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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Pilot takes initiative to learn language

(AF.mil)...Karen Harrison

In today's global world, Air Force mission success depends on Airmen's ability to communicate and collaborate across diverse cultural environments. Inspired by this idea, one Air Force pilot has taken the initiative to learn Japanese through the Air Force's Language Enabled Airman Program. "Language, region and cultural knowledge teaches you how to relate to people, which is essential to earning their trust and cooperation," Wright said. To develop his language skills, Wright has taken advantage of internal Air Force language resources. He first encountered LEAP through a robot message from the Air Force Culture and Language Center advertising language resources available to the total force. The LEAP program is designed to sustain and grow the existing language skills and talents of Airmen via online and classroom instruction.

Pentagon wants software to 'see through language'

(Nextgov)

The Pentagon wants to build computer software that can dissect texts and "see through language" to tease out hidden



meaning in documents, making it easier for analysts to comb intelligence data, a contracting notice shows. The military's venture capital arm, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, is launching a program called Deep Exploration and Filtering of Text that can "identify and interpret both explicit and implicit information."

NATIONAL

Educators describe renewal of Latin instruction in city schools

(Gotham Schools)...Rose D'souza

Educators at some New York City schools are reviving Latin language instruction -- partly because it is believed to help raise student



achievement in other subjects. "A lot of schools are pushing to go back to what works, to what they know produces intellectuals and

thinkers. Latin is a return to norms that once were," said Kathleen Durkin, one of two Latin teachers at a high school that opened this year.

How to Help an Endangered Language

(Voice of America)

Eleven of the world's languages have at least one hundred million native speakers. The biggest are Mandarin Chinese, English, Spanish, Arabic and Hindi. Next come Portuguese, Bengali, Russian, Japanese, French and German. The United Nations says these eleven languages are the mother tongues of half the world's population. But the world has close to seven thousand languages. Linguists predict that as many as half of these may be at risk of disappearing by the end of this century. That would mean another language dies every two weeks.

INTERNATIONAL

Bonjour Google! Gmail adds auto-translation

(CNN)...John D. Sutter

Technology keeps bringing us closer to a world



where people can communicate freely across language barriers. Google on Tuesday

announced that its e-mail service, Gmail, soon will include an "automatic translation" feature for all users. "The next time you receive a message in a language other than your own, just click on Translate message in the header at the top of the message," the company writes in a blog post, "and it will be instantly translated into your language."

Australia abandons knowledge of the neighbours

(The Age)...Tom Hyland

The decline in Indonesian studies at Australian universities comes as our northern neighbour is set for dramatic growth - it is tipped to match

Australia's economy in size by 2025 and be one of the five largest economies in the world by mid-



century. Yet Australia's expertise on Indonesia is imperilled, according to experts and [Submissions](#) to

the government taskforce drafting the white paper that will shape Australia's response to the rise of Asian powers.

Language & Politics in Peshawar

(The Chronicle of higher Education)...Lucy Ferriss
The national language of Pakistan is Urdu, a mish-mash of Hindi and local dialects, and nearly



everyone speaks it. In Lahore, they also speak Punjabi, which is related to Urdu but not the same, and they'll often switch between one and the other. Educated classes also read and write English, but the driver who took me to all my appointments in Lahore

spoke and wrote solely Urdu. Yet commercial establishments on the main avenue downtown displayed English—some, yes, with Urdu as well, but mostly English only. One has to wonder what it is like to drive in your hometown, speaking your national language, and yet not be able to read the shop signs.