



# DLO/NSEP Weekly Media Update



**CURRENT NEWS 5 JANUARY 2012**

## **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

### **'AfPak Hands' Program Pays Dividends in Afghanistan, Pakistan**

*(American Forces Press Service)...*Donna Miles

The "AfPak Hands" program stood up in September 2009 to develop a cadre of military and senior civilian experts specializing in the complexities of Afghanistan and Pakistan – the language, culture, processes and challenges. The goal, explained Army Lt. Col. Frederick "Fritz" Gottschalk, the AfPak Hands division chief on the Joint Staff, was for these "hands" to be able to develop close working relationships with their Afghan and Pakistani counterparts and determine how their countries operate. The hands rotate among three general statuses: deployed, serving related out-of-theater staff assignments, and training for the next deployment. Even during the deployment and staff phases, they received continued language and cultural training to ensure their skills don't lapse.

### **Foreign language program rules modified**

*(Army Times)...*Staff

The Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus program has been modified, allowing payments to certain language-skilled soldiers, regardless of their MOS or duty positions. The policy guidance involving the FLPB program described in Army Regulation 11-6 (Army Foreign Language Program) was issued Dec. 8 in MilPer Message 11-381. Under that guidance, soldiers who have a minimum score of 2/2 on a military language proficiency test for a language on the Army's approved language list may be paid a bonus, regardless of the military occupational specialty or duty position.

### **Literacy over the airwaves**

*(dvids)...*Sgt. Lizette Hart

In a country where the literacy rate is below 30 percent, a coalition special operations forces team assists Afghan citizens by facilitating a regular radio literacy program in Jaji district. Since most Afghans do not know how to read or write, and rely on receiving news by radio or word of mouth, being dependent on spoken words poses a problem when Afghan and coalition forces distribute materials containing vital information on medical treatment, educational opportunities and government activities. While looking for ways to improve the lives of Afghans, the coalition SOF team discovered a literacy program that could reach thousands of people simultaneously. "The intent of the radio program is to have one teacher, teaching 5,000 people at the same time," said the coalition SOF NCO. "We went to the district shura to tell them we have this literacy program and explained to them what the program was and how it was supposed to work," said the coalition SOF NCO. "We took a poll to see who would be interested in the program, and everyone said they were."

### **MOS-related enlistment bonuses severely reduced**

*(Army Times)...*Staff

Seasonal bonuses and other special offerings remain on the Army's active component recruiting incentive menu, but regular MOS-related enlistment bonuses have been sharply curtailed. It only authorizes bonuses for six of the 139 MOS that in the past have qualified for enlistment incentives. Specialties targeted for bonuses are 09L (interpreter/translator for Pushtu and Persian), 12D (diver), 18X (Special Forces), 35 (cryptologic linguist), 68K (laboratory specialist) and 89D (explosive ordnance disposal specialist).

### **Face of Defense: Deployed Sailor Leads Team in Afghanistan**

*(American Forces Press Service)...*Cpl. Meredith Brown

When Kimberly Ryan stepped into the Navy recruiter's office at age 18, she had no idea what she wanted to do. Seven years later, after serving overseas in Sasebo, Japan, Ryan now serves as the team leader for Female Engagement Team 8 in the Sangin district of Afghanistan's Helmand province. "The female engagement team is all about counterinsurgency.

## STUDIES

### **The Implications of Cultural Entrenchment for Counterinsurgency Operations**

*(Australian Army Journal)*...Nathan Coultis

This article examines the role of culture in an insurgency and critically analyses the way that counterinsurgency operations address culture. Essentially, the article argues that Western counterinsurgency warfare generally assumes that the culture of a nation beset by an insurgency will adapt to population-centric approaches made by the counterinsurgent force. This assumption is the result of a fundamental mismatch between the theoretical/ideological underpinnings of counterinsurgency theory and a functional understanding of culture as an adaptive product of human psychology and neurobiology.

## DOMESTIC

### **Schools turn to Chinese language classes with help of Chinese government**

*(CNN)*...Susanna Capetouto

"We feel like, with the flattening of the world economy, that students who are able to learn some Mandarin and learn something about the Chinese culture have a leg up when they move into college and eventually the work force," Shrader says. The Department of Defense just awarded the Georgia Institute of Technology \$720,000 to create a pilot program where Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) students learn Chinese. The school has been offering Mandarin to all its students for over a decade and the language is growing in popularity, says Dean Jacqueline Jones-Royster. "China is a player on the world stage now so we have to treat them as players on the world stage," Jones-Royster says.

### **Chinese-funded institutes raise concerns on U.S. campuses**

*(USA Today)*...Elizabeth Redden

More than 300 colleges in more than 90 countries -- including about 70 institutions in the [United States](#) -- host Confucius Institutes, centers of Chinese language and culture education and research funded by China's government. The infusion of Chinese government funding into international universities has enabled significant expansions in language teaching, cultural programming, and China-related conferences and symposia, but it has also raised fears regarding academic freedom and independence of teaching and research.

### **US Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) expands services to communicate with the public in 175 languages**

*(HUD.gov)*...Press Release

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) today announced that it has launched the HUD Language Line, a telephone language service pilot that will offer live, one-on-one interpretation services in more than 175 languages. Accessible throughout the nation, the language line will help HUD staff to better communicate with Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals and families about HUD housing programs, services, and activities. "The HUD Language Line is another example of HUD's efforts to ensure that persons with limited English proficiency have equal access to HUD programs and services."

### **Queens Libraries Speak the Mother Tongue**

*(New York Times)*...Joseph Berger

Languages once obscure to New York libraries are also appearing in the stacks. Of the 6.8 million books, CDs, videos and other items on Queens stacks, 833,000, or 12 percent, are in a language other than English. (Calling them foreign languages does not seem quite accurate in a borough where almost 50 percent of the populace was born abroad.) Chinese and Spanish top the list, but there are large collections of Korean, Russian, French, Hindi, Italian and Bengali as well, said Joanne King, a library spokeswoman. The Woodside branch has several shelves in Nepali, while a branch in Flushing has titles in the Afghan languages of Dari and Pashto.

### **Alignment of the National Standards for Learning Languages with the Common Core State Standards**

*(ACTFL)*

The *Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects* contains four strands: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language. These four strands are represented in the National Standards for Learning Languages by the Communication standards (interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational) and the level of proficiency demonstrated.

The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) invites your input on this draft document. Please share your feedback and comments **by January 15, 2012**. Access the feedback form online at [www.actfl.org/commoncore](http://www.actfl.org/commoncore).

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **What makes some people learn language after language?**

*(Economist)*

CARDINAL MEZZOFANTI of Bologna was a secular saint. Though he never performed the kind of miracle needed to be officially canonised, his power was close to unearthly. Mezzofanti was said to speak 72 languages. Or 50. Or to have fully mastered 30. No one was certain of the true figure, but it was a lot. Visitors flocked from all corners of Europe to test him and came away stunned. He could switch between languages with ease. Two condemned prisoners were due to be executed, but no one knew their language to hear their confession. Mezzofanti learned it in a night, heard their sins the next morning and saved them from hell. To find out whether anyone could really learn so many languages, Mr Erard set out to find modern Mezzofantis. The people he meets are certainly interesting.

## **PREVIOUS NEWS**

### **It's been said many times many ways ...**

*(The Houston Chronicle)...Rene Guzman*

How would you say Merry Christmas in Vulcan, Na'vi, Elvish or Klingon? Stephen D. Rogers, author of *A Dictionary of Made-Up Languages*, gives us a fresh spin on the popular greeting for this time of year.

### **10 U.S. Colleges with Highest ESL Participation Rates**

*(U.S. News & World Report)...Katy Hopkins*

"English proficiency is a critical skill for international students to possess in order to succeed at colleges in the United States. Not only will a strong grasp of the English language serve you well in your classes, but it can help you acclimate to life on a U.S. campus and fit in with peers, too."

### **Listening to Language Educators**

*(U.S. Department of Education)...Maryann Woods-Murphy*

Check out a life-long Spanish teacher and ACTFL member blog about helping her students gain language proficiency.

### **Rosetta Stone Commends Law Enforcement for 31 Piracy Arrests**

*(The Wall Street Journal)*

Yesterday, Rosetta Stone commended U.S. and Canadian law enforcement agencies and local law enforcement agencies across 13 states for their work to combat software piracy. Efforts by law enforcement agencies led to the arrest of 31 people and 119 civil settlements for copyright violations and illegal software distribution.

### **Australian education in the Asian century: adapting for the world to come**

*(The Australian)...Michael Singh*

Australia is having an open discussion about an upcoming white paper that is expected to provide a national blueprint for Australia at a time of transformative economic growth and change in Asia. This discussion includes the demand for second language learning.

### **Why immersing HISD pupils in Mandarin Chinese will enhance learning, global edge**

*(Houston News.com)...Harvin Moore*

Houston Intercity School District Trustee Harvin Moore describes why immersion in Mandarin Chinese will help Texas and individuals be more competitive in the global market economy.

### **Job Market for Accountants Buoyant in 2012 Says New IAB Survey**

*(The Wall Street Journal)*

The job market for accountants appears buoyant as employers start to hire again in 2012. In a global survey of senior accountants conducted by the International Accounting Bulletin (IAB) the specific accounting skills in demand include: knowledge of international financial reporting standards, language skills and tax.