



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

[CURRENT NEWS 14 JUNE 2012](#)

[DLNSEO HIGHLIGHT](#)

[Humanities and the military](#)

(University of Texas)...Eileen Flynn

"We are proud of the partnerships that The Language Flagship programs have made with ROTC and the Services," says Michael



Nugent, director of NSEP. "The University of Texas is creating opportunities for service members and sharing their academic expertise makes our soldiers better informed and prepared for their mission requirements, and our national security needs."

[DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE](#)

[Our monolingual Air Force](#)

(Armed Forces Journal)...CAPT John Wright

Until about 15 years ago, the service possessed virtually no international language career field, with the exception of relatively limited training for air attaches and the very thorough airborne linguist program. In 1997, the Air Force created an FAO program, largely by copying the Army's, though lacking a formal school and defined goals. While participants were granted secondary career field codes (an important distinction from changing primary career codes), they were given no guidance, and the program faltered under lack of funding, lack of oversight and a perception as a "career killer" before finally withering on the vine. In 2005, the program was reborn under a revision to DoD Directive 1315.17. Yet the new international affairs specialist (IAS) remains an incomplete career path, excludes junior officers and lacks all-important mission focus. Why the diffident record on an international program? Put bluntly, senior Air Force leaders, unlike their counterparts in the Army and Navy, have never been unanimously convinced that their service needs one.

[Here's Why I'm Volunteering To Go To Afghanistan For A Mission That's Unknown And Under-Appreciated](#)

(The Kabul Cable)...Tyrell Mayfield

I am going to Afghanistan as an embedded advisor. I am an [AFPAK](#) (Afghanistan, Pakistan) Hand. I am a volunteer and that does not make me



crazy. I spent six months learning passable Arabic, then almost another year of training and education before I

completed my "supervised deployment" and was a full-up round. The first trip was a real eye-opener for me. I had worked with foreign forces before and even had some integrated into units I had deployed with, but it was always on U.S. installations and on U.S. terms. On my first deployment as an advisor I lived with my counterparts at a remote airfield. I stayed in their billets [quarters], ate their food, walked their ground, on their terms.

[NATIONAL](#)

[Speak the Language: A State Department staffer reveals his tricks for becoming fluent fast](#)

(Express)...Andrew Eli

I never had a French nanny. There were no Chinese-language charter schools when I was growing up in Rhode Island in the '80s. My family may have come from Russia a century ago, but I heard nary a "do svidanya" from my parents. So how on earth did I learn Russian, French, Chinese and enough Kazakh to translate the news? But, to quote Stephen Colbert: I am America, and so can you. That is to say, I was born and bred in the U.S.A., yet I figured it out – and have some suggestions for you (or for your precocious toddler). Follow these easy steps to get on the fast track to Polyglot City. Make the commitment, take a hard class with lots of grammar, open your mouth, buy a ticket, go on a date, get a job, and don't lose it.

[Federal Drive interviews - June 6](#)

(Federal News Radio)

Interview with COL Danial Pick, Commandant, Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center.

Peace Corps recruiting older volunteers for their commitment, experience

(The Washington Post)

When Tamara England-Zelenski applied to the Peace Corps two years ago, at age 57, she saw the



assignment as a way to give back, travel and experience a different way of life. "I had considered Peace Corps when I was

in my early 20s, but I felt that I had no specific skills to offer, other than speaking French. I figured they wanted specialists and I was a generalist, so I never applied," said England-Zelenski, of Madison, Wis. "And I am still a generalist, but one with a lifetime of experience in different areas and businesses." As it turns out, England-Zelenski was just what the Peace Corps was looking for. The organization has begun recruiting older volunteers, recognizing their experience, maturity and commitment to volunteering.

MLA Statement on Language Learning and United States National Policy

(MLA)

The MLA regards the learning of languages other than English as vital to an understanding of the world; such learning serves as a portal to the literatures, cultures, historical perspectives, and human experiences that constitute the human record. Pragmatically, we believe in the value of becoming part of a global conversation in which knowledge of English is often not enough, and the security and future of our country depend on accurately understanding other cultures through their linguistic and cultural practices.

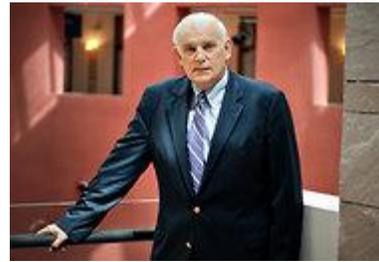
INTERNATIONAL

Battling to Preserve Arabic From English's Onslaught

(New York Times)...D.D. Guttenplan

At [Northwestern University in Qatar](#) the administration recently came up against a surprising problem: How to improve students' Arabic. The overseas campus of the renowned university in Evanston, Illinois, attracts students from 30 countries for its programs in

communications and journalism, popular majors



in the hometown of [Al Jazeera](#), the satellite broadcasting network. Although courses are given in

English, about 60 percent of students speak some form of Arabic. "But most of them don't speak Arabic well enough to appear on Al Jazeera," said Everette E. Dennis, the school's dean.