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CAC commander says language and culture is ammunition

By Natela Cutter, Strategic Communications, DLIFLC

Commander of the Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Lt. Gen. David Perkins visited the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center on Jan. 10 to discuss the future of language training needs for the Army.

“Learning language and culture is your ammunition,” said Perkins, during the command briefing at DLIFLC Headquarters, adding that he agrees with the views of retired International Security Force Afghanistan commanding general David Petraeus, who strongly supported language and culture training for pre-deploying service members, as well as specialized programs that called for higher proficiency levels.

Other visitors to DLIFLC included Brig. Gen. Leslie Purser, director of Intelligence Operations, Plans and Policy, the new Army Senior Language Authority and director of training, Col. (P) Todd McCaffrey, and Richard Anderson, director of Department of Defense Language and Culture Policy of the Defense Language Office.

The guests visited a Persian Farsi language course where students briefed them on the type of computer programs and technology they use to more rapidly acquire their target language. Among the numerous programs presented were Rapid Route, an electronic flash card program populated with target language vocabulary and a series of DLIFLC produced programs.