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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 10 NOVEMBER 2011**

#### **In Afghanistan, Special Units Do The Dirty Work**

*(USA Today)*...Carmen Gentile

At their hillside base, made up of a cluster of old Soviet barracks and newer wooden huts, there are about a dozen Green Berets as well as a squad of conventional forces. The Green Berets here spend much of their time recruiting men for the Afghan Local Police (ALP) and training them to defend their village. The efforts require an understanding of tribal customs and village politics that exceeds that of typical forces. Green Berets blend in by growing beards and wearing local clothing. Several in the Chamkani unit speak Pashto, the predominant language in this part of Afghanistan and neighboring western Pakistan.

#### **Cal State Long Beach Receives \$250,000 Department of Defense Grant to Create Pilot Language Training Program, Teach Arabic and Persian**

*(Media Newswire)*...Press Release

California State University, Long Beach ( CSULB ) has received a \$250,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Defense's ( DoD ) National Security Education Program ( NSEP ) to create a pilot Language Training Program to help meet the language and cultural needs of military units in California. The intent of this initiative is to accelerate the development of foundational or higher-level expertise in critical and strategic languages and regional studies for DoD personnel by leveraging U.S. institutions of higher education to meet the existing needs of DoD units, offices or agencies.

#### **Team aims to unlock the mysteries of language**

*(Cambridge News)*

A team of linguists are embarking on a five-year project in an attempt to decode how languages are created, and how we pick them up as a child. The ambitious research, led by Prof Ian Roberts from Cambridge University, will work on a suggestion made by American linguist Noam Chomsky in the 50s that children are born with the ability to learn any language on the planet, with their brain hardwired to a set of universal rules. The group have secured 2.5 million euro in funding for the project from the European Research Council. "The main aim of the research is to increase our understanding of how languages vary, and how the brain works to pick up a language."

#### **Students experience overseas education, culture**

*(Point Park Globe)*...Kelli Murphy

As Leah Fiore sits sipping her coffee in a café close to her school, she could not think of a better place to be. However long it took to go through the stacks of time-consuming paperwork and sit through all of the long Visa meetings, it had to of been worth it. Every day, she wakes up to the busy-bodied, lively streets of the city to begin a new day in a new home – in Paris. Fiore, along with a handful of other Point Park University students, chose to take part in a number of different study abroad programs offered through the university and take their studies far and wide to other countries of the globe.

#### **More Foreign Language Classes Use Online Education**

*(US News University Directory)*...Catherine Groux

Various reports have shown that online education is becoming an integral part of colleges and universities. For example, an August survey by the Pew Research Center indicates that about 77% of college presidents said their schools now offer some type of online education. One benefit of doing so is that schools can give students increased access to popular campus-based classes. According to the most recent information from the Modern Language Association, between 2006 and 2009, enrollment in [foreign language](#) classes grew by 6.6%.

### **Pony Post: Learn a new language through social media, the Web, or mobile apps**

*(The Daily Campus)*...Natalie Posgate

If you missed the boat to take a foreign language, the realm of technology is offering new methods for you to brush up on a different tongue before traveling abroad. Budget Travel ran a blog post a few days ago that talked about a few programs that let you learn a new language via your smart device, social media, or in the comfort of your own home for under \$100 – easy and affordable options for college students. Here's the two I found most interesting: Babbel.com: Website and mobile app that lets you learn a foreign language on your computer, iPhone, iPad or iPod Touch; and Livemocha: The Facebook of foreign languages. This social media app allows you to interact with native or fluent speakers of the language you're trying to learn.

### **PREVIOUS NEWS**

#### **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.

### **'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**

*(Miler-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.