
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 27 OCTOBER 2011

Senior DOD Official Visits Indiana Training Center

(Defense.gov)...Staff Sgt. Brad Staggs

The Pentagon's top personnel official traveled here Oct. 21 to observe how Defense Department civilians are trained before they deploy to Afghanistan. "I'm here to get to understand the training better than academically," said Clifford L. Stanley, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, as he watched an exercise featuring State Department civilians being hustled into military vehicles while under enemy fire. Frank C. DiGiovanni, director of training readiness and strategy for the office of the deputy assistant secretary of defense for readiness, briefed Stanley was briefed about the training. And Julius Johnson, Afghanistan field training coordinator with the Foreign Service Institute, told Stanley about his experiences attending the second class in July 2009 and how it helped him. Claudia Munoz, a program transition specialist with the Ministry of Defense Advisors program, described the feedback she has been getting. "We are being told that the [training] vignettes are identical to what they went through once they got into country," Munoz said. "It really is very realistic and helps the trainees to hit the ground running."

Ft. Campbell language program takes top honors

(Business Clarksville)

The course is designed to increase each Soldier's listening comprehension and speaking proficiency as assessed by the *Oral Proficiency Interview*.

Air Force, International Affairs officials accepting attaché officer applications

(Af.mil)...Debbie Gildea

AFPC and the Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs are accepting applications for senior defense official/defense attaché, air attaché and assistant air attaché duty at nine locations, with selectees reporting for training between April 2012 and April 2013. Applications must be received by AFPC and SAF/IA by Dec. 15. Attaché applicants must be active duty senior captains, majors or lieutenant colonels, officials said. An operations background, foreign language skills and experience in the region are highly desired, although not mandatory. Applicants must have taken the Defense Language Aptitude Battery, and all their immediate family members must be U.S. citizens.

Portage school district awarded \$600,000 to teach Chinese language, culture

(Kalamazoo Gazette)...Julie Mack

Portage Public Schools has received a \$600,000 grant over five years to help subsidize the cost of teaching Chinese language and culture. The grant is from the Confucius Institute at Western Michigan University and will provide up to \$30,000 for two Portage elementaries and the two main high schools for each of the next five years. The grant money is to pay for teaching materials, equipment, guest demonstrations and other supplies. In addition to the yearly \$30,000, WMU will provide instructors in language and culture under the supervision of Portage teachers.

Parents Slam Remark about Art, Music, and Language Program Cuts in Schools

(Patch.com)...Paul Squire

Parent Sarah Bowe said programs like the arts, music and foreign language should be "off the table" if the board needs to make cuts. Another parent said foreign languages are essential for children to learn in today's global and multicultural market, though she recognized it would not be east for the board to make cuts.

PREVIOUS NEWS

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.

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

(EurekAlert)...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.