
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 14 DECEMBER 2011

ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines

(ACTFL.org)

Speaking, Writing, Listening, and Reading Proficiency Guidelines dated 2012. The ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines are descriptions of what individuals can do with language in terms of speaking, writing, listening, and reading in real-world situations in a spontaneous and non-rehearsed context. For each skill, these guidelines identify five major levels of proficiency: Distinguished, Superior, Advanced, Intermediate, and Novice. The major levels Advanced, Intermediate, and Novice are subdivided into High, Mid, and Low sublevels. The levels of the ACTFL Guidelines describe the continuum of proficiency from that of the highly articulate, well-educated language user to a level of little or no functional ability.

Defense Language Institute offers culturally-based training

(Federal News Radio)

The [Broadband Language Training System](#), or BLTS, is a new way for the Defense Language Institute to deliver culturally-based foreign-language training to service members — no matter where they are in the world. Col. Danial "Dino" Pick, commandant of DLI, said that even though his organization started this particular program about five years ago, BLTS is growing and expanding quickly.

'Govt target is to produce skilled global citizens'

(Sri Lanka Daily News)...Priyanka Kurugala

Building global citizens with many skills is one of the main targets of the government. English language skills, information technology and culture are the major factors to carry the national identity to the world. To achieve these targets, it is important to provide a sound education in these areas, said Education Minister Bandula Gunawardana.

New words are the new cool thanks to social media

(Canada.com)...Misty Harris

If you know hashtags from humblebrags, occupying from owling, chances are you're a denizen of social media. According to language experts, Twitter and Facebook are not only increasing the speed at which new words spread but also the emotional investment people have in their usage. In fact, in more than two decades of anointing a Word of the Year, the American Dialect Society's deliberations have never attracted this much early attention--a feat insiders credit to the spotlight social media has placed on pop parlance.

Home-language focus vital to bilingualism

(Asia One News)...Professor C.J. Daswani

I fully support the philosophy of bilingual education, especially in a multilingual society such as Singapore. The mother language or home language plays a crucial role in the cognitive development of a child. Success in learning the national or school language is closely dependent on the control a learner has acquired over the home language. An adequate vocabulary and the ability to describe and think in the home language are essential ingredients for developing "intuition" in that language. Learning the national or school language is facilitated by the "intuition" already developed in the home language. Language skills are easily transferred from one language to another.

PREVIOUS NEWS

[U.S. Central Command has Facebook page in Farsi](#)

(Stars & Stripes)...Jeff Schogol

U.S. Central Command has a new [Facebook page written in Farsi](#), the official language of Iran. The [U.S. military command in Iraq](#) posted a link to the Facebook page on Friday along with this message: "We are making an effort to reach the Farsi-speaking audience in particular and increased 'likes' on our page will help pull in even more of the target audience. We need your help to reach this important audience, particularly from Iran, so we appreciate your comments, suggestions, and help in getting the word out about CENTCOM's Farsi page."

[Navy linguist discharged under policy banning gays is reinstated](#)

(Los Angeles Times)...Tony Perry

A Navy linguist discharged under the now-repealed policy banning gays from serving openly has been reinstated and will report soon to the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, his attorneys announced. Petty Officer 2nd Class Jase Daniels, 29, was discharged in 2007 after he was featured in a story in the Stars & Stripes newspaper about gay military personnel. He was sworn back into the Navy on Monday. Daniels, a Hebrew linguist, served a year in Kuwait before being discharged. He will study Farsi — spoken in Iran and Afghanistan — at the Defense Language Institute.

[Female Engagement Team teaches Sangin district police combat lifesaving](#)

(ISAF)...Cpl. Katherine Keleher

Ten Afghan Uniformed Policemen graduated from the Combat Lifesaver Course aboard Forward Operating Base Jackson, Sangin district, Helmand province on December 3. The course, which was instructed by both Female Engagement Team 8 and corpsmen from the Provincial Mentor Team, was seven days long and taught the AUP troops everything they need to know for emergency medical situations in the field. Their lifesaving course went over nearly one dozen topics, including everything from how to properly use a tourniquet to how to patch up a bullet wound.

[Sturgis native retires from Army National Guard](#)

(Rapid City Journal)

Army Maj. Gen. Raymond Carpenter, a Sturgis native, is saying goodbye to the Army National Guard after 29 months of service as the acting director of the Army National Guard and more than 44 years of military service. Carpenter's career began in 1967 when he enlisted with the South Dakota Army National Guard. Shortly after, he joined the U.S. Navy, where he attended the Defense Language Institute to study Vietnamese for 48 weeks. After serving a combat tour in Danang, South Vietnam, he returned to South Dakota where he was commissioned in 1974 in the Army National Guard.

[Exchange students look back on a Sooner semester](#)

(The Oklahoma Daily)...Coco Courtois

"I wished I would have stayed the whole year," Anaïs Furtade, a French foreign language student said. Like many of the exchange students who stay only a semester, she is sad to leave OU. Furtade said she's going to miss living on campus, meeting people from so many different countries and everything that made her time in Norman a uniquely American experience. "You meet so many people you learn a lot about the others and about yourself," Musial said. "When you have plenty of time with yourself, away from home, you take a step back and have a more global picture of your life. I know that this is worth the trip."

[A Counterinsurgency Behind The Burka](#)

(Los Angeles Times)...David Zucchini

After a U.S. special operations force secured a compound outside Kandahar recently, Army 1st Lt. Ashley White was sent in to search and interview Afghan women. Just after she arrived, a homemade bomb exploded, killing her and two Army Rangers. White, 24, was the first female soldier to die in combat while performing a unique new role for the Army. She was part of an elite cultural support team, first sent to Afghanistan in January in an attempt to overcome daunting cultural barriers in the deeply conservative

Islamic country. Trained in Afghan culture and customs, they build relationships with women while also ferreting out information unavailable to male troops.

Airman makes career out of Turkish

(Af.mil)...Kathryn Gustafson

Lt. Col. Stephen W. Meginniss, a force support officer, has pursued language, region and culture opportunities throughout his career and even more so for the past nine years. This pursuit has led to assignments that Meginniss said he considers the "best thing that happened in my career." "You have to take care of yourself and take advantage of every opportunity out there," he said. "If you never apply or put your name in the hat, it won't happen. I am in a 38F position, but I found an opening in Turkey." In 2002, while working with the recruiting squadron in Montgomery, Ala., Meginniss was asked if he was interested in becoming an exchange officer in Turkey. After one year of foreign language training at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in Monterey, Calif., Meginniss deployed to Turkey, where he served as an exchange officer in the Turkish Air Force Training Command.

Everyone Speaks Text Message

(New York Times)...Tina Rosenberg

When Ibrahima Traore takes his sons to a park in Montclair, N.J., he often sits on a bench and reads. He reads English, French and Arabic, but most of the time he reads N'Ko, a language few speakers of those languages would recognize. N'Ko is the standardized writing system for Mande languages, a family of closely related tongues — among them Traore's language of Mandinka, but also Jula, Bamana, Koyaga, Marka — spoken, for the most part, in eight West African countries, by some 35 million people. N'Ko looks like a cross between Arabic and ancient Norse runes, written from right to left in a blocky script with the letters connected underneath.

The war culture won

(The Times of India)

It was Bengali language and culture - suppressed by rulers in [Islamabad](#) who saw it as a threat to the idea of Pakistan - that was at the root of the revolt, writes Mahfuz Anam. No wonder that Bangladeshis have tried to build their new identity through art, music, books and films I still remember the day. On December 16, 1971, I was in Murti, a training camp north of Siliguri in West Bengal. It was run by the Indian Army both for ordinary freedom fighters and officers of the regular army. We were just a couple of weeks short of being deployed to various sectors after passing out as commissioned officers when the Pakistani army surrendered.

Airman Helps Troops With Language Skills

(Military.com)...Master Sgt. Chance Babin

A deployed supply Airman here is not only ensuring Airmen at the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing have the protective equipment they need; he is using his rich heritage to equip them with language skills as well. Airman 1st Class Miad Maleki, a native of Tehran, Iran, is a material management journeyman for the 380th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron. He issues, stores and maintains individual protective equipment and is volunteering in his off time to teach a free Farsi class for the deployed troops here. "I'm teaching a class of 18 students here," he said. "My students are really interested and all have plans to test for the language and either cross train or bring their new skill to the plate."