
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 20 OCTOBER 2011

DOD Strives to Promote, Preserve Language Skills

(American Forces Press Service)...Donna Miles

With the Defense Department's emphasis on developing language and cultural skills within the force, it's working hard to ensure those capabilities don't get lost after students leave the schoolhouse here. The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center trains thousands of students every year in more than two dozen languages, some that require more than a year of intensive, full-time study. To preserve those skills, the school is boosting its continuing education offerings, both through classroom and distance learning. "Language skills are perishable," said Mike Vezilich, dean of the continuing education directorate. "If one doesn't use the language regularly, those skills atrophy. And that doesn't take long," particularly for students at lower proficiency levels.

DLIFLC hosts international BILC seminar

(DLIFLC)...Brian Lamar

More than 60 participants from approximately 20 allied nations, that represent their country's equivalent to the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, arrived Monday for a four-day seminar to share best practices in the furthering of foreign language training goals through research. "Each year [BILC] member countries take turns hosting this seminar. 2011 was our turn to host this event," said Detlev Kesten, the assistant provost of operations at DLIFLC. This year's Bureau for International Language Coordination was hosted by the Commandant, Col. Danial Pick and Provost, Dr. Donald Fischer. The overarching theme of the seminar is "Research in Action."

Bet she's never lost for words! Ten-year-old schoolgirl can speak TEN languages including Kazak and Ugandan

(Mail Online)...Jessica Satherley

She might only be 10-years-old, but little Sonia Yang can already speak an incredible 10 languages. When she arrived here, Sonia was already fluent in Japanese, Chinese and English, as well as her native Taiwanese. But she can also now speak German, French, Spanish, Portuguese and has recently picked up Kazakh and the Ugandan language of Luganda. More than 5,000 students from across the region entered the language contest. They were tested on their knowledge of other tongues - as well as their ability to pick up entirely new ones.

Bilingual and struggling

(The Christian Science Monitor)...Fariba Mawa

My husband, Naeem, and I decided our language at home would be Farsi so that our two daughters could learn to speak it. They would learn English in school and outside the home. After watching dozens of relatives' and friends' children in the US forget their native language, we are determined to teach Bonoo and Andisha, 5 months, the importance of bilingualism. But it's a battle many second-generation immigrant parents have lost to the pervasiveness of English. Besides preserving cultural heritage, a second language can boost careers, sharpen analytical skills, and encourage communication with a world outside one's own. The loss of language is a deep-seated fear among many immigrants. The US has been dubbed the graveyard of languages by some academics for pushing English and excluding other tongues. Currently about 55 million Americans speak a language besides English at home, but by the third generation, the home language tends to atrophy, according to various studies. American society supports a rhetoric of multiculturalism but not multilingualism, experts say.

At 105, Chinese Linguist Now A Government Critic

(NPR)...Louisa Lim

Zhou Youguang should be a Chinese hero after making what some call the world's most important linguistic innovation: He invented Pinyin, a system of romanizing Chinese characters using the Western alphabet. It took Zhou and his colleagues three years to come up with the system now known as Pinyin, which was introduced in schools in 1958. Recently, Pinyin has become even more widely used to type Chinese characters into mobile phones and computers — a development that delights Zhou.

All graduates to be bilingual

(Tuoitrenews)

Within nine years, most graduates from Viet Nam's colleges and universities will be expected to speak English or another foreign language. This is part of a master plan on language teaching up until 2020. Under the plan, approved by the Prime Minister in 2008, foreign languages would be taught throughout the national education system, said Deputy Minister of Education and Training Nguyen Vinh Hien at an e-conference covering Ha Noi, HCM City, central Da Nang City, the Cuu Long (Mekong) Delta's Can Tho City, and northern Thai Nguyen Province.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Analysis: The rise and rise of western covert ops

(Reuters)...Peter Apps

Four months ago, Admiral William McRaven commanded the operation that killed Osama bin Laden. Now, as the new head of U.S. special forces, he argues that his shadowy, secretive warriors are increasingly central to how America and its allies fight. To work with tribal groups and win their loyalty, language skills and cultural awareness are essential. Special forces helped shape both the "Sunni awakening", which swept Al Qaeda and its allies from much of Iraq, and the more recent rebel victory in Libya. McRaven said he believed the Afghan "village program", working with local communities and police, might prove his forces' most important contribution to that war. The need for such skills is not new, of course. McRaven demands all his officers and NCOs learn a second language. Others in the field read ancient histories or the writings of idiosyncratic English archeologist T.E. Lawrence, better known as "Lawrence of Arabia".

Spanish TV's Telemundo to hold GOP primary debate

(Yahoo.com/Associated Press)...Laura Wides-Munoz

Spanish-language **Telemundo** network announced Thursday it will host its first presidential primary debate in December. The Republican primary debate will be held in Las Vegas and comes weeks before the early primaries begin. The locale is key, as Nevada is one of two early primary states with a growing number of Latino voters. **Florida** is the other. Top Telemundo news anchor **Jose Diaz-Balart** will host the debate, which will be broadcast in Spanish. Telemundo spokesman **Alfredo Richard** said the network is still hammering out the details and is in conversations with the candidates. "The debate will most likely mix both English and Spanish to accommodate the needs both of the candidates and our viewers," he said in an email to The Associated Press.

Language skills key to successful cross-cultural business

(Fresh Business Thinking)...Marcus Leach

UK-based businesses could be risking international growth by failing to invest in cross-cultural, language and communications training, according to new research by The London School of English. The research questioned 100 HR directors on their attitudes towards language and communication skills and their approach to training. The questions were designed to cover the increasing number of professional non-native English speakers working in the UK as well as native English speakers.

Intertainment's Ortsbo Launches Multi-Language Plug-in for Wordpress, World's Leading Blogging Tool and Publishing Platform

(Market Watch)...Press Release

Ortsbo Inc. has launched a proprietary real time multi-language plug-in for Wordpress allowing blogs to be instantly translated, in real time, into over 50 languages. Over 300 Million people each month read over 2.5 Billion blog pages created through Wordpress, the world's leading blogging software. To date, there have been over 225 Million downloads of Wordpress plug-ins globally.

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.

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.