
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 09 NOVEMBER 2011

Army Chief claims DLIFLC is important for advancement

(DLIFLC)...Brian Lamar

Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Raymond Odierno, visited the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in Monterey Calif. 4 Nov. While speaking to staff during his visit, Odierno shared his views of how DLIFLC is handling the task of conducting DoD's language and culture training mission. "The size and ability for DLI to reach out not only to initially teach our young Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines how to operate in a language, but also the way servicemembers can reach back and continue to learn once they leave is impressive," said Odierno.

Foreign language, more math among UW's possibilities for new admissions standards

(The Republic)

The University of Wyoming is considering tougher admissions standards for new students, including a new foreign language requirement and requiring four years of math and science instead of three. The UW Office of Academic Affairs is looking for stricter standards because school trustees want to boost retention and graduation rates.

Participants in language exchange program more than double

(Daily Trojan)...Rahel Gebreyes

The International Language Exchange program, which matches foreign students with native-speaking English students to improve both students' secondary language skills, has increased its participation by 82 percent since it began in fall 2010. The program aims to help American students become multilingual, while offering international students a "window into a different culture," according to Kate O'Connor, the director of the USC Language Academy, which runs the program.

Bridging language barrier

(Mercury News)...Eric Bradley

A large portion - 45.4 percent - of those living in Long Beach speak a language other than English at home, according to U.S. Census data. Long Beach, labeled as the most diverse city in the nation in a USA Today study of the 65 largest U.S. cities, has translation and interpretation resources for its non-English language residents, but no organization wide plan to deliver it. To administer elections, the City Clerk's Office provides voting information in English, Spanish, Khmer, Tagalog, Vietnamese and Korean. Susanne Browne of the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles will work with city staff to develop the Language Access Policy along with other community partners, including the Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition, Housing Long Beach, Centro CHA and United Cambodian Community.

Flipping Switches

(Star Tribune)...Marielle Foster

So oftentimes you hear about people's travel stories. They get to a foreign language, with a foreign country (or the other way around, I don't know how you travel) and they struggle. Strugs, as we teenagers say. The words feel funny in your mouth, the sounds don't mesh with your ears, and even your nose is feeling a little out of place, despite its lack of active participation in communication. Then, in this magical story, one day you wake up and you speak the language perfectly. You understand everything, it's like everything clicks and you flip a switch. Welcome to fluentdom.

PREVIOUS NEWS

'We Didn't Know The Players'

(Army Times)...Sean D. Naylor

At a very fundamental level, we simply lacked that baseline that we needed," said a military targeting official. "We didn't understand the culture, we didn't understand the people ... in a real sense we didn't understand the players and how they related in the various organizations inside the various cities in the Horn."

Ultimate Weapon: Knowing a War Zone's Culture

(Miller-McCune)...Emily Badger

When U.S. soldiers first went into Afghanistan and Iraq a decade ago, the military gave little thought to how an understanding of regional language, values, and norms could ease the interaction between troops and the locals they encountered. The military's attitude has changed considerably since then, as culture and language training have shifted from the purview of a few specialists to a central tool in any service member's arsenal. Maj. Gen. David Hogg, head of the Adviser Forces in Afghanistan, has even suggested the military more broadly think of "[culture as a weapon system.](#)"

Military Brass Say War Lessons Won't Be Forgotten

(National Defense Magazine)

Military officials said that one of the biggest takeaways from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan has been the need for language and culture training, which they view as potent tools to fight in any form of conflict that might be required in the future. General-purpose forces also should take a page from special operations units, which have proven particularly nimble in non-traditional forms of combat like counterinsurgency and peacekeeping, officials said at the HASC hearing.

"The force we deploy must be able to adapt," said Brig. Gen. Daniel O'Donohue, director of the Marine Corps Capabilities Development Directorate.

Beyond Siri: DARPA's BOLT

(Defense Industry Daily)

The Broad Operational Language Technology Program (BOLT) 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. Initial languages include up to 5 dialects of Arabic, plus Mandarin Chinese. The first 2 dialects will be addressed in Phases 1 and 2 of "Activity D"; the second 2 dialects will be addressed in Phases 3 and 4; and the final dialect will be addressed in Phase 5. In the field, the current goal appears to be a robot, but BOLT will also be a back-end IT system to help analysts with translations of stored text and voice.

Language Training Centers

(NSEP)

Language Training Centers (LTC) are a collaborative initiative of NSEP and the Defense Language Office (DLO) to develop expertise in critical languages, cultures and strategic regions for U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) personnel. In 2011, NSEP funded five new Language Training Centers. These first awardees include: California State University-Long Beach, North Carolina State University, North Georgia College and State University, San Diego State University, and the University of Montana. NSEP anticipates that the LTCs will provide new opportunities to meet DoD total force language training needs, enabling the DoD workforce to be better prepared and equipped with the language, cultural and regional expertise necessary for foreign nation cooperation and operations.

TRADOCs Defense Language Institute introduces HeadStart2

(Army.mil – Stand-To!)

The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Centers HeadStart2 programs are learning tools that expose troops of all services to 1,000 key terms and phrases they'll need in foreign countries. This 80-100 hour computer-based program uses human-to-avatar interaction, games, word scrambles, and other

interactive exercises to draw the user into the learning program. After completing the course, service members should be able to operate in a new country with enough survival language skills to communicate with the locals on everyday topics.

Congress honors Japanese-American soldiers

(Mercury News)...Kevin Freking

Thousands of Japanese-Americans who fought in the fiercest battles of World War II and became some of the most decorated soldiers in the nation's history were given an overdue thank-you from their country Wednesday when Congress awarded them its highest civilian honor. About 6,000 Japanese-Americans served in the Military Intelligence Service, on the front lines and behind the scenes, translating cables and interviewing prisoners of war. Many also served during the postwar occupation of Japan, providing a bridge between Japanese and American officials.

So to speak: KU has high number of language offerings

(Lawrence Journal World)...Andy Hyland

Students taking basic foreign languages at Kansas University aren't just greeting each other with an "hola" in Spanish or a "bonjour" in French, they're also saying "pozdrav" in Croatian and "yaxshimusiz" in Uighur. KU offers nearly 40 languages, a high number for a state university, said LeaMarie Bistak Herron, assistant director of grant development for KU's Center of Global and International Studies.

Cupla focal goes hi-tech with 'app' for children

(Independent.ie)...Allison Bray

TODDLERS can now use the latest technology to say their first words in both official languages. TG4 has developed a new Irish language application, or 'app', aimed at children as young as pre-school age. It provides more than 100 Irish language words and corresponding images to encourage children to start speaking Irish from the cradle.

Schools with high immigration enrolment to receive funding boost

(The Copenhagen Post)...Peter Stanners

Schools with high proportions of bilingual and non-ethnic Danish children will receive extra funding to help raise students' language skills. The initiative, outlined in the government's new budget, will deliver one million kroner per year over three years to each of 14 national schools whose student make-up is comprised of at least 40 percent non-ethnic Danes. "It's incredibly important to strengthen our integration efforts," Christine Antorini, the children and teaching Minister, told Politiken newspaper. "Schools with high proportions of children from non-Danish ethnic backgrounds need extra economic help."

UK graduates fail to make the cut for international graduate jobs

(Pareto)

Graduates from UK universities are losing out on the top international positions because they are unable to speak a second language according to academics and business leaders. There are serious concerns about the lack of language skills in UK graduates, which was raised at a policy meeting at the Houses of Parliament on 19th October. They discussed the fact that the current education system is not doing enough to encourage graduates to study languages. Yet many countries within the European Union are expected to speak several languages regardless of what they are studying.

Afghanistan Pakistan Hands Airman trains future Afghan pilots

(Af.mil)...Kathryn Gustafson

As an Air Force aviator, Lt. Col. Daryl Sassaman had been to Afghanistan before; however, never did he imagine he would one day be living with the Afghans, working to hone their English language capabilities, while improving his Dari proficiency. Today, he is one of approximately 253 service personnel who are members of the Afghanistan Pakistan Hands program. Through language and culture education and training, the APH program grooms military members to serve on a rotational cycle in country. As one cohort departs the region, a new group is deployed, while another receives language and culture education and training. "They come back a second time knowing how the culture works and are therefore able to continue building relationships," Sassaman said.

NGCSU receives \$720K funding for Chinese instruction for cadets

(Access North Georgia)...Staff

North Georgia College & State University has been awarded \$720,000 in federal funds and designation as a "flagship" university for Chinese instruction for cadets. The designation comes from the National Security Education Program (NSEP) at the Department of Defense. Two other schools, Arizona State University and the Georgia Institute of Technology, also were awarded 2011 grants and Chinese flagship status. This is very exciting news for North Georgia, and it will reap great rewards for our students as we continue providing opportunities for them to increase their global knowledge and understanding," President Bonita C. Jacobs said.

A major military branch checks out the Peninsula as a potential new home

(Monterey County Weekly)

Presidio spokesman Dan Carpenter confirms Army officials have made multiple site visits to Monterey in the past two months, taking stock of existing educational and housing facilities at the Naval Postgraduate School, Defense Language Institute as they consider a new home for Civil Affairs.

Unconscious language learning

(University of Cambridge)

Unconscious learning could be the secret to speeding up learning a second language. When linguists talk about unconscious or implicit language learning, they don't mean learning while you sleep. Rather, they are talking about one of the most intriguing of all mental phenomena: the ability to learn the complex and subtle regularities that underlie a language without even realising. For children, such 'implicit' language learning seems to happen spontaneously in the first few years of life; yet, in adulthood, learning a second language is generally far from effortless and has varied success.

Confucius Classroom comes to Hillsboro High School

(The Tennessean)

Hillsboro High School is getting Metro Nashville Public Schools' first Confucius Classroom, a special place to teach and promote Chinese language and culture. It's part of the school's Academy of International Business and Communication and was funded through the Confucius Institute at the University of Memphis and the Office of Chinese Language Council International.

Philippine National Police Joins Forces with Koreans!

(Arirang)

The police in the Philippines are guardians of the Filipino citizens, always protecting them from crimes and danger. And leading the effort is the Philippine National Police, or PNP, which devotes itself to keeping public order and security. A special class is in progress at PNP headquarters. Offered by the Korean Community Association, it teaches Korea's language and culture to PNP officials. The class is in high demand, and has already produced one graduating class.