



[TO OPEN HYPERLINKS USE CONTROL+CLICK](#)

[CURRENT NEWS 2 FEBRUARY 2012](#)

[DLO/NSEP HIGHLIGHT](#)

[Uzbek Low Range Defense Language Proficiency Test Release](#)

We are pleased to announce the release of the Low Range Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT5) Constructed Response Test in Uzbek on February 29, 2012. Many thanks to COL Danial Pick and all involved at DLIFLC.

[February is Discover Languages Month \(ACTFL\)](#)

Discover Languages[®] is the national campaign developed by the [American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages](#) (ACTFL) to raise awareness about the cognitive, academic, social, cultural and economic benefits that language learning provides our nation's students. Find out [what the research shows](#) about the [benefits of language learning](#). To help simplify the process, ACTFL has developed a number of templates, tools, resources, classroom ideas, and activities to help teachers, students, parents and supporters join in the effort.

[DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE](#)

[SOUTHCOM Commander Briefs NPS Regional Studies Students, FAOs](#)

(Navy.mil)...Amanda D. Stein
Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) students in the National Security Affairs Western Hemisphere curriculum and regional Foreign Area Officers gathered on the university campus for a detailed briefing on the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) from the commander himself, Air Force Gen. Douglas Fraser, Jan. 23. The briefing gave students a firsthand perspective on both the unique challenges and areas of progress within Latin America. Fraser spoke highly of the partnerships that the U.S. has and continues to strengthen with the 31 countries in the SOUTHCOM area of responsibility (AOR).

[Vice Admiral Harward says organic language capability is mission critical](#)

(DLIFLC)...Natela Cutter
Vice Admiral Robert Harward, deputy commander of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), said, "When I had my own U.S. linguist there, trained military,

who had a different military perspective, I knew I would not lose any of the nuances I made, either with translating or receiving that message with the local elders, governors, etc." "The past 10



years have reinforced it, more now than ever, that language and cultural skills are critical, especially as we move forward in our

Counterinsurgency efforts and our broader approach," said Harward, whose area of responsibility at CENTCOM includes 20 nations throughout the Middle East and Central Asia.

[Program Connects Officer with Family Heritage](#)

(Military.com)...1st Lt. Alejandro Bihar
People in the military understand that being able to relate across cultures is a very important skill. That ability has a more personal meaning for me, though. Cross-cultural competence isn't just a concept in my family. It has been critical to our survival. I could have never guessed that being in the Air Force would lead to me spending almost a month in Budapest, immersed in Hungarian culture. But that's what happened, as part of my participation in the Air Force's Language Enabled Airman Program.

[DLIFLC/NPS officially begin new phase of network partnership](#)

(DLIFLC)...Natela Cutter

More than 50 military and academic leaders of the Defense Language Institute Foreign



Language Center and the Naval Postgraduate School joined together to officially announce the groundbreaking of the award-winning ".edu" academic network infrastructure initiative during a ribbon cutting ceremony Jan. 25. "I believe this project will serve as a model for others to follow.

[Interpreter understands importance of language, regional and cultural skills](#)

(Af.mil)...Karen Harrison

Airmen possessing language, regional and cultural skills are an essential part of international partnerships because one misinterpreted word could spell the difference between mission success and failure. Sometimes the translation between languages and across cultural divides can explain the most common misunderstanding and provide a different perspective to any situation. It is not just the linguistic skills that have assisted me in my job," he said. "Nothing translates perfectly. Having cultural awareness allows me to bridge that gap and determine a phrase or situation's equivalent by understanding the culture significance associated with each word."

ROTC cadets to participate in cultural understanding program

(University of Nevada, Reno)...Catherine Stokes



Twelve cadets from the University of Nevada, Reno Army ROTC program have been

chosen to travel abroad this summer as part of the U.S. Army's Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency Program. The cadets were awarded the slots in the program through a competitive, national process that considers several factors, including applicants' grade-point average, physical fitness, an essay and other selection criteria. "This affords them with an opportunity to truly experience and become immersed in a different culture."

DOMESTIC

Foreign Policy: Outsource Your Kid

(NPR)...Charles Kenny

It's that time of the year again: high-school seniors around the country are anxiously awaiting the news that will change their lives — early



admission to the university of their choice. There is a simple answer to such concerns: Shop around for a better

deal. If junior is willing to travel a little bit further — to colleges overseas — the world offers some incredible bargains for quality tertiary education,

with the option of free language and culture immersion thrown in. Tuition costs for foreign students at some of the best universities in Asia, Europe, and Africa can be as low as \$4,000, well below half the median cost of college in the United States.

U.S., Chinese Schools Build Virtual Ed. Partnerships

(Education Week)...Brian Widdis



Several schools aiming to better prepare students for a global economy and foster cultural understanding between the United States and China have turned to virtual exchange programs between American and Chinese schools. "The global market is changing 24-7," said William Skilling, the superintendent of the 4,600-student Oxford community school system in Michigan. "We feel it is mission-critical for every student to become fluent in a world language and fluent in multiple world cultures."

INTERNATIONAL

Language gift keeps giving, EU students keep taking

(Times Higher Education)...Jack Grove

The startling mismatch between the linguistic skills and ambitions of foreign students and their UK counterparts has been highlighted in evidence to a House of Lords inquiry. Addressing a Lords committee investigating European Union involvem

t in higher education, Tony Downes, deputy vice-chancellor



of the University of Reading, said overseas students who were often already proficient linguists were far keener to take extra language modules in UK universities than their British peers. "The greatest take-up of foreign language courses is from foreign-students taking up a four or fifth language," he said.

Israeli computer hackers study Arabic to upgrade skills

(Los Angeles Times)... Batsheva Sobelman
Arabic is Israel's second official language, though it has long been treated more as a poor stepsister



than an honored member of the family. But learning the native tongue of the Arabian Peninsula has gained a small

boost lately among one group of Israelis as a needed weapon in the latest battleground between their nation and its enemies: the Web. Arab and Jewish computer hackers have been raiding websites around the Middle East in recent weeks, disrupting service at businesses such as the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange and stealing identities. Seeking to upgrade their skills, a group of Israeli hackers has turned to the [Berlitz](#) language school for customized classes in Arabic, as well as Turkish, Persian and English.