
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 18 OCTOBER 2011

Clapper: 'Double-digit' cuts coming for intel budget

(The Washington Post)...Walter Pincus

The director of national intelligence on Monday forecast a "double-digit" reduction in the intelligence community's multibillion budget over the next 10 years, and said that the government would try to find much of the savings by cutting back on contractors. This time, he said, the plan was to continue new hiring, though at an "austere level"; protect research and development; invest in cyber, cryptanalysis and overhead architecture; and encourage more foreign language development.

College's language grant will train military

(Gainesville Times)...Dallas Duncan

When soldiers are stationed abroad, they are immersed in foreign language and culture, sometimes without the proficiency necessary to be successful. But with new grants from the National Security Education Program, one at North Georgia College & State University in Dahlonega, military officials hope to change that. "(U.S. Secretary of Defense) Leon Panetta has come out and said that language and culture is a key component of our strategies in going forward," said Ed McDermott, senior program manager of The Language Flagship at NSEP. "Gen. (Stanley) McChrystal, before he left, stated that especially in Afghanistan, language-enabled soldiers are a good and help us overcome a number of challenges." North Georgia received \$150,000 to pilot a Department of Defense Language Training Center on its campus as part of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2010, which instructed NSEP to create the language training centers.

Google Translate Hits the Books, Now Supports 14 Languages for Real-Time Chats

(PC Magazine)...David Murphy

Google has updated its [Google Translate for Android](#) application to include a total of 14 different languages in the app's experimental "Conversation Mode" feature. Or, in other words, real-time translation: As the below video demonstrates, Conversation Mode allows two parties to speak to each other using the app as a language intermediary. Google Translate for Android now supports real-time language conversion between the following languages: English, Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, Czech, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin Chinese, Polish, Russian and Turkish.

English a 'deterritorialised' language today: linguist

(The International News)...Anil Datta

English today is a language of global access, a language of self-representation. Its role as a key to the study of literature and English (or British) culture is receding. This is because today literature as a subject doesn't carry the lure that it did till about 27 years ago. It is on the wane, given the corporate and technological spheres of activity the world is marked by today. These views were expressed by Dr Peter Grundy, honorary fellow at the Language Centre, University of Durham, UK, and a visiting professor of linguistics at the University of Vienna, Austria.

Language skills 'crucial to future of UK business'

(Year Out Group)

A lack of foreign language skills in the UK is having a negative impact on Britain's businesses, an expert has warned. Dr Jim Anderson, senior lecturer in language and education at Goldsmiths, University of London, said research suggests the country's international business prospects could be in doubt unless more Brits learn a second language. "Language skills develop intercultural competence. Citizenship in a globalising world is vitally important if we are going to develop proper understanding with people in different countries," Dr Anderson added.

PREVIOUS NEWS

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.

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.