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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 17 OCTOBER 2011**

#### **New American Duo Pursues Warmer Relations With Afghan President**

*(Wall Street Journal)*...Maria Abi-Habib

The U.S. is trying to improve troubled relations with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, installing a new ambassador and military commander who Afghan and allied officials say are already beginning to improve frayed ties. Ambassador Ryan Crocker and U.S. Marine Gen. John Allen, in interviews with *The Wall Street Journal*, cited what they saw as improvements in the relationship with Afghanistan's president, who has made increasingly strident anti-American remarks over the past year. Mr. Crocker, 62, has decorated his residence with Islamic calligraphy and a framed photo showing Mr. Karzai with the president's son Mirwais. He speaks Arabic, which although it isn't spoken here, gives him respect among the population, whose holy book, the Quran, is in the language.

#### **Talk like Yoda? We may have originally**

*(MSNBC)*...Natalie Wolchover

Many linguists believe all human languages derived from a single tongue spoken in East Africa around 50,000 years ago. They've found clues scattered throughout the vocabularies and grammars of the world as to how that original "proto-human language" might have sounded. New research suggests that it sounded somewhat like the speech of Yoda, the tiny green Jedi from "Star Wars." There are various word orders used in the languages of the world. Some, like English, use subject-verb-object (SVO) ordering, as in the sentence "I like you." Others, such as Latin, use subject-object-verb (SOV) ordering, as in "I you like." The researchers came to their conclusion after creating a language family tree, which shows the historical relationships between all the languages of the world. Out of the 2,000 modern languages that fit in the family tree, the researchers found that more than half are SOV languages. The ones that are SVO, OVS and OSV all derive directly from SOV languages — never the other way around.

#### **France imposes tough language rule**

*(UPI.com)*

A change to France's immigration rules will require would-be citizens to give written proof of their competency in the French language beginning Jan. 1. Immigration candidates will have to "prove knowledge of the French language consistent with understanding the essential points needed to manage daily life," said a statement in the government's official gazette.

### **GOVERNMENT NOTICES (CANADA): DEPARTMENT OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION**

*(Canada Gazette)*

The *Citizenship Act* (Act) requires that applicants for an adult grant of citizenship demonstrate that they have an "adequate knowledge of one of the official languages of Canada" (paragraph 5(1)(d) of the Act). Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) is inviting written comments from all interested parties on a proposal to amend the *Citizenship Regulations* (Regulations) which would introduce a requirement for applicants to provide evidence that they meet this legislative requirement when they submit their application for citizenship. This proposed measure would apply to all adult citizenship applicants who must meet the language requirement.

#### **Rwanda: Media Urged to Promote Culture**

*(allAfrica.com)*

The Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, Protais Mitali, has called upon media practitioners, particularly radio presenters, to promote the Rwandan culture and values through their shows. He said that the Rwandan culture and values should be conserved and protected saying that this would enable the youth

to be well brought-up citizens. "We should strive to promote our traditional values and culture because it's one of the factors that distinguishes Rwandan from other countries" Mulama said.

### **United States DoD contracts**

*(Defence Professionals)*

DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY: International Business Machines Corp., Yorktown Heights, N.Y., is being awarded a \$6,576,024 cost contract (HR0011-12-C-0015). The Broad Operational Language Technology Program has a goal of creating technology capable of translating multiple foreign languages in all genres, retrieving information from the translated material, and enabling bilingual communication via speech or text. Specifically, this contractor will conduct work for Activity A, "Genre-Independent Translation and Information Retrieval System," and Activity C, "Human-Human Dialogue System." Work will be performed in Yorktown Heights, N.Y. (56.93 percent); Aachen, Germany (8.83 percent); College Park, Md. (8.65 percent); Cambridge, United Kingdom (8.16 percent); Stanford, Calif. (8.10 percent); Baltimore, Md. (4.12 percent); Le Mans, France (3.82 percent); and Cambridge, Mass. (1.39 percent). The work is expected to be completed by Sept. 30, 2016.

### **PREVIOUS NEWS**

#### **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.

### **'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.