To identify both the state of the art and collaborative research opportunities in the DoD research communities of Regional Expertise and Culture as well as Cognitive Neuroscience of Second Language Acquisition. This will aid DoD managers to better align research with DoD strategic goals.

CASL researchers will identify research programs in the following two areas:

**Cognitive Neuroscience of Second Language Acquisition**—The use of neuroscience techniques to gain an understanding of how people learn and use a foreign language.

**Regional Expertise and Culture**—The systematic study of sociocultural phenomena that includes culture-specific and culture-general concepts; it may include research designed to test theory, evaluate programs, elucidate processes and systems, validate measures, and advance subject matter knowledge.

Through interviews and surveys of the DoD’s work in these areas, CASL researchers will do the following:

- Determine DoD-relevant research topics, objectives, and activities related to Regional Expertise and Culture as well as Cognitive Neuroscience of Second Language Acquisition.
- Identify the leading researchers, key publications, and findings in these research areas.
- Identify research missions, interests, challenges, and opportunities in these areas.
- Support collaborative activities, such as a summit.
- Develop an innovative, proof-of-concept, social collaboration tool.

The DoD’s research in Regional Expertise and Culture as well as Cognitive Neuroscience of Second Language Acquisition is directed by many independent initiatives. Identifying, synthesizing, and coordinating this work is important. Providing the DoD’s research communities with better knowledge of their mutual activities and needs as well as their research networking capacity will facilitate knowledge sharing that will improve research coordination and outcomes.

- Technical report documenting the current state of the DoD’s research in these areas, including topics and a list of key contributors
- Outbrief of both areas
- Proof-of-concept of a social collaboration tool

CASL researchers aim to improve the synthesizing and sharing of language and culture research among the DoD’s scientific communities.