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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 26 OCTOBER 2011**

#### **Demand Grows for Squad-level Linguist Program**

*(American Forces Press Service)*...Donna Miles

Last year, 74 soldiers at Fort Campbell, Ky., became the first to participate in a new program that provides short-term, intensive language and cultural training to deploying military members. The general purpose force program wasn't designed for professional linguists or interpreters, explained Sam Garzaniti, who manages it at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center here. Rather, the program provides basic Dari or Pashto instruction, taught by native Afghan speakers, to help nonlinguists -- military police, medics, truck drivers and infantrymen, among them, -- operate more effectively on the ground in Afghanistan.

#### **Perfecting His Irish on the Job**

*(New York Times)*...Corey Kilgannon

THE jolly trash man was going about his route in the Rockaways, Queens, when he spied a woman in front of her house. "Cé hé bhfuil tú?" he greeted her. Naturally, the woman replied, "Tá mé go maith." "Ceart go leor," the trash man shot back. This exchange — roughly: "How are you?" "I'm fine." "Ah, grand!" — was in Irish, the Gaelic language that survives only in parts of Ireland — and to a lesser extent, along the garbage route of Ed Shevlin, 51. The route winds through the Belle Harbor section of the Rockaways, where conversations were once commonly conducted "as Gaeilge. In June, the [Fulbright Commission for Summer Language Study](#) awarded him a grant to study in Ireland — the only trash collector on a list heavy with doctoral candidates and university professors.

#### **English learners far behind under English-only methods**

*(The Hechinger Report)*...Sarah Garland

The end of the school day in Patty Sanchez's kindergarten class at Geddes Elementary School is not so different from other kindergarten classes around the state. Children gather on a rug as Sanchez holds up a storybook about a coyote and a turtle and reads out loud. What's different is that Sanchez is reading in Spanish. The scene highlights a continuing California debate: More than a decade after voters approved an initiative to limit bilingual education in public schools, the state is using a hodgepodge of programs. Meanwhile, critics contend, young students pay the price. Educators cannot agree on the best way to teach English to non-native speakers. Success is anecdotal. Studies appear to contradict each other. Meanwhile, the percentage of California English learners who are proficient in fourth-grade English has dropped on a national test.

#### **Steel Distributor Brown McFarlane Encourages Export Using Multi Lingual Staff**

*(Azom.com)*

Brown McFarlane believes that you should write to customers and speak to them in their own language. That is why the company continues to grow its export operations by employing graduates with language skills and funding its existing staff to learn a language.

#### **Interpreters needed due to rise in immigrant workers**

*(Business Insurance)*...Sheena Harrison

As the number of immigrant laborers grows nationwide, experts say interpreters are an increasing factor in helping injured employees get back on the job. Interpreter costs are a hot-button issue in states such as California, which has a large population of immigrant laborers. However, the matter is becoming more standard for handling workers compensation claims across the country, say risk consultants and interpreters who specialize in such cases.

## **PREVIOUS NEWS**

### **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.

### **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](http://www.defenseculture.org).