
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 14 OCTOBER 2011

North Georgia to train junior Army officers in foreign language, culture

(North Georgia News)

A small group of newly commissioned Army officers will get intensive foreign language training at North Georgia College & State University as part of a Department of Defense initiative. Various agencies, including the Department of Defense and the House Armed Services Committee, have identified a critical need to have junior officers trained in both foreign language and culture -- especially Arabic, Chinese and Russian. To meet that objective, North Georgia has received a \$150,000 grant from the National Security Education Program to pilot a Department of Defense Language Training Center.

Merseyside soldier honoured for service in Afghanistan

*(Liverpool Echo)...*John Sutton

Lance Corporal Alex Morgan, 27, of 1st Battalion The Irish Guards, was awarded a Joint Commander's Commendation in recognition of his contribution to the operation. L/Cpl Morgan, from St Helens and a former pupil of St Edward's College, acted as patrol linguist during the Battalion's 2010/2011 tour of Afghanistan. He completed an intensive course in the native Pashto tongue and was able to communicate directly with the local people and break down cultural barriers, vital to winning the hearts and minds battle against the Taliban.

Nigeria: Indigenous Language, A Veritable Tool

(allAfrica.com)

A PROFESSOR of Yoruba, Oluyemisi Adebawale of the Department of Linguistics and Languages, Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, has said that for Nigeria to be relevant in the globalised world, it must place emphasis on rejuvenating and sustenance of its indigenous languages. "There is need for creative writers to write in the indigenous African languages. Since literature serves as cultural repository, it is worthless trying to use a totally strange and foreign language to preserve African culture."

University's Center for 21st Century Studies Includes Nomadic Study-abroad Experience

*(Targeted News Service)...*Press Release

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University issued the following news release: Featuring a nomadic international immersion experience at the heart of a yearlong course of study, the Center for 21st Century Studies has been launched as a signature program in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences for undergraduates throughout the university. The first cohort of students will begin together in January of 2012 with the introductory course 21st Century Studies (C21S 2104). Next summer, the group will travel to Morocco, Istanbul, and Sri Lanka over a five-week period, and engage in seminars, performances, home stays, and service learning, as well as research and creative scholarship projects. The new center's curriculum is designed to empower students to engage with emerging economic, political, and social structures with special attention to the issues of sustainability, justice, and cultural survival.

Cutting art, music, foreign language from high school graduation requirements will have big impact

*(Mercury News)...*Sharon Noguchi

It's hailed by some as a way to cut California's 18 percent dropout rate, and condemned by others as the beginning of a two-tier education system that will limit poor students' futures and decimate art, music and foreign-language studies. A new law that enacts a seemingly small change, allowing students to count one vocational class as credit toward graduation, has both supporters and detractors predicting a major shift in high school education. Backers depict AB 1330 as a start toward teaching students job-market

skills, through courses such as keyboarding, medical assisting and metal shop. The law goes into effect for the 2012-13 school year.

PREVIOUS NEWS

'Women, War & Peace' Highlights Changing Females' Roles in Global Conflicts

(PBS.org)

That's the subject of a five-part series produced by our PBS colleagues at WNET New York. This excerpt tells the story of an all-female Army team reaching out to women in rural parts of Afghanistan. The U.S. military in Afghanistan realized it had made a crucial mistake. It was failing to connect with half the country's population. Rural Afghan women, though rarely seen by outsiders, hold the key to understanding life in the villages. By not fully engaging them, the military was missing out on a vital source of information and an opportunity to win hearts and minds. In tribal Pashtun areas, women are often forbidden from interacting with men unless bonded by marriage or blood. The all-female units give the military new access to a world that was formerly out of reach.

Chinese classes booming at Pasadena City College

(Los Angeles Times)...Joe Piasecki

A Pasadena City College program that teaches Chinese language and culture is growing in popularity and prestige. Once consisting of only four classes, the college's Chinese Language Program now offers 18. The school plans to further expand the program next semester to include study abroad opportunities and a special course on doing business in [China](#). PCC is also the only school in Southern California authorized to administer the Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi, an international Mandarin [Chinese](#) proficiency exam required by the People's Republic of China for those who wish to work or study there.

Upper Saddle River parents push for foreign language program improvements

(NorthJersey.com)...Rebecca Greene

Spanish, the one language the district has picked as a focus for the last 10 years since the state mandated the teaching of a world language on the elementary and middle school level, is offered at all grade levels in the district. And though Spanish meets state requirements, Browne said she didn't think the current curriculum met the expectations of the community. Spanish must be taught at least once for a minimum of 20 minutes every six to 12 days in the lower grades, through art, music and video instruction. Middle school students in grades 6-8 receive language everyday for a full class period, and this has not changed, even after funding was reduced. "A reduction in our workforce reduced our world language program in 2009," Browne said. Board trustee Jill Stollar asked Browne to remind parents that while the district is willing to review reasonable alternatives to make the world language program more effective, staff and budget concerns are paramount.

Bilingual voting ballots ordered in Va., 24 other states

(The Associated Press)...Hope Yen

In the run-up to the 2012 elections, the federal government is ordering that 248 counties and other political jurisdictions provide bilingual ballots to Hispanics and other minorities who speak little or no English. That number is down from a decade ago following the 2000 census, which covered 296 counties in 30 states. In all, more than 1 in 18 jurisdictions must now provide foreign-language assistance in pre-election publicity, voter registration, early voting and absentee applications as well as Election Day balloting.

Sacramento County must provide ballots in Chinese, US says

(Sacramento Bee)...Phillip Reese & Anita Creamer

The mandate was triggered by new census figures and the US Voting Rights Act. The change is the latest indication of phenomenal growth in the county's Chinese community, which added about 75 residents a month during the last decade.

Hearing Bilingual: How Babies Sort Out Language

(New York Times)...Perris Klass, M.D.

Once, experts feared that young children exposed to more than one language would suffer “language confusion,” which might delay their speech development. Today, parents often are urged to capitalize on that early knack for acquiring language. Upscale schools market themselves with promises of deep immersion in Spanish — or Mandarin — for everyone, starting in kindergarten or even before. As the relatively new science of bilingualism pushes back to the origins of speech and language, scientists are teasing out the earliest differences between brains exposed to one language and brains exposed to two.

Global Competence: The Knowledge and Skills Our Students Need

(Asia Society)...Anthony Jackson

In matters of national security, environmental sustainability, and economic development, what we do as a nation and in our everyday lives is inextricably intertwined with what governments, businesses, and individuals do beyond our borders. This new reality helps us more clearly define the role that education must play in preparing all students for success in an interconnected world. The United States have invested unprecedented resources in education, betting that our outmoded, factory-age system can be fundamentally transformed to prepare students for the rigors of a global economy. They have challenged states and school districts to set clearer, higher standards and assess student progress in more creative ways, prepare more productive teachers, and provide effective intervention in failing schools.

Raytheon Shows the Army a universal Translator App

(Wired)...Spencer Ackerman

Raytheon believes it has created technology the U.S. Army has long sought: an app that will allow its soldiers to communicate with locals. TransTalk knows about 80,000 words in Iraqi Arabic and 30,000 more in Afghanistan's languages, such as Dari and Pashto. Users speak English into the device, and the app speaks back in the desired language.

Lindblom Arabic-language students in Qatar

(Chicago Tribune)...Noreen S. Ahmed-Ullah

A high school trip to [Qatar](#) has become more than just a cultural exchange for a group of Lindblom Math and Science Academy students. The 19 high schoolers — freshmen through seniors who are studying Arabic — are also looking at water conservation issues in [Doha](#) and are putting together a short film about their experience with the help of Alexandra Cousteau, the grand-daughter of legendary environmentalist Jacques Cousteau. Paid for by [Washington, D.C.](#)-based the Qatar Foundation International, the Lindblom students have been paired with students in Doha as they've visited a desalination plant, cleaned a beach, explored Qatar's mangroves and conducted experiments looking at the dangers of ocean acidification.

A Balanced Approach to Bilingual Education

(Patch.com)...Jeffrey Ristine

Dual language immersion, sometimes called two-way immersion, was introduced in Canada more than 40 years ago and is widespread in the U.S. with at least 224 programs in California alone, according to the state [Department of Education](#). Spanish is the most popular second language statewide but other partner languages in California include Korean and Mandarin. In San Diego County, nine districts offer a two-way program in one or more schools; Chula Vista has a particularly active program.

Students who speak 145 languages pose diverse challenge for Palm Beach County schools

(Palm Beach Post News)...Jason Schultz

"De hond heeft mijn huiswerk opgegeten." That means "the dog ate my homework" to the 21 Palm Beach County School District students who speak Dutch as their primary language. "Tabestan madreseh tatil ast." That means "school's out for summer" for the 49 students who speak Persian or Farsi, a language common in parts of Iran. Those are two of the 145 languages that district students from more than 200 countries reported as their primary language this year. Although about 96 percent of students speak one of three languages - English, Spanish or Haitian Creole - the school district uses an array of volunteers,

pictures and dictionaries to serve children in languages that district officials sometimes can't pronounce, let alone speak.