

LANGUAGE & CULTURE WEEKLY

11 SEPTEMBER 2012

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FAIRFAX SCHOOLS SYSTEM FACES GROWING BUDGET CHALLENGE 2

RAISE THE REWARD FOR LEARNING A LANGUAGE 2

THREE MILITARY LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANTS VISIT DLIFLC 2

SANDY RESIDENT TRAVELS TO INDONESIA 3

PASHTO LINGUIST DEPLOYS WITH CULTURAL 3

VIRTUAL CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINER (VCAT) 3

AFGHANS CREATE 'WESTERN CULTURE' MANUAL TO HELP COUNTER INSIDER ATTACKS

(Stars & Stripes)...Heath Druzin

Scrambling to respond to a spate of shootings that has deepened mistrust between Afghan and coalition troops, the Afghan military has produced a new manual to educate its troops on the ways of their Western counterparts, one of several steps announced Thursday to stem the threat of so-called green on blue attacks.

“In the area of cultural awareness, we are trying to educate our soldiers and to

understand the sensitivities of the culture of the Western partners and at the same time, (coalition leaders) are working hard to teach their soldiers about our cultures,” Afghan Ministry of Defense spokesman Gen. Mohammed Zaher Azimi said at a joint press conference with British Lt. Gen. Adrian Bradshaw,

deputy commander of the International Security Assistance Force.

Bradshaw said coalition forces, too, are adding to their cultural training with input from Afghan army religious and cultural affairs advisers.



Afghan Ministry of Defense spokesman Gen. Mohammed Zaher Azimi and British Lt. Gen. Adrian Bradshaw, deputy commander of ISAF

LANGUAGE CLASSES EXPAND REMOTELY

(Yale Daily News)...Lorenzo Ligato

Students at Yale, Cornell and Columbia will see new languages taught this fall — but they won’t necessarily meet all the instructors in person.

In an effort to expand its language course offerings, Yale’s

Center for Language Study is partnering with Columbia and Cornell to offer videoconference-based classes in eight uncommonly taught languages. Each of the classes, which meet on a regular basis, are taught by instructors on one of the three campuses and streamed live in designated classrooms outfitted with

videoconferencing technology. This fall, the shared course initiative is bringing four brand-new courses to Yale — elementary Bengali, advanced Indonesian, elementary Romanian and intermediate Tamil — and expanding language programming at relatively low cost to all three universities.



FAIRFAX SCHOOLS SYSTEM FACES GROWING BUDGET CHALLENGE AS MORE STUDENTS NEED ESOL CLASSES

(Washington Post)

The number of Fairfax County students who speak a foreign language at home is likely to surpass 50 percent of the school population for the first time this month, reflecting a surge of immigrant families in Northern Virginia, school officials said.

As total enrollment reached an all-time high of 181,500 students when school began Tuesday, Fairfax also saw a major increase in those who will need English language lessons. This year, about 31,500 students are projected to enroll in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), representing 17 percent of the total county student population

and an increase of nearly one-third from last year.

Those numbers have profound financial implications for the school system, which spends \$3,300 per student for ESOL lessons, county budget records show. With 7,652 new students in ESOL this year, that represents an additional \$25.3 million.

RAISE THE REWARD FOR LEARNING A LANGUAGE

(Financial Times)...Michael Skapinker

Learn a language in your lunchtime! That is the enticing invitation pinned up around our office. I have already sent off my application for the French class.

We are all travelling and trading more. Speaking languages provides an entrée into other cultures, as well as job opportunities. Employers are desperate to recruit speakers of foreign lan-

guages.

The first decision English speakers have to make is what language to learn. With the rise of the Bric powers, should they learn Portuguese, Russian, Hindi or Mandarin? As China is predicted to be the biggest economy on earth soon, the last makes the most sense, except that 25 years ago you would have said the same of Japanese.

The second issue is that learning

a language is difficult. These won't be my first French lessons. I have been learning the language, on and off, for 30 years. I speak it reasonably fluently, but that doesn't stop an increasing number of French people from responding to my efforts by switching to English. Yes, French business people seem to appreciate that I have taken the time to learn their language, but they seem keener to show me they have learnt mine.

We are all travelling and trading more. Speaking languages provides an entrée into other cultures, as well as job opportunities. Employers are desperate to recruit speakers of foreign languages.

THREE MILITARY LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANTS VISIT DLIFLC

(DLIFLC)...Natela Cutter

Three Military Assistants from Washington D.C. visited the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center on August 28, in an effort to find out more about the Institute's foreign language mission.

"The group was impressed with the students' abilities

during the classroom observation and were very pleased with DLI's online (language) offerings," said DLIFLC Commandant Col. Danial D. Pick, who hosted Will Goodwin, from Sen. Patrick Leahy, Adam Goodwin, from Sen. Pat Murray's office, and Michelle Lenihan, representing Sen. Dick Durbin. Visitors re-

ceived a command briefing, observed a Persian-Farsi classroom in action, and watched distance learning and online product demonstrations.



SANDY RESIDENT TRAVELS TO INDONESIA TO LEARN

(Salt Lake Tribune)...Jon Clifford

Monica Schwarz has never been farther from home, but may never have been closer to your family roots.

The Sandy resident and recent Tulane University graduate spent the summer in Indonesia as part of the U.S. Department of State's Critical Language Scholar-

ship Program.

Schwarz studied Indonesian at the State University of Malang during the eight-week intensive language program, which is part of the U.S. government's effort to expand the number of Americans studying and mastering critical foreign languages.

"It's a great program,"

Schwarz said. "I only found out about it about a month before the deadline. If I had know about it when I was a freshman, I would have done it earlier because you can do it multiple times."



PASHTO LINGUIST DEPLOYS WITH CULTURAL TEAM

(divids)...Devon Swanson

After a 15-month deployment to Afghanistan from 2008 to 2009, Sgt. Janiece Marquez decided she not only wanted to return for a second tour, she wanted to experience the country in an entirely different way.

Marquez reenlisted so she

could attend the Basic Pashto Course at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center. After graduating in 2010, she proceeded to compete for a slot in a cultural unit deploying to Afghanistan.

"I do think that our team was one of the most suc-

cessful because of our language capability and our size," said Marquez, who was the only Soldier well-versed in Pashto. These abilities allowed her and her partner to split up during missions and build relations separate from each other, doubling their productivity.

"My biggest obstacle was dialect ... so I talked a lot with the interpreters and studied my books in eastern dialect until I developed both."

VIRTUAL CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINER (VCAT): AFGHANISTAN, HORN OF AFRICA, NORTHERN AFRICA, SOUTH AMERICA

DLNSEO's Virtual Cultural Awareness Trainer (VCAT™) teaches cultural skills specific to the following geographic / geopolitical locations: Horn of Africa, Northern Africa, Afghanistan, and South America. Trainees learn the most effective ways to complete missions in that region using culturally appropriate behaviors and key

phrases. Missions covered include Civil Affairs Operations, Security Cooperation, Partner Forces Training, Humanitarian Operations, Illicit Trafficking Interdiction and more.

A VCAT fact sheet is available here: [https://wss.apan.org/1539/JKO/Shared%20Documents/VCAT Fact Sheet June20](https://wss.apan.org/1539/JKO/Shared%20Documents/VCAT%20Fact%20Sheet%20June2009.pdf)

09.pdf

To train with VCAT courses, visit Joint Knowledge Online at: <http://jko.jten.mil/> If you already have a JKO account, you may log-in with those credentials. (You will NOT use your Alelo DOD Support site login info at JKO.)

