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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

[Accreditation team visits DLIFLC for reaffirmation](#)

*(DLIFLC)...*Sgt 1st Class Rebecca Doucette



An evaluation team from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges visited the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center during the second-to-last week of March, as part of the process to reaffirm DLIFLC's status as an accredited institution. Since DLIFLC began granting associate degrees back in 2001, more than 7,000 diplomas have been awarded to students graduating from basic language courses. This fact makes DLIFLC unique amongst military schools that train initial entry Soldiers, and remains a special opportunity for students chosen to attend the Institute.

STUDIES

[How Immersion Helps to Learn a Language](#)

*(New York Times)...*Sindya N. Bhanoo

Learning a foreign language is never easy, but contrary to common wisdom, it is possible for adults to process a language the same way a native speaker does. And over time, the



processing improves even when the skill goes unused, researchers are reporting. The subjects were split

into two groups. One group studied the language in a formal classroom setting, while the other was trained through immersion. After five months, both groups retained the language even though

they had not used it at all, and both displayed brain processing similar to that of a native speaker. But the immersion group displayed the full brain patterns of a native speaker, Dr. Ullman said.

DOMESTIC

[Study Abroad in China, White House Urges](#)

(University Language Services)

If you are trying to decide where to study abroad, China should be on your list. Not only could studying in China let you finally see the Great Wall, but it also goes along with a program set up by the US government, called the 100,000 Strong Initiative. The White House is strongly suggesting that high school and college students alike consider studying abroad in China. The plan is to encourage 100,000 students or more to study abroad in China over a four year period.

[The advantage of teaching children a foreign language](#)

*(Sun-Times Media)...*Wendy Altschuler

"It is not surprising that bilingual children go on to enjoy the personal and professional opportunities that accompany an expanded world view, a greater intercultural appreciation and sensitivity, the ability to learn additional languages more easily and a competitive edge in future markets and the global economy," said Leslie Lancry, Language Stars CEO and founder. "On the cognitive side, there's greater metalinguistic awareness that often leads to improved analytical thinking, greater ability to think abstractly about language, better writing skills in your own language, enhanced mental flexibility and divergent thinking. On the social side, kids get a broader world view," said Jill Kushner Bishop, a linguistic anthropologist and founder of Multilingual Kids.

INTERNATIONAL

[Census 2011: Half a million people speak a language other than English at home](#)

(theJournal.ie)

More than half a million Irish residents (514,068 people) said that they spoke a foreign language at home, with Polish being by far the most common, followed by French, Lithuanian and German. Of those who spoke French at home, 73 per cent were Irish nationals, 14 per cent were French nationals, and 8 per cent were from Africa. More

than a quarter of those who spoke a foreign language at home were born in Ireland, with 46.1 per cent of this group being pre-school children (13,690), primary school children (21,187) and secondary school children (21,187). French was by far the most popular language spoken by Irish-born speakers of foreign languages, while German and Russian being the next most popular choices.



workers in major industries as part of the plan to prepare the country's entry into the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). The project which focuses on improving Thai workers' English communication skills is intended for those in the major sectors, including tourism, logistics, service, auto industry and general industries so that they can adjust to the multi-cultural working environment when the country has become part of the AEC.

Amid language controversies, Quebec government gives French watchdog more teeth

(The Canadian Press)



Facing a barrage of linguistic controversies, the Quebec government announced Friday it is planning to give the provincial language watchdog more teeth. Quebec laws allows the agency to take legal action and seek fines from commercial

establishments that don't respect rules like French predominance on signs.

ArabNet: Internet Growth Is Poised in Middle East and North Africa

*(Wall Street Journal)...*Ben Rooney

The Middle East and North Africa region has yet to see the sort of explosive Internet growth that has gripped other parts of the world, but it is coming, says the man responsible for organizing one of the region's most important conferences. At present, for a region that is awash with cash, the Internet economy is tiny. The total value of investment in the Internet and technology start-ups in the Arab world from 2010 until the third quarter of 2011 was just \$24 million. But the rate of change is picking up. More deals were done in the first quarter of 2011 — 23 — than in the whole of 2010.

Govt to offer language & cultural training to Thai workers

*(Pattaya Mail)...*NNT

The National Board of Vocational Training Coordination (NBVTC) has approved a plan to offer language and cultural training to Thai