

## Appendix 4A: Cultural Scenarios

*Supplement for Chapter 4 from Language for Specific Purposes: Trends in Curriculum Development, edited by Mary K. Long. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2017.*

For a more extensive treatment of these cultural scenarios and additional examples, please see Sheri S. Long, Jean W. LeLoup, LeAnn Derby, and Ramsamooj J. Reyes. 2014. “Fusing Language Learning and Leadership Development: Initial Approaches and Strategies.” In *Dimension 2014: Uniting the Corps*, edited by Kristin Hoyt and Pete Swanson. Valdosta, GA: Southern Conference on Language Teaching.

### Cultural Scenario – German 221

The year is 2013. You are an officer attached to the embassy in Berlin, and the US ambassador has just been summoned to meet with Angela Merkel and explain why the NSA has been spying on her, even listening in on her cell phone calls. You go with the ambassador over to the *Reichstagsgebäude* and wait in the main lobby while the ambassador and Ms. Merkel meet privately. While you are waiting, a German aide, whom you know and have worked with occasionally in the past, begins speaking with you angrily, saying, “Friends do not do this to one another. *Das geht gar nicht*. How do you explain this?” You are off record; nobody else is close enough to hear your responses. The ambassador could return at any moment and then you will leave with him.

- A. How do you respond?
- B. Of course nobody would like to be spied on—that would presumably be a universal response. But what are the particularly German sensibilities and the specifics of German-

American relations involved here, and what from 20<sup>th</sup> century and early 21<sup>st</sup> century history might be in the background of the German aide's approach to the issue? (Consider our chapter material. For instance, how—if at all—might the fact that Angela Merkel comes from the former East Germany come into play?) Be specific.

- C. How does your response to this situation take into account that historical background and those cultural sensibilities? Be specific.

### Cultural Scenario - Portuguese 321

You are a Major working at U.S. Southern Command, and get deployed to Manaus, Amazonas-Brazil to support ongoing counter-insurgency and counter-narcotics operations. Because of your language skills, the Colonel in charge of the U.S. MILGROUP tasks you to be his action officer to improve the training we provide to the Brazilians. Your counterpart from the Brazilian military invites you to a typical Brazilian family restaurant for lunch at 1200 the next day to discuss implementing these improvements. Based on your cultural understanding of Latin American traditions, how do you plan to conduct yourself during this meeting? Chronologically discuss topics you plan to bring up. Think about what is culturally important here.