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**[DLO/NSEP HIGHLIGHT](#)**

**[DLO/NSEP chief says invest in language priorities \(DLIFLC\)](#)**...Brian Lamar

"As we draw down, language should be a core skill across the DoD workforce," said Dr. Michael Nugent, director of the Defense Language Office/National



Security Education Program ((DLO/NSEP), during a day-long tour of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center Jan. 18. "As we draw down forces, it is important to maintain a readiness capacity in language. We need to put our investments where our priorities are and one of those priorities should be language learning," Nugent explained.



**[The National Language Service Corps \(NLSC\) surpasses 3,000 members](#)**

There are now over 3,000 members of the National Language Service Corps! As of January 20, 2012, there were 3,003 individuals who

bring over 230 languages. If you are a U.S. citizen at least 18 years old, and you speak English and another language, [apply to join the NLSC](#) to use your "Language for the Good of All!"

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**[Marching Orders: 38<sup>th</sup> Chief of Staff, U.S. Army \(U.S. Army\)](#)**

Adaptive and Innovative: Army leaders accept that there are no predetermined solutions to problems. Army leaders adapt their thinking, formations, and

employment techniques to the specific situation they face. This requires an adaptable and innovative mind, a willingness to accept prudent risk in unfamiliar or rapidly changing situations, and an ability to adjust based on continuous assessment. Accordingly, thorough understanding and wise application of cultural knowledge and language skills are tantamount to our success. So too are training, leader development, and personnel policies aimed at fostering creativity at every level.

**[Transition Afghan Instructors to Take Lead in English Instruction](#)**

*(NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan)*...Dr. Ronnie L. Holley

Department of Defense Education Activity and Defense Language Institute teachers in Afghanistan are doing what they do best – teaching by example, facilitating learning, coaching, and demonstrating effective instructional strategies.



Beginning this month, a role reversal is taking place. American teachers who have been the primary instructors at the English Language Training Centers are now serving as mentors to the Afghan contract English language instructors.

**[Marines learn about Filipino culture](#)**

*(divids)*...Sgt. Rebekka Heite



Marines with Communications Company prepared for upcoming exercises by learning about culture in the

Republic of the Philippines Jan. 12. When Marines go to another country they learn about that culture, so they know how to conduct themselves without violating local customs and traditions, said Master Sgt. Jacinto G. Bernardo III, communications chief with Comm. Company, Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

### [Female Stryker team making advances in dealing with Afghan women, children](#)

(News-Miner)...Cheryle Hatch



At 5 feet 3 inches and 110 pounds, Cronkhite carries at least 110 pounds in gear. Cronkhite also is a

member and veteran of a new program, the Female Engagement Team and the Female Search and Seizure Team. Our ideal mission is to inform and influence," says Maj. Maria Rodriguez, 37. "What we're doing now is to start to get to know them. We're asking all these questions so we can help them," Cronkhite says.

### **DOMESTIC**

#### [Schools consider early language options](#)

(Stamford Advocate)...Maggie Gordon

"We're looking at starting with one grade level and building upward from there so it grows as the students progress through the grades," said [Kristina Lawson](#), director of English language learners and world language programs for the district. "It's really never too early to start having students be exposed to languages other than just their native languages, because when a young child hears the sounds of a different language, they're much more likely to be able to imitate those sounds," [American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages](#) Executive Director [Marty Abbott](#) said during a telephone interview Wednesday.

#### [Failing the French Test](#)

(Inside Higher Ed)...Stephen Brockmann

I recently had the enlightening experience of participating in three full days of hiring interviews that my department was conducting for a tenure-track position in French at the Modern Language Association convention in Seattle. We had to exclude a full third of the candidates, and almost half of the non-native speakers. (The native French speakers, obviously, passed the language test.) What this suggests to me is that some graduate programs around the country, whatever else they might be doing for good or ill, are egregiously failing to give their students the language training they need.

### **INTERNATIONAL**

#### [Putin warns ethnic tensions risk tearing Russia apart](#)

(Reuters)...Alissa de Carbonnel & Gleb Bryanski

Putin, in power since 2000 and favored to win a six-year presidential term in March, described a Soviet-style vision of a country in which the rights of ethnic minorities would be respected but Russian language and culture would dominate. "If a multiethnic society is infected by nationalism, it loses its strength and durability," Putin wrote. He said minorities must live under the umbrella of Russian culture, and migrants must pass exams in Russian language and history.