



THE LANGUAGE & CULTURE WEEKLY



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[DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER](#)



[CAC commander says language and culture is ammunition](#)

(DLIFLC)...Natela Cutter
Commander of the Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Lt. Gen. David Perkins visited the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center Tuesday, to discuss the future of language training needs for the Army. "Learning language and culture is your ammunition, said Perkins.

[DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE](#)

[Europe Geo-Political Training Seminars](#)

(Army.mil)...STAND-TO!

As the Army continues to focus on helping to shape the international environment, U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) is helping to foster mutual understanding by sponsoring geo-political training seminars that focus on German and European military, political and economic systems. Held six times a year in Hamburg at the Haus Rissen Institute, an international think tank for politics and economics, the training seminars are excellent primers on the European operating environment.

[CACI Awarded Prime Position On \\$9.7 Billion Multiple-Award Contract To Provide Linguist Services For U.S. Army](#)

(The Street)...Press Release

CACI International Inc. announced today that it has been awarded one of six prime positions on the Defense Language Interpretation Translation Enterprise contract to support the U.S. Army

Intelligence and Security Command. With this new work, CACI will provide translation and interpretation services for personnel.

[Face of Defense: Officer Makes Difference in Afghanistan](#)

(American Forces Press Service)...Natela Cutter
When Army Lt. Col. Rob Rabb joined the Afghanistan/Pakistan Hands program, he never dreamed that he would become a speech writer or that his letters would land on the desk of Afghan President Hamid Karzai for signature.

[STUDIES](#)

[Learning a language may come down to gestures](#)

(Washington Post)...New Scientist
Manuela Macedonia and Thomas Knoesche at the Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences in Leipzig, Germany, enrolled 20 volunteers in a six-day course to learn "Vimmi", a phony language designed to make study results easier to interpret. Half of the material was taught using only spoken and written instructions and exercises, while the other half was taught with body movements to accompany each word, which the students were asked to act out.

[Ethnographic Conversations: A Pedagogical Strategy to Promote Language, Content, and Intercultural Learning among Japanese and American University Students](#)

(Asian EFL Journal)...Linda Heuser

Two sociologists and an Applied English professor developed an educational activity, coined ethnographic conversations, as a collaborative pedagogical strategy to enhance language, content, and intercultural learning.

[DOMESTIC](#)

[Literacy wins, history loses in federal budget foreign-language, civics, economics aid also scrapped](#)

(Ed Week)...Erik W. Robelen

The budget compromise recently hammered out in Washington breathes new life into a major literacy initiative at the U.S. department of education, but wipes out federal aid for some other department programs targeting aspects of the curriculum, including instruction in American history and foreign languages.

INTERNATIONAL



Namibia's language policy is 'poisoning' its children

(The Guardian)...Denver Kisting

English has been the medium of instruction in most of Namibia's classrooms for nearly 20 years, but with teachers shown to be failing in competency tests, calls for change are mounting.

Pakistan ruined by language myth

(The Guardian – Opinion)...Zubeida Mustafa

Last year I wrote a book highlighting the crisis in [Pakistan](#)'s education system caused by the way languages are used and taught. Its publication prompted one critic to remark that I was trying to "backwardise" the children of Pakistan. Another said that language was not the problem; it was what we taught that needed to be addressed.