.

[PREVIOUS NEWS](#)

[Education Secretary would like schools to teach foreign languages to children aged five](#)

(Re:locate)

Michael Gove, United Kingdom Education Secretary, has told a national newspaper, ahead of his speech at the Conservative Party Conference this week, that **he would like to see foreign languages being taught in primary schools from the age of five.** "There is a slam-dunk case" he told The Guardian, "for extending foreign language teaching to children aged five." "Just as some people have taken a perverse pride in not understanding mathematics", he continued, "so we have taken a perverse pride in the fact that we do not speak foreign languages, and we just need to speak louder in English. **It is literally the case that learning languages makes you smarter. The neural networks in the brain strengthen as a result of language learning.**"

[Atkinson says foreign languages are key | Reporter Newspapers](#)

(ReporterNewspapers.Net)

The new **superintendent of DeKalb County Schools, Ms. Cheryl Atkinson**, said her top priority is to see all DeKalb County (Georgia) students prepared to compete in a global economy. **Atkinson said increasing foreign language courses will be key.** "Our students are going to need to be able to communicate in different languages and they can't start when they're in high school," Atkinson said. She said countries like India and China start teaching children English as soon as they begin school so they are proficient in two languages by graduation. "We must do the same for our children if they are going to compete," Atkinson said. "This world is getting smaller every day and we've got to take it seriously."

[Future of Naval Warfare: More Mundane, Less Thrilling - Blog](#)

(National Defense/NDIA)

Both the Navy and Air Force, the Secretary of Defense has said, "have to be prepared for the high end" of conflict, says **Rear Admiral Sinclair Harris, Director of Navy's Irregular Warfare Office.** "While all this is important, the Navy is still going to be called upon to do these [irregular] missions," he adds. "My goal is to show them that we have to continue building multi-mission capability. We have to have ships, aircraft, sailors that can operate across the spectrum of warfare. ... We don't need specialized ships for irregular warfare," he says. "That would be a waste of our money and time. ... [But] we need trained expertise." Harris says it is important for the Navy to continue to invest in Sailor training and education, so they are better prepared for the jobs they will be asked to do. **Learning foreign languages is key, he says. The Navy Language Regional Expertise and Culture program is one example. It prepares Sailors to be able to better communicate with foreign allies, he says.**

[Marine Female Engagement Team gears up for spring deployment](#)

(Defense Video and Imagery Distribution System/DVIDS)

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. - **A group of 48 female Marines** are about to prove **why women matter in war.** The new Female Engagement Team (FET) formed and met for the first time here recently to begin training for its upcoming spring deployment to Afghanistan. The FET program evolved from the Marine Corps Lioness program where female Marines were assigned to search the Iraqi women and children because cultural norms forbid men from touching or speaking to them. "It started out as a trial period," said Sgt. Sheena Adams, FET platoon leader and instructor. **"Marines learned the**

language and went out there to try to talk to people to see how the community turned toward them." The Marines will undergo scenario-based training to help them learn how to interact with the women, embed themselves in the culture and prepare themselves for any situation. The Marines also have a chance to learn Dari and Pashto, two prominent spoken languages in Afghanistan to allow the Marines to break down language barriers as much as possible.

MEU to deploy with new force-protection gear - Marine Corps Times

(Marine Corps Times)

When members of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit deploy next year, their packing list will include some of the Corps' newest nonlethal force-protection gear. Some equipment, such as face masks, shin shields and batons for riot control, won't be new to Marines. But other pieces, such as the SQU.ID, a hands-free language-translation device, will be. The SQU.ID, made by the same company that produced the Phraselator that Marines use now, can be carried in a holster and hooked onto the MOLLE system on a Marine's body armor. It can translate English into another language, such as Dari, as a conversation is taking place. By comparison, the Phraselator requires typing and more limited options.

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.

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.