



THIS MONTH IN LANGUAGE & CULTURE

NOVEMBER 2012

DLNSEO GROWS PROJECT GLOBAL OFFICER AND LANGUAGE TRAINING CENTERS

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The Defense Language and National Security Education Office (DLNSEO) conducted two open competitions this summer awarding 33 institutional grants to accredited U.S. colleges and universities under the Project Global Officers (GO) and Language Training Center (LTC) Programs.

The Project GO Program promotes critical language education, study abroad, and intercultural dialogue opportunities among Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) students in order to develop future military officers with the cross-cultural communication skills required for effective leadership in the 21st century operational environment.

Project GO was piloted in the summer of 2007 with institutional grants awarded to four institutions. Today, institutions participating in the program have increased six fold and have supported critical language study for more than 1,800 ROTC students nationwide and 25 Project GO grant recipients for Academic Year 2012-2013.

Languages currently offered by Project GO institutions include: Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Hausa, Hindi, Korean, Pashto, Persian (Dari, Farsi, and Tajik), Russian, Swahili, Tatar, Turkish, Urdu, Uzbek, and Wolof.



Major Fuller with Project GO participants in Beijing at Minzu University

During the summer of 2012, Project GO offered study abroad programs in China, Kenya, Jordan, Morocco, Russia, South Korea, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

After interacting with several Project GO students while studying in China, Air Force Major Jeff Fuller, an Olmsted scholar studying in China, commented, "It was great to see so many future officers so interested in a foreign culture and so willing to come to China to experience it first-hand."

This year Project GO established a minimum base proficiency goal of Interagency Language Roundtable Level 1 across multiple modalities for all Project GO participants, to be achieved over a series of multiple interventions.

The Language Training Center (LTC) Program is a Department of Defense (DoD) -funded initiative established in September 2011 to increase DoD's training

capacity in critical and strategic languages and regional area studies for DoD personnel.

Five LTCs were awarded a grant during Academic Year 2011-2012 and eight were selected for the 2012-2013 Academic Year.

DoD has identified a critical need for having more DoD personnel speak and understand critical languages. The training they receive through this program will develop a critical skill set that will support national security objectives. Each center has an institutional capacity to provide customized training to meet the specific needs of various DoD entities. Training is delivered primarily through non-traditional delivery methods such as intensive immersion instruction and online modules. Languages currently offered by the centers include: Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Korean, Pashto, Persian (Dari and Farsi), and Russian.

LEARNING A LANGUAGE MAKES THE BRAIN BIGGER

(*Business Insider*)...Randy Astaiza

[By peering into students' brains, a recent study](#), published in the journal *NeuroImage*, found that learning languages can help bulk up the brain.

The researchers, from Lund University, compared the brains of students from the Swedish Armed Forces Interpreter Academy, who become fluent in languages within 13 months, to science students at Umeå University, who also study hard.

They took MRI scans before and after a three-month period of studying for these two groups of students. The brains of the science students did not change or grow but the brains of the language students experienced growth in areas of their cerebral cortex, which is related to language, and in their hippocampus, which is involved in learning new things. This brain bulk could be a good thing when it comes to staying sharp later in life.

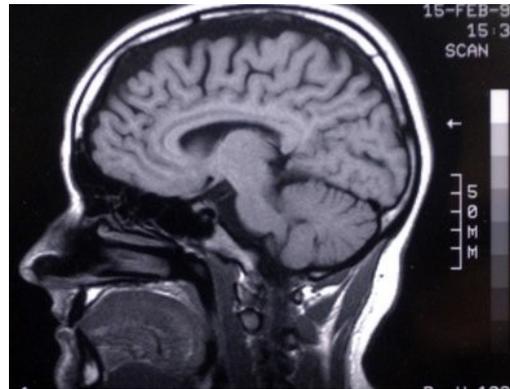
[In another paper published online in May 2011](#), by the journal *Cortex*, researcher [Tom Schweizer](#) and his team at Saint Michael's Hospital in Toronto, looked at how bilingualism impacted cognitive decline that

comes with Alzheimer's disease.

They studied the brains of probable Alzheimer's patients using CT scans. They matched bilingual patients up with those who only knew one language, but who had a similar level of cognitive performance and education. The brains of the bilingual patients were more degraded than the brains of patients who only spoke one language, though both had the same cognitive performance.

This means that even though the language speakers had more advanced disease, the Alzheimer's symptoms weren't as bad as they should have been. This indicates that more of their brain needs to degrade before their cognitive performance goes down. The researchers don't know if this delay means that further Alzheimer's symptoms would appear quicker in bilingual patients, since their brains are more degraded.

Evidence like this is building that the brain is still plastic and capable of growing and changing long into old



MRI scan of the human brain, these scans were used on the research subjects for this study

age, and that this plasticity is important to keeping the brain healthy.

The [National Institutes of Health](#) recommends staying mentally active to help stave off mental decline. Learning a new language may give the brain the exercise it needs to stay healthy.

COMMUNICATING IN THE WAR ZONE

(*CNN*)...Brooke Baldwin



On October 19, 2012, Brooke Baldwin of CNN interviewed Sgt. Charlie Mink, Program Coordinator for the Arizona State University

Project Global Officer (Project GO) grant, about a new program called "Project GO" that educates ROTC cadets about Arabic culture. Mink discussed how teaching military personnel how to effectively engage in a foreign culture will help improve the image and reputation of the United States.

Mink commented that Project GO is administered by the Defense

Language and National Security Education Office located in Rosslyn, VA, and spoke briefly about the opportunities that are open at the 25 universities that participate in the program nation-wide and how ROTC cadets who are not students of one of those 25 universities can still participate in the program.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE: K-12 FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Defense Language and National Security Education Office (DLNSEO) promotes and programmatically supports sustained foreign language study at the kindergarten through 12th grade (K-12) levels to improve foreign language proficiency outcomes in critical languages. In 2012, DLNSEO sponsored three specific K-12 initiatives, which address the shortage of U.S. citizens graduating high school with foreign language proficiency and in-depth knowledge of other cultures and regions.

Strategic Foreign Language Expansion Program

On October 3-4, the Strategic Foreign Language Expansion Program (S-FLEP) grantees met in Bethesda, MD to kick-off the first iteration of the program. This program is a DLNSEO-Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) partnership that provides grants to our nation's military-connected public schools to strengthen foreign language education and build a collaborative outcomes-based curriculum.

In this first year, grants were awarded to six school districts that will impact 22 military installations, 27 schools, 8,200 military-connected students, and 24,900 total students. Language instruction includes Chinese, Spanish and German.

K-12 Language Flagship

The Language Flagship continues its investment in the development of new models to improve critical foreign language education in the K-12 system nationally. Ultimately, the goal is the development of K-12 language instruction programs that graduate high school students with an advanced level of competency that allow Flagship programs at the college and university level to take these students to an ILR Level 3 proficiency. The Language Flagship is working closely with Michigan State University's Arabic Language Curriculum Project, consortia effort led by Brigham Young University and the Utah State Department of Education for K-12 Chinese language instruction, and the University of Oregon and Portland Public Schools to increase the number of highly proficient language graduates into the university system through Chinese dual immersion programs.



University of Oregon Chinese Flagship student plays a game in Chinese with students at Portland Public Schools Chinese program

DLNSEO K-12 Partnerships

DLNSEO has conducted five State Language Roadmap initiatives, the latest plan being launched in Rhode Island in June 2012 with the participation of state and local government, business, and higher education and K-12 educators. The goal for all K-12 Programs continues to be the improvement and expansion of K-12 foreign language education with proven models for states and localities to replicate in order to address our country's national security needs. DLNSEO remains committed to addressing the need for a national pipeline of language-enabled professionals for national security positions and U.S. global competitiveness and prosperity. These model programs will be continually reassessed to review program applicability, student proficiency data as well as the return on investment.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE LANGUAGE PROGRAM FLOURISHES AT UM

(Missoulian)...Martin Kidston

A program contracted by the Defense Language and National Security Education Office at the University of Montana has emerged as one of the top programs of its kind in the country, immersing U.S. troops and diplomats in critical languages and cultures where American interests are at stake.

Now three years old, the Defense Critical Language and Cultural Program at UM has launched several new initiatives to grow its program, including avatar-based learning, synchronized video teleconferencing and an immersion program in Korean.

“The bottom line is, we’ve grown to become the best language and cultural course in the U.S.,” said Donald Loranger, director of the program. “We’ve broadened our base to include other languages –

Korean and Arabic – and we’re the school of choice for people who want to get fluent, which you need to do to win and the hearts and minds of people.”

The program is contracted by the DoD on a competitive basis, and despite UM’s rural location in Montana, it has managed to compete on a national scale, emerging as one of the top programs in the country.

“As Pashto declines in its importance, and it hasn’t yet, we’ll have to be positioned to do other things,” Loranger said. “We started up our Korean program, and there’s more emphasis on Dari. We hope to do Chinese down the road.”

Loranger, a retired Air Force major general and pilot, said the language and cultural instructors are natives of the countries they’re teaching. It gives the training authenticity,

and the results are evidenced in recent test scores.

Tracked by the DoD, the results show students at UM testing above the DoD standard in speaking, listening and reading. Test scores from cultural classes, which include subjects on Islam, demography, ethnicity and Afghan history, have exceeded DoD expectations.

“We cover everything from anthropology, geography, political science, Islam and the Palestinian question,” said Loranger. “Not only are our scores passing, they’re off-the charts passing.”

WE ARE ON THE WEB!

http://prhome.defense.gov/RFM/READINESS/DLNSEO/media_updates.aspx

CALENDAR

Veterans Day—Federal Holiday	Nov 12
ACTFL Annual Convention	Nov 16-18
Defense Language Steering Committee	Mar 28



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