
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 25 OCTOBER 2011

Online language training now earns promotion points

(Army.mil)...C. Todd Lopez

Soldiers can now earn up to 16 promotion points for completing language instruction with the Headstart2 language training program. The Headstart2 software uses digitally animated characters involved in military scenarios to teach reading, writing, speaking and listening skills in any of 16 target languages. Soldiers must register for an Army Training Requirements and Resources System account, known as ATTRS, to earn points in any of those target languages. "It gives a Soldier, a Marine, an Airman, a Sailor or a civilian -- who doesn't have background in the language, a fairly decent understanding of the culture, a basic understanding of the sound and script, and what we would describe as survival-level language," said Col. Danial Pick, commandant of the Defense Language Institute.

How Revolutionary Tools Cracked a 1700s Code

(New York Times)...John Markoff

It has been more than six decades since Warren Weaver, a pioneer in automated language translation, suggested applying code-breaking techniques to the challenge of interpreting a foreign language. Now a team of Swedish and American linguists has applied statistics-based translation techniques to crack one of the most stubborn of codes: the Copiale Cipher, a hand-lettered 105-page manuscript that appears to date from the late 18th century. They [described their work](#) at a meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics in Portland, Ore.

Fulbright Keeps Moving Forward Despite Budget Uncertainty

(Chronicle of Higher Education)...Ian Wilhelm

As lawmakers seek to make deep cuts in federal spending, the U.S. State Department's Fulbright Program—the nation's flagship academic exchange—faces an uncertain future. Members of Congress have yet to set the 2012 fiscal-year budget, and proposals vary on how much the department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, which oversees Fulbright, will receive. The Senate has approved a 2.2-percent increase in the bureau's 2011 allocation, while the House of Representatives has proposed a 10.1-percent reduction. For its budget request for 2012, the Obama administration sought an increase in spending for the bureau, but also asked for an almost \$1-million decrease in Fulbright.

Mission Essential Personnel Adds Former SOCOM Commander Admiral Eric Olson to Board of Advisors

(Digital Journal)...Press Release

Mission Essential Personnel, LLC (MEP) today announced that Adm. Eric T. Olson, who recently retired as Commander, US Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), has joined its Board of Advisors. Olson was the first SEAL to command USSOCOM and will share his unique global perspective with MEP leadership as the company continues to expand its current services and create new offerings to government, commercial, and multi-national customers.

The talking kitchen that teaches you French

(EurekaAlert)...Press Release

An innovative kitchen that gives step-by-step cooking instructions in French could spark a revolution in language learning in the UK. Tracking your actions with motion-sensor technology similar to a Nintendo Wii, it speaks to you like a car's Sat Nav as you prepare a French dish. The kitchen breaks new ground by taking language learning out of the classroom and linking it with an enjoyable and rewarding real-life activity. It has been developed by language experts and computer scientists at Newcastle University. The

research is supported by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council through the RCUK Digital Economy Programme.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Website Promotes Cultural Awareness Education

(American Forces Press Service)...Terri Moon Cronk

A new Defense Department Internet portal promotes education in cultural differences to support mission readiness. The Defense Language Office and the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute developed the site to acquire, build and sustain cross-cultural competence across the total force, officials said. The new portal provides self-paced training for leaders to learn effective communication across cultural lines at home and abroad, officials said. Offerings include gaming technologies, interactive videos, storytelling scenarios and lifelike avatars to stimulate critical thinking and learning. Leadership development applications also assess users on their self-awareness and perceptions of team performance.

Ministry holds online meeting on foreign language training

(Saigon GP Daily)...Le Lihn & Thu Tam

The Ministry of Education and Training organized an online meeting to discuss implementation of a project for foreign language training for the period 2008-2020. The online meeting was presided over by Deputy Minister Nguyen Vinh Hien, and was conducted in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, the central city of Da Nang, the Southern city of Can Tho, and Thai Nguyen in the North. Vietnam adopted a project on foreign language training for the period 2008-2020, under which primary school pupils have compulsory English language classes till the 3rd grade. It aims at improving foreign language skills for all young Vietnamese people who will use it to serve the country in today's industrialized and modernized world.

Students explore a different culture without leaving Laurel

(Laurel Leader-Call)...Eloria Newell James

Martinez said "the best way to learn a language is to learn the culture." Yohanna Jime'nez, president of the Mississippi Foreign Language Association (MFLA), agreed adding that "when you learn the language, you learn the culture." Jime'nez said the festival is a wonderful way to expose young people to different types of cultures. "It's a wonderful thing they are doing with the students," said Jime'nez, who also works as an adjutant Spanish professor at William Carey College. "They are doing an awesome job. They are presenting while they are learning."

Parents to benefit from Japanese language grant

(TribLocal)...Kate Thayer

Dooley Elementary School in Schaumburg will strengthen parent involvement in its Japanese Dual Language program with help from a Japanese foundation. The Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Chicago's foundation awarded Dooley a \$5,000 grant this week as part of an annual program that helps educational, arts and civic organizations. Principal Marion Friebus-Flaman said the money will go toward purchasing materials for the school's Japanese Dual Language program – specifically items for parents to use.

Defense Language Office Collaborates with DEOMI to Launch New Defense Cross-Cultural Competence Website

(DLO)...Press Release

The Defense Language Office (DLO) and the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) announce the launch of a new Cross-Cultural Competence (3C) knowledge portal for the Total Force to acquire, build, and sustain cross-cultural competence. Users may access the 3C Portal at www.defenseculture.org.

Supreme Court nominee vows to improve French skills

(CBC News) ...The Canadian Press

Justice Michael Moldaver, one of two justices nominated by Prime Minister Stephen Harper to sit on the Supreme Court, apologized to a panel of MPs on Wednesday for his limited abilities in the French language as opposition mounted to his appointment. "I have the greatest respect for the French language and culture, including its civil law tradition, the Québécois, as well as other French-speaking Canadians," Moldaver said in his opening statement to MPs before taking their questions as part of the Supreme Court selection process.

Being bilingual can open more doors for job-seekers

(The Lantern) ...Danielle Seamon

A recent report from the Bureau of Labor and Statistics expects the employment of US translators and interpreters to increase 22 percent between 2008 and 2018. As domestic jobs begin to outsource and branch internationally due to the affects of globalization, employers are seeking the means to break the language barrier. "When you turn on the television, they're talking about how the market is crashing in Slovakia, how bailing out Greece is going to help us," said Spanish lecturer Alejandro Jacky. "It gives you an idea of just how interconnected every culture and every community is these days."

The College Board Redesigns the AP® Chemistry and AP Spanish Language and Culture Courses

(Market Watch) ...Press Release

As part of its ongoing commitment to ensuring that Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) courses reflect college-level expectations and progress in each discipline, the College Board is pleased to announce revisions to the AP Chemistry and AP Spanish Language and Culture courses and exams. These changes take effect in the 2013-14 academic year and were made with the input of faculty members and scientists from many of the nation's finest colleges, universities and secondary schools.

D-26 Provides Options for Students Who Want to Learn Spanish

(Patch.com) ...Quincy Hodges

Cary School District 26 was in pursuit of a state grant that would offset cost for an after-school Spanish language class. However, upon investigation, the state does not support extracurricular activities with the grant, Valerie McCall, director of curriculum and instruction said Monday night. McCall has outlined three options for parents wanting their children to learn Spanish.

Travels in Afghanistan Anything but Normal for NGCSU Staffer

(The Saint – NGCSU) ...Shanna Pettengill

Higbee worked three weeks as a Short Term Technical Advisor for the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) in the war-torn country. The trip was short notice but turned out to be well worth the rush. "The Library Director in Mercer University was originally supposed to go but couldn't, so I heard about it and applied thinking I got the job only because I was the only one who wanted it," said Higbee. She later found out that her past experience in the Army, travels in India and ability to read Arabic made her the right woman for the job as she beat out five other contenders for the position.

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.