



THE LANGUAGE & CULTURE WEEKLY

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[DLNSEO HIGHLIGHT](#)

On March 3, 2012, Dr. Michael Nugent, Director, DLNSEO, attended and briefed the 23rd Annual Language Conference at the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade in Draper, Utah. Other Keynote Speakers included MG Brian Tarbet, Adjutant General for Utah; BG Jim Keffer, Deputy Chief, NSA/CSS; BG Robert Walter, Deputy Commanding General, INSOM; and Dr. Donald Fischer, Provost, DLIFLC.

[DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE](#)

[USSOCOM Commander Recognizes Importance of Language and Culture in Testimony](#)

(Congressional Testimony) ...ADM William McRaven

"Operational context is the thorough understanding of the environment gained through the knowledge and experience built in personal relationships from multiple visits to the same locations. This includes understanding the local culture and society, language, economy, history, politics and leadership, physical and virtual terrain as well as the enemy. It provides insight into the society's beliefs, values, and motivations. The addition of Cultural Support Teams (U.S. females attached to SOF units in Afghanistan) furthers this cause, enabling dialogue and routine interaction with the Afghan females normally isolated from exposure to male SOF personnel."

[Cultural Sensitivity As A Weapon](#)

(Strategy Page)

As foreign troops reduce their numbers in Afghanistan over the next two years American Special Operations Forces (commandos and Special Forces) will increase their activity because these troops will advise Afghan soldiers and be available to carry out especially tricky missions. The U.S. Army Special Forces will be particularly effective because they know the languages and cultures in Afghanistan.

[Japanese American WWII veterans receive Congressional](#)

(DLIFLC) ...SFC Rebecca Doucette

Thirty-five Japanese Americans were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal Sunday for their service

to the nation during World War II. These second-generation Japanese Americans from central California served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, or the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) during the war. Some of the MIS veterans had studied Japanese at



the MIS language school in Camp Snelling, Minn., the predecessor to the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center

(DLIFLC), and are considered DLIFLC alumni. The school's assistant commandant, Air Force Col. Laura Ryan, personally presented each medal to the honorees or a surviving family member.

[Building a Larger Guard Role in Africa](#)

(Air Force Magazine)

Army Gen. Carter Ham, US Africa Command boss, favors the National Guard expanding its role in Africa through the State Partnership Program. "I think we should look for some new and innovative ways to apply state partnerships," Ham told the Senate Armed Services Committee last week. He said he asked National Guard Bureau Chief Gen. Craig McKinley to consider adding two new state partnerships in Africa this year and to continue to explore future growth as well. Libya, "where we have a newly forming relationship rather than a long-standing relationship," might be "a place where we could apply a state partnership program to great effect," stated Ham.

[GAO finds DoD program duplication and missed savings opportunities](#)

(American Society of Military Comptrollers)

GAO reports that Defense Language and Culture Training needs a more integrated approach to avoid fragmentation and overlap. The report recommends DoD reach agreement on common set of language and culture skills for general purpose forces and a coordinated approach to developing language and cultural training products.

[DOMESTIC](#)

[Larry Summers Is Wrong About Languages](#)

(OPINION: Inside Higher Ed) ...Michael Geisler

In his Jan. 20 essay in *The New York Times*, "[What You \(Really\) Need to Know.](#)" Summers dismisses

several skills as being irrelevant for future generations of Americans -- including any thoroughgoing knowledge of foreign languages. He claims that "English's emergence as the global language, along with the rapid progress in machine translation and the fragmentation of languages spoken around the world, make it less clear that the substantial investment necessary to speak a foreign tongue is universally worthwhile."

INTERNATIONAL

Crisis-hit Spaniards, Italians in search of jobs cause boom in German language classes

(Washington Post)

Spaniards, Portuguese and others from countries hit hard by the debt crisis are flocking to learn German in hopes of getting jobs in Europe's biggest and strongest economy, according to data obtained by The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Norway's indigenous Sami people turn to Israel for help in reviving old tribal language

(Washington Post)

Norway's Sami people, an indigenous community with roots as reindeer herders in the northern reaches of Scandinavia and Russia, are looking south to Israel for help preserving their fading native language. A Sami delegation spent five days in Israel recently, hoping the Jewish state's experience reviving the once-dormant ancient Hebrew language can provide a blueprint for them.