
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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Report: Fix Corps' foreign language program

(Marine Corps Times)...Gidget Fuentes & Joe Gould

The Marine Corps and Army do a poor job tracking how much language and cultural training troops have received, leaving commanders in the dark when it comes time to assign troops with these skills, according to a congressional watchdog agency. The two services also spend millions during pre-deployment training to teach troops to speak foreign languages, but they lack plans to sustain these skills and use them for ongoing operations, the Government Accountability Office found. Without programs to ensure these skills don't lapse, the "Army and Marine Corps may not fully maximize the return on investment already made for pre-deployment language training for current operations," GAO analysts wrote.

Female Engagement Teams foil insurgent tactics

(dvids)...Chief Petty Officer Michael Ard

In Afghan culture, men do not enter a woman's room or search a female, even during an official action. Insurgents took advantage of forces who respected the customs and culture of Afghans by simply handing their weapons to the women and children of the household or even dressing themselves in burkas to avoid being searched or discovered by members of the security forces. "Having women in the platoon specially trained to search women and children, as well as protect themselves, turns the tables on insurgents," said Jennifer, who serves as a Task Force 82 female mentor. "No longer are illegal weapons and substances going to be missed because of cultural respect. These special police females can not only safely clear a room, they can then search the women and children in it for contraband."

With Blocks, Educators Go Back to Basics

(New York Times)...Kyle Spencer

Studies dating to the 1940s indicate that blocks help children absorb basic math concepts. [One published in 2001](#) tracked 37 preschoolers and found that those who had more sophisticated block play got better math grades and standardized test scores in high school. And a [2007 study by Dimitri Christakis](#), director of the Center for Child Health, Behavior and Development at Seattle Children's Hospital, found that those with block experience scored significantly better on language acquisition tests.

Libyan Berbers protest outside PM's office

(Reuters)...Francois Murphy

Several hundred people from one of Libya's biggest ethnic minority groups pushed their way to the doors of the prime minister's office on Sunday to press their demands for greater representation. The Amazigh, or Berber, people are seeking recognition of their language and culture now that Muammar Gaddafi's repressive rule is over, and their demands are causing tensions with the Arab majority.

Language opens cultural windows: City native Nick Miller puts linguistic skills to work in Saigon school

(The Times-Tribune)

"The limits of my language means the limits of my world," wrote Austrian philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein. Scranton native Nick Miller seems to agree. The 23-year-old is proficient in a half-dozen languages, but he also knows words and phrases from almost 50 languages, literally ranging from A (Albanian) to Z (Zulu). He's putting his skills to good use and is teaching Mandarin Chinese at an international school to mostly American, Vietnamese, and Japanese students in Ho Chih Minh City, Vietnam.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Two GA Colleges Win Language Grants

(GPB News)

North Georgia College and State University in Dahlonega and Atlanta's Georgia Institute of Technology are among three American colleges to receive \$720,000 from the U.S. Department of Defense to spend on teaching Chinese. North Georgia is on pace to double the size of its Chinese teaching staff in just five years. Only three schools nationwide got the grant this year, including a second in Georgia, the Georgia Institute of Technology. Participants will spend a year in China, and then take a national test to demonstrate their proficiency in Chinese.

New Training Facilities Force Marines To Experience the Fog of War

(National Defense Magazine)

Maneuvering through mock villages is not a new concept, but the Marine Corps believes this system creates the most realistic setting those deploying overseas can experience in the United States. It combines real-life Afghan actors portraying villagers and insurgents, the most realistic recreation of an Afghan town possible, and computer-generated avatars and effects such as makeshift bombs. In a typical exercise, platoons will experience all four elements in an effort to subject them to the so-called "fog of war." "It incorporates the cultural piece, the intelligence piece and the tactical piece so these guys have to be thinking on their toes, all the time, as it happens," said Vince Soto, site lead for Innovative Reasoning LLC, the Orlando, Fla.-based vendor that runs the facilities. "This is graduate level training," said Col. Daniel J. Lecce, Camp Lejeune commanding officer. The goal is to increase success and survivability on the battlefield, he said. By the end of a new marine's training, he has learned basic tactics, and has had cultural and language lessons.

NASA Hiring New Astronauts, But How's Your Russian?

(Mail Online UK)

NASA has posted new job openings for the first time since the final space shuttle launch – but recruits must pass a Russian language test. The agency is calling for members of the armed forces – the traditional base of recruits – for astronauts to serve on the International Space Station. But, since the U.S. no longer has a manned rocket program, the only way to get there is aboard a Russian Soyuz capsule - meaning a knowledge of their language is essential.

Third Army and Jordanian Army Conduct Joint Training

(DVIDS)

Both the U.S. and Jordanian forces had similar mindsets of improving their skills and becoming the best fighting force possible. The only real obstacle in the exercise was communication. "It's often challenging for my instructors to teach the right lessons and impart the right instructions due to some of the language barriers," Quinn stated. "We've had a heavy reliance on the translators and interpreters that we have." "Translators play an important role, especially in Arabic nations, because a lot gets lost in translation," said Spc. Ehab Moukhtar, translator, 51st translator/interpreter company, and Los Angeles resident. "They feel more comfortable around me," the Egyptian-born interpreter said. "Yes, I am still an American soldier, but they recognize me as an Arab. It makes the job a lot easier to be friends with them and establish rapport before you start translating."

Afghan National Army Connects, Surveys, Secures in Sangin And Are Fast Learners

(DVIDS)

According to Staff Sgt. Jay Mullen, a native of La Porte, Ind., and the training chief for the Cashf Tolai, the unit is the fourth of its kind, but is the first trained by Marine Corps reconnaissance personnel. He explained the tolai can act as a light infantry unit, and it belongs to a combat support kandak, similar to a battalion, which includes a headquarters and service, engineer, route clearance, and artillery elements. "Training was not a problem. Most (of the soldiers) caught on relatively quickly, even though some of the concepts do not translate well (from English to Pashto)," said Mullen, implying some of the meaning is lost in the translation. "It is very difficult to do anything with the language barrier. Once you've got a good idea how long it takes to translate and get through an interpreter and get a lesson plan out there, it's pretty

good. These guys for the most part are motivated. It was very surprising teaching them everything from (infantry assault tactics) to basic hand signals; they got it pretty fast.”

Villanova Scholar-In-Residence Is A Four-Star General!

(MainLine medianews)

When General Zinni visits a class such as Jonathan Doh's Business in Emerging Economies on Tuesday afternoon, a question such as Doh's "What's your view of emerging markets such as Brazil and even China?" is a warm-up. "A couple of things," Zinni says immediately, and outlines first, how some businesses might do well in a specific country and culture, but not necessarily in another; and, second and more specifically, how a collision of cultures may affect business, where, for example, in one country, standard business practice may violate U.S. conflict-of-interest laws. Doh's next question lets Zinni continue to explore the complexities of doing business in emerging markets. He points out the need to bone-up on the culture, the advantage of knowing the language (he knows several) and of knowing where the power is in oligarchies or where royal families mix their relatives with business interests.

Online Language-Learning System Enables Organizations to Provide Learning in over 80 Languages to their Members

(Market Watch)... Press Release

Transparent Language, Inc. now offers Transparent Language Online(TM), an effective and engaging language-learning program for library, education, and corporate organizations and their members. Accessible online via web-browser, Transparent Language Online is the company's commercial version of their systems developed to deliver rapid and reliable language training to US Department of Defense organizations, including the US Marine Corps, US Navy, Defense Language Institute, and many others.

We can improve our education

(Idaho Mountain Express and Guide)

The best way to make a model school district is to look at the best schools around the world: South Korea. They offer preschool from the age of 3 to 6. Only after students show proficiency in their second language of English can they move on to elementary school. The students attend school for eight hours a day and teachers are paid very well.

100,000 Strong Initiative: Student Resources for Studying in China

(US State Department)

Any student can potentially be part of 100,000 Strong! The 100,000 Strong Initiative (www.state.gov/100000strong) works to help educational organizations and institutions increase their funding so that they can offer more opportunities for study abroad, and more financial aid and scholarships to students. There are a wide variety of programs for people who want to study in China, including a number of U.S. Government-sponsored programs, as well as scholarships offered by the Chinese government. Students should consult with their local schools, colleges, and universities about the range of opportunities that may be available and explore a variety of resources on funding and programs, to include: Fulbright scholarships, Benjamin A. Gilman scholarships, Critical Language Scholarship, National Security Language Initiative for Youth, Boren, and the Language Flagship.