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## **DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE**

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### **CURRENT NEWS 29 NOVEMBER 2011**

#### **Translating Afghanistan**

*(Wall Street Journal)*...Anne Jolis

On Friday night, about 12 miles west of Kandahar City, roughly 40 men sit facing each other in a low-ceilinged hall on the Afghan side of the military base. Meet the interpreters of the U.S. Third Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the 10th Mountain Division. All are Afghan natives, though some are now U.S. citizens as well. For the moment, they all call the base home. And in the past month, three of them have gotten engaged—an occasion to celebrate. Once business started to dwindle in California in 2008, Sharif—now a U.S. citizen—went to work as a military interpreter. "The salary is good, a lot of my friends are doing it," he tells me outside over cigarettes and cola. But the country is "not safe," he adds, "even this place we're sitting now." In the past year the base has been the target of semi-regular rocket attacks.

#### **Will English kill off India's languages?**

*(BBC)*...Mark Tully

English is one of the advantages India has which are said to be propelling it to economic superpower status. There are all those Indians who speak excellent English. It's the mother tongue of the elite and effectively the official language of the central government. Then there is the growing number of parents who now aspire to give their children an education through the medium of that language. But is the craze for English an unmixed blessing?

#### **Raising bilingual children**

*(Bangkok Post)*

It all began five years ago when Pongrapee Tachapahapong, Peipei's father, found an inspiring passage in a Japanese book authored by Masaru Ibuka and translated into Thai under the title *Kwa Ja Ruu Kor Sai Sia Laew*, or "kindergarten is too late". The book completely changed his perspective towards learning English as a second language. In the book the author had noted the most suitable period for linguistic and cognitive development of a child were from the time they were nine months to three years old. And Pongrapee set himself the goal to raise Peipei to be bilingual in Thai and English. The family chose the One Parent One Language (OPOL) system, one of the most practical and well-recognised strategies for raising bilingual children in which each parent speaks one language to their child - Pongrapee speaks English to Peipei, while his wife speaks Thai to her at all times.

#### **Be bicultural, not just bilingual**

*(AsiaOne Business)*...Reico Wong

Singapore needs to step up its efforts to groom more bicultural individuals - not just bilingual ones - to ensure that it has a real advantage when engaging with China, said Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean yesterday. "Yet, while being bilingual opens doors to new opportunities, it is by being bicultural that we can reach deeper inside China to fully understand its growth story and ride on its tremendous potential."

#### **Celebrities fluent in a foreign language**

*(TheCelebrityCafe.com)*...Jacklyn Rose

Bradley Cooper's fluency in French helped him become the 2011 "Sexiest Man Alive" in *People* but he is not the only one with bilingual talents. Many Hollywood stars are just as hot speaking in German or Russian as they are in English. Here are a few: Sandra Bullock, Michael Fassbender, Mila Kunis, Viggo Mortensen, Charlize Theron, and others.

## PREVIOUS NEWS

### 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.

### 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.”