

**“CONFUSION BEYOND IMAGINATION”: U.S. ARMY CHINESE LANGUAGE
TRAINING IN REPUBLICAN ERA CHINA**

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The United States government established the U.S. Army Chinese Language Officers Program to train Army Officers in the basics of the Chinese language. The training program lasted from 1924 to 1938 and this paper will examine the program’s role in teaching the language to prominent World War II officers. The paper highlights examples of officers who served in the China-Burma-India Theater of World War II and who received language training to demonstrate the utility of this program. The language training of these officers helped them bridge difficult cultural and linguistic gaps while they served in the China-Burma-India Theater of World War II.