



THE LANGUAGE & CULTURE WEEKLY

Volume 1, Issue 8



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

[CURRENT NEWS 1 MARCH 2012](#)

[DLNSEO HIGHLIGHT](#)

[National Language Service Corps will participate in 1st Language Flagship National Student Meeting](#)

(NLSC)

The National Language Service Corps will participate in the first ever [Language Flagship National Student Meeting](#) on March 6-7 at the University of Maryland. The event will bring together 50+ outstanding U.S. undergraduate students who possess foreign language skills and cultural expertise in countries of critical interest to the US national security community. Most of these students are juniors and seniors who are interested in government service.

[DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE](#)

[Carter Hears Troops' Concerns, Vows to Take Action](#)

(Defense.gov)...Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr. Warfighters' needs served as the driving force for Deputy Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter today as he met with two separate groups to receive feedback on weapons, equipment and training. The soldiers discussed a wide array of topics such as the use of female engagement teams, biometrics, and language and cultural awareness training. The timing of receiving equipment was another prominent example. The deputy defense secretary admitted "we are not perfect in Washington," but he reassured the troops he would not ignore their feedback.

[Djiboutian special forces, US soldiers share language skills](#)

(dvids)

Djiboutian and U.S. Army soldiers participated in a language class led by Civil Affairs Team 4902. "We



are at the first phase," said Djiboutian special forces Capt. Arayta Houmed Ebile, unit

commander. "We hope that my soldiers will be able to speak English in a few months time." "The program gives us a chance to bond and strengthen our relationship," Scally said. "The Djiboutians are our allies and we want to build a lasting relationship with these soldiers."

[DOMESTIC](#)

[Making Ourselves at Home](#)

(The Wall Street Journal)

It's a recent thing: Life began around 3.5 billion years ago, but human language and culture got going only within the past 200,000 years and cities only within the past 10,000. Yet this development has had a big effect: We humans vary little in our genes but a lot in our cultures. Today there are more than 7,000 mutually unintelligible languages and far more cultures and subcultures than that.

[Language options growing in schools](#)

(Delaware Online)...Nichole Dobo

If Gov. Jack Markell is successful, Delaware



students will begin learning a second language as early as kindergarten. The effort is meant to help Delaware

graduates be more competitive in the workforce. "Delaware needs a new generation of people who have advanced language skills," said Gregory Fulkerson, education associate for world languages and international education at the Delaware Department of Education.

[Schools & Military](#)

(Sun Gazette)

Arlington Public Schools has been awarded two STARTALK foreign-language grants from the federal government in support of summer programs in Chinese and Arabic studies for students in grades 4 to 12. It is the sixth consecutive year that the school system has received STARTALK funding, and the first year that two grants have been awarded to the school division. STARTALK was established by the National Security Initiative to expand foreign-language education in under-taught, critical

languages. The school system will be offering three-week intensive summer programs in Arabic and Chinese in July

INTERNATIONAL

Learn a new language – change your perspective

*(Local Government Chronicle)...*William David English is both the international language of business, and many peoples' default second language, so it's easy to see why many native English speakers assume that wherever they go in the world they'll get by. However, this perception is not entirely true. The CIA World Fact Book says that only 5.6 per cent of the world's population speaks English as a primary language. And although that doubles if you count those who speak it as a second or third language, this still means that more than 80 per cent of the world population does not speak English. A European Union official [warned](#) last year that the UK was in danger of becoming under-represented in EU institutions owing to the poor foreign language skills of the British workforce.