
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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Army not using, sustaining language skills: GAO

(Army Times)...Joe Gould

The Army and Marine Corps do a poor job of tracking how much language and cultural training troops have received, leaving commanders in the dark when it comes time to assign soldiers with these skills, the Government Accountability Office has found. The two services also spend millions of dollars to train troops to speak foreign languages in predeployment training, but the Army and Marine Corps lack plans to sustain these skills and use them for ongoing operations, the congressional watchdog agency said.

Lawrence soldier earns medal

(Eagle-Tribune)...Mark E. Vogler

U.S. Army Cpl. Angel Rodriguez of Lawrence was recently awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his work with Afghan people as a member of a provincial reconstruction team in the Khost Province of Afghanistan. Rodriguez considers the most interesting aspect of his initiative is working in small, five-member groups gathering information and building rapport with the Afghan locals in small villages throughout Khost Province. He cited the language and cultural barriers as the biggest challenge. Most PRT members rely on the local and U.S. linguists or interpreters, but Rodriguez has begun learning the Afghan dialect of Pashto.

Polyglot dragon: What the PLA's language school says about China's strategic direction

(Armed Forces Journal)...Scott J. Henderson

China watchers searching for clues to Beijing's strategic direction generally look for changes in government policy, diplomatic liaisons or force realignment. Here's another useful indicator: language training. When global ambitions push a nation beyond the boundaries of its homeland and away from its native language, a state designs and invests in foreign language training. If China peers out across the operational environment and determines, for example, that Central Asia or African energy reserves are top priorities, we would expect to see resources allocated for training personnel in the applicable languages and dialects. The institute's 2011 curriculum reveals an interest in Iranian and Middle East politics amid programs of study in 26 languages.

Bringing languages to life in the classroom

(The Guardian)...John Tanner

The uptake of modern foreign languages in UK schools is continuing to decline, yet in an increasingly multicultural society and global marketplace the skills developed through language learning are more important for young people than ever. So how can language teachers get young people engaged in languages again? One of the main barriers for pupils choosing their subject options is a question of relevance. How does learning French/German/Spanish relate to their lives and how will it benefit them as individuals? This relevance will be different for each individual and for each class but it is important that all language teachers acknowledge this barrier and that they can work within the confines of the curriculum to enhance the relevance for their class.

Students enjoy learning about language, culture by studying abroad

(North Georgia)

Five North Georgia College & State University students are enjoying their experiences studying abroad this semester as they find themselves immersed in different cultures and languages. Hundreds of North Georgia students likewise have studied abroad, helping to fulfill the university's strategic vision -- educating students for life and leadership in a global community. This week, North Georgia marks International Education Week, an annual event conceived by the U.S. Department of State and the U.S.

Department of Education to promote a global perspective in American education and encourage institutions to emphasize the importance of international education and exchange.

Dual-language university to open its doors in Wheaton

(Maryland Community News Online)...Aaron Kraut

Raul Medrano said there were days recently when 15 to 20 people would walk into his temporary office at the Westfield Wheaton Shopping Center and ask about the dual-language university planned for the vacant space left by Circuit City. In Wheaton, a community with a large Hispanic population, the desire for degree programs geared toward working Spanish-speaking adults was evident before the official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Ana G. Mendez University, which Medrano will oversee as campus director. Officials hope the school, one of four U.S. branches of the Puerto Rico-based university system, helps students advance their careers with bachelor's or master's degrees, while also improving their English skills.

PREVIOUS NEWS

More foreign students studying in USA

(USA Today)...Mary Beth Marklein

International students and their dependents contributed more than \$20 billion to the U.S. economy last year as record numbers of foreigners enrolled in U.S. colleges and universities, reports to be released today show. The numbers of U.S. students earning college credit abroad also is on the rise. The number of international students at U.S. colleges and universities rose 4.7% to 723,277 during the 2010-11 academic year, says an annual report by the Institute of International Education (IIE), which has tracked data since 1949.

Air Force launches cutting-edge culture & language website

(Af.mil)

The Air Force Culture and Language Center, part of Air University's Spaatz Center here, recently launched a new public website to provide information on the Air Force's efforts to increase cross-cultural competence -- a critical warfighting skill cited by Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta in an August memorandum to all Defense Department personnel. "Both military and civilian personnel should have cross-cultural training to successfully work in DOD's richly diverse organization and to better understand the global environment in which we operate," the secretary wrote. The site, www.culture.af.mil, highlights all AFCLC departments and programs, including free courses that provide Community College of the Air Force credit for Airmen and other cross-cultural competence media resources. Additional training and educational resources are offered to DOD members through the AFCLC's private site, at <https://wwwmil.maxwell.af.mil/afclc/>, which requires users to have a Common Access Card and be on a .mil or .gov server

Former World Bank chief calls for stiffer foreign language requirements in Wyoming

(Billings Gazette)...Jeremy Pelzer

Wyoming's foreign language requirements are insufficient to prepare students for an increasingly globalized world, former World Bank president James Wolfensohn said during the Wyoming Business Alliance's annual forum Tuesday. Wolfensohn, who lives in Jackson Hole, said as China and India are becoming major economic powers, future generations need to know Mandarin and other languages to be successful in the coming decades. China and India have each sent more than 100,000 students to the United States to learn about American culture and language, he said. But only 13,000 American students are studying in China, he said, and only 3,000 have gone to India.

Foreign languages 'essential for our children's future'

(The Financial)

As International Education Week 2011 gets underway, the British Council is highlighting the vital role of foreign languages in preparing children in the UK for life in a global society and work in a global economy. The UK's cultural relations body -- which builds relationships for the UK through education, English and

the arts – is underlining the important role played by languages in improving understanding of other cultures, which is essential if our children are to be able to compete in an increasingly internationalised world of work. Foreign languages also make a valuable contribution to children's intellectual development.

Younger Estonians' Language Skills Declining, Specialists Say

(ERR News)

Language specialists are worried that the quality of the Estonian language is deteriorating among the youth, including those with higher education, and say that grade schools should enforce stricter standards. At a conference organized by the University of Tartu and the Mother Tongue Society, professor of the Estonian language Martin Ehala presented his study, which concluded that language skills have fallen significantly among even grade school teachers, reported ERR radio. "The results indicated that around 40 percent of first-year university students have a fairly modest functional command of the language," said Ehala.

Fun, educational Web sites for kids

(Washington Post) ...Tracy Grant

We know there are lots of fun Web sites for kids: [Poptropica](#), [Club Penguin](#) and [FunBrain](#), to name a few. But every now and then, KidsPost highlights a few Web sites that are fun for kids and might also teach you a few things while you're playing, downloading and searching. The National Security Agency's Web site for kids wants to find "future codemakers and codebreakers." **Our favorites:** Language Barriers, a matching game where you have to find "hello" in 10 languages, and Makeit@Home! which has home or school projects, including a cipher wheel using a soda bottle.

Namibia, Agreement On Portuguese Language Signed

(All Africa) ...Catherine Sasman

DEPUTY Minister of Foreign Affairs Peya Mushelenga and Portuguese Secretary of State and Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Luís Brites Pereira yesterday signed an agreement on the introduction of Portuguese in Namibian schools. Portuguese will be offered as a foreign language at secondary schools as early as January. Pereira said Portugal would assist Namibia with the implementation of the agreement by training teachers at Unam and the provision of scholarships for Namibian citizens to be trained as teachers of Portuguese as a foreign language. "Both countries recognise the growing importance of Portuguese as an official and working language of regional and international organisations," said Pereira.

Gaming Technology Puts Soldiers' Boots on Ground

(National Defense) ...Eric Beidel

A recent Army solicitation for the games initiative seeks technologies that allow users to generate custom battle scenarios that cover necessary skills and run the gamut of full-spectrum operations, from cultural awareness and language to recognition and defeat of improvised explosive devices. The service could spend as much as \$25 million over five years on software and licensing for one or more commercial games, according to the solicitation.

Chinese teaching minor offered Spring 2012

(The Utah Statesman) ...Amber Murdoch

A new Chinese teaching minor is one of the newest curricula made available to USU students, which according to a recent survey will accommodate the growing interest in learning how to speak and teach Chinese. The program, proposed by the department of languages, philosophy and speech communication, was approved by the USU Board of Trustees on Monday, Nov. 7 and will become available for declaration next semester. "This minor will develop students' knowledge of Chinese language and culture and skills in teaching Chinese," the LPSC department's proposal states. "This minor aligns clearly with the department's philosophy of training students for fulfilling careers in their field by providing a strong Chinese teacher training program."

Skills warning over foreign language assistant cuts

(BBC)

The number of foreign language assistants in Scottish schools has fallen by 80% in the past six years. Figures from British Council Scotland revealed the total had dropped to 59, down from 284 in 2005/06. Only seven out of 32 local authorities employed native speakers of French, German, Italian, Spanish or Chinese. The British Council warned that Scotland could miss out on future international investment as a result of poor foreign language skills.