
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 05 DECEMBER 2011

MLG Marines learn Afghan culture to prepare for deployment

*(dvids)...*Cpl. Michele Watson

To prepare for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan next year, Marines and sailors learned about the Afghan culture to improve their ability to maintain and increase relations with locals. In the war on terror, defeating the Taliban requires not only an extensive understanding of how the terrorist group operates, but also support from Afghan civilians. During the class, Marines and sailors learned about the political, social, religious and environmental aspects of the different groups in Afghanistan. A native Afghan and member of the Center for Advanced Operational Cultural Learning gave multiple periods of instruction.

DoD pilot program promotes language training

(Federal News Radio)

Students at the Defense Language Institute were having some trouble connecting to the network because of the dot-mil domain. Firewalls were blocking them. Jon Russell, chief technology officer at the Defense Language Institute at the Foreign Language Center in Monterey, California, told [Federal News Radio](#) that they had to find a way to change their domain name and increase their bandwidth.

The study-abroad route less traveled: A year in Russia

*(UCLA Newsroom)...*Joan Springhetti

Alyssa Haerle felt her first twinges of love for Russia in the Model United Nations program at her community college. It wasn't until she transferred to UCLA and connected with the [Slavic languages department](#) and the [Russian Flagship Program](#) that she went head over heels. She took Russian classes. She spent a summer studying in Moscow. Her Russian improved. She came back, spent another year at UCLA working toward her major in political science. She took more classes in Russian. She picked up a \$20,000 scholarship and is now spending a full year in Russia, studying and doing research.

Consuls in school foreign languages plea

(BBC)

Last month, the British Council Scotland revealed an 80% decline in language assistants in six years. Now, Edinburgh Consuls General of France, Germany, Spain, Italy and China have joined forces to stress the importance of native-speaking teachers. The diplomats warned that to increase global trading, Scotland needed to be serious about modern languages.

PREVIOUS NEWS

For Afghan Woman, Justice Runs Into Unforgiving Wall Of Custom

*(New York Times)...*Alissa J. Rubin

When the Afghan government announced Thursday that it would pardon a woman who had been imprisoned for adultery after she reported that she had been raped, the decision seemed a clear victory for the many women here whose lives have been ground down by the Afghan justice system. But when the announcement also made it clear that there was an expectation that the woman, Gulnaz, would agree to marry the man who raped her, the moment instead revealed the ways in which even efforts guided by the best intentions to redress violence against women here run up against the limits of change in a society where cultural practices are so powerful that few can resist them, not even the president. Gulnaz's case shows the power of cultural norms. On the one hand, the public campaign for the woman prompted

the pardon, which ensures that she will be able to bring up her daughter outside prison. On the other hand, the fact that the only imaginable solution to the situation of a woman with an illegitimate child is to have her marry the father — even if he is a rapist — is testament to the rigid belief here that a woman is respectable only if she is embedded within a family.

True untranslatability

(The Economist)...Johnson

ROMAN JAKOBSON, a linguist, is credited with the notion that languages differ not so much in what they can express as what they *must* express. The common trope that language X has no word for Y is usually useless (it usually means language X uses several words instead of one for Y). But languages do differ significantly in what they force speakers to express, something Lera Boroditsky talks about often in support of the "[linguistic relativity](#)" hypothesis.

Now's the time to press for Arabic

(Arab News)...Abdul Hannan Tago

King Abdullah International Prize for Translation was launched five years ago, and recently, a grand ceremony took place in Beijing to distribute the prizes among this year's award winners. The prize has established itself in the category of top awards for translation at the international level through its success in attracting major universities, academic institutions, and the best translators from all over the world. This and other Saudi initiatives send across a clear message to the international community that the country is open for cultural exchange and dialogue in the interest of promoting understanding through languages and translations.

Pak-Iran Gas Project: More job opportunities for Persian speaking Pakistanis

(Associated Press of Pakistan)

Pak-Iran gas pipeline project will specifically bring employment opportunities for those Pakistanis who have knowledge of Persian language. Iranian government is planning to offer more relaxations to attract Pakistani students, considering demand of Persian-speaking workers after completion of Pak-Iran gas pipeline project. This was stated by Dr Ghahraman Solamani, Iranian Cultural Counsellor and Chairman Iran-Pakistan Institute of Persian Studies, Islamabad, in a meeting with Maj Gen Masood Hassan, Rector National University of Modern Languages (NUML) along with Head of Persian Language Department Dr Mehar Noor Muhammad Khan on Thursday.

Law requires kids to take more Chamorro classes

(Kuan News)...Krystal Paco

If you're a Chamorro language teacher or looking to become one, the Department of Education wants you. Thanks to Public Law 31-45, DOE is required to expand the language and culture curriculum for Guam's native tongue, and as such the agency will need an additional 25 Chamorro language teachers within the next two years. The new law changes the middle school Chamorro language requirement from one to three years and the high school requirement from one to two years.

Uncle Sam is looking for educators

(Washington Post)...Derrick T. Dortch

The federal government may offer opportunities for some unemployed educators. The Department of Defense Education Activity is a fully operating school system that provides education to the children of military personnel and Department of Defense civilian personnel. It operates 194 schools in 14 districts in 12 foreign countries, seven states, Guam and Puerto Rico. Among the states are Alabama, Georgia, New York, North Carolina and South Carolina; the foreign countries include England, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Japan and South Korea. Under the Army's Training and Doctrine Command there is the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, which focuses on foreign language training for the military, select DoD civilians and other government agencies. It has more than 1,700 instructors, and the center is hiring.

Hiring in the Humanities Is Expected to Increase, MLA Says

(The Chronicle of Higher Education)

The Modern Language Association projects that job seekers in the humanities will have more jobs to apply to in 2011-12 than the year before. The number of ads placed for jobs in English and foreign-language instruction rose 5 percent, according to the association's Job Information List. Positions in English are expected to rise to 1,250 from 1,190, while the number of foreign-language jobs is expected to increase to 1,150 from 1,095. The improvement in the job market, which mirrors information recently reported by the MLA, obviously isn't enough to ease the angst of many scholars who are looking for work. The number of projected faculty positions is still about one-third below the peak they reached in 2007-8.

Program seeks to boost U. language offerings

(Brown Daily Herald)...Hannah Kerman

Interested in Swahili? Armenian? Well, the Brown Language Society is interested in you. Next semester, the society will be piloting the Brown Student Language Exchange program, which is designed to support and foster student interest in languages outside those offered by the University. The new exchange program, an entirely student-run initiative, will allow participants to experience languages and cultures in informal 90-minute crash courses led by student discussion leaders. "We really want to pique student interest in other languages and cultures," Friedman said. The University already offers about 30 languages to the student body, but the exchange will allow students to interact with languages farther off the beaten path by both informing students about available resources and creating new programming.

Study Finds Rosetta Stone TOTALe Effective for Elementary-School-Age Children

(Market Watch)...Press Release

Rosetta Stone Inc., a leading provider of technology-based language-learning solutions, today unveiled a study of the pedagogical implications and learning outcomes for elementary-school-age children who use the Rosetta Stone(R) TOTALe(R) software solution. The study examined the effects of TOTALe as a stand-alone system on the second-language development of third, fourth, fifth and sixth graders learning Mandarin Chinese and Spanish. The scientific research was commissioned to address the effectiveness of educational technology on children learning a second language.