



AFCLC

Air Force Culture and Language Center

THE AIR FORCE'S GLOBAL CLASSROOM

A LEAP Story



Air Force Culture and Language Center

1st Lt Aliyah Brown
Logistics Readiness Officer
Hickam AB

Selected to LEAP in 2022

Deliberately developed in Portuguese

Participated in LEAP-ACE Morón
2025, Translation & Interpretation Course with Rapid
Airfield Damage Recovery Exercise

View her story on DVIDS

<https://www.dvidshub.net/video/952990/leap-scholars-participate-expeditionary-airfield-damage-repair-training-moron-ab>



Preparation



Execution

CULTURE+LANGUAGE = SPEED



Air University
Maxwell AFB,
Alabama

"AFCLC is a program of record that executes **comprehensive DAF LREC required training** and development ..."

- DAFI 36-4005



**Apply Air & Space
Power**



**Partner
Interoperability

Adversary
Understanding**



**Deliberately Develop
Airmen & Guardians
Through Language,
Region, and Culture
Education**

Faculty Expertise



Air Force Culture and Language Center



Dr. Angelle Khachadoorian
Associate Professor
Anthropology



Dr. Scott Edmondson
Associate Professor
Africa



Dr. Dan Uribe
SOUTHCOM SME



Dr. Jacob Lassin
Assistant Professor
Russia



Dr. Jessica Jordan
Assistant Professor
Asia-Pacific



Dr. Kristin Bashir
Associate Professor
Middle East & North Africa



Dr. Beth Peifer
Associate Professor
Europe



Dr. Susan Steen
Associate Professor
Cross-Cultural Communication



Dr. Yan Ke
INDOPACOM SME

EQUIPPING THE TOTAL FORCE

- Airman Readiness Courses
- Courses for CCAF Credit
- Guided Language Intensive Training Events (LITEs)

ALL LEVELS OF PME

- AWC/ACSC Electives and Core
- IOS, SOS, SNCOA, etc.
- Supervise student research

FACULTY SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTISE

- Women, Peace, and Security
- Cultural Property Protection
- Dilemmas of Global Basing
- Working with Indigenous Cultures
- Interagency Cooperation
- Gender and Islam
- Religion and Media
- Radicalism and Extremism
- Intercultural Communication for Leaders
- Resilience and Organizational Culture
- Language Acquisition & Assessment
- Partnership-Building
- Regional and Cultural Studies

Programs to Ready Senior Officers



Air Force Culture and Language Center

- Pre-Assignment Acculturation Course (PAC)
 - Prepares Air Force Senior Leaders for key operational and staff assignments in overseas locations.
 - PACs provide formal, tailored instruction on culture/region with some focus on language and communication skills to better manage host nation relationships.
- Extended language reach through eMentor and TUTOR for 15 general officers



TUTOR: *"I finished my 25-hour Japanese language course this morning, and it was fantastic... for what it's worth, my primary language instructor Sachi-san was an excellent instructor. Thanks to her, I learned lots both about the Japanese language and culture...well worth my time."*

- Lt Gen Jost

Programs to Ready Airmen



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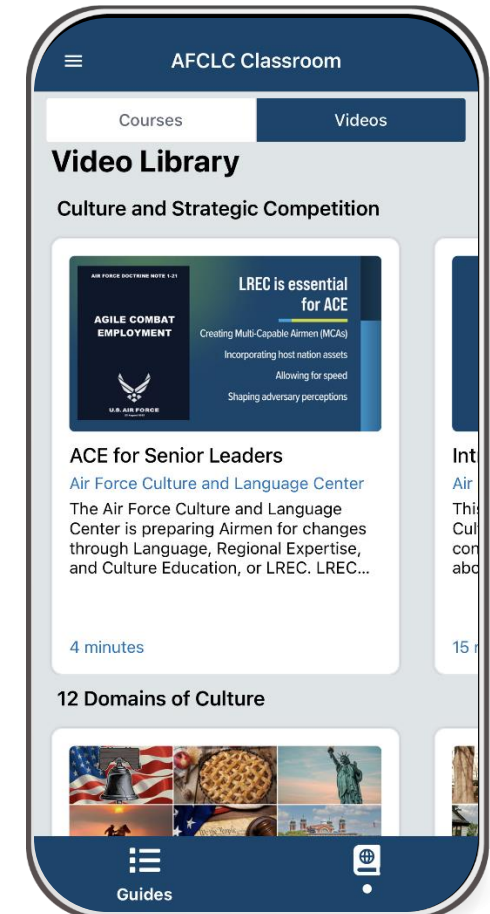
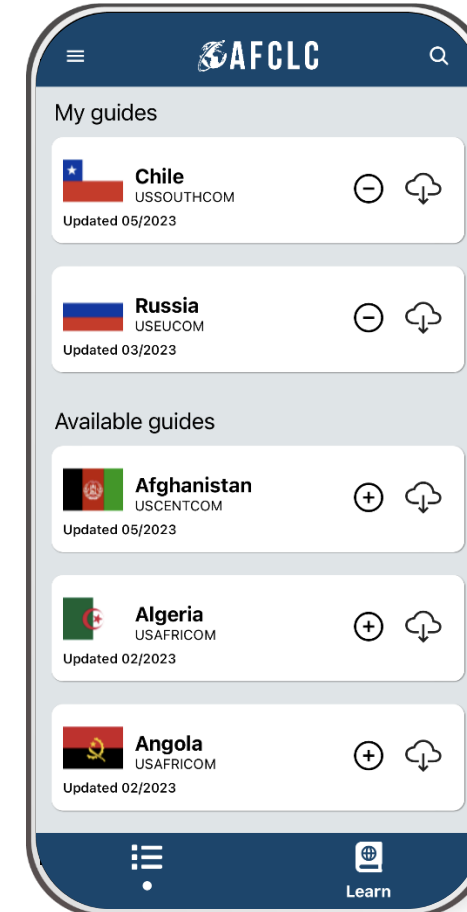
New Culture Guide App – Version 3.0

- Baseline cultural competence in 1.0 hours
- Organically produced and curated content
- Accessible, relevant, impactful curriculum
- Untethered from government platforms
- New integrated deterrence courses
- Downloadable certificate of completion available for all courses



Lt. Gen. Brian Robinson @AETC_Commander · July 10

This meets one of our goals to have a learning ecosystem that will meet Airmen where they are, so they can obtain and exchange information to complete training and education anywhere, anytime.



**49,572 mobile
app
downloads**

Language Enabled Airman Program

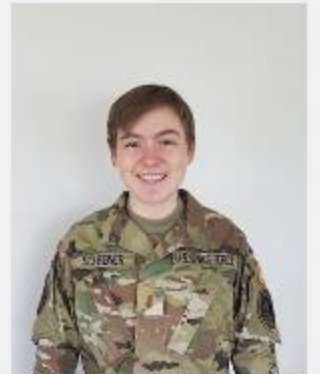


Air Force Culture and Language Center



- 3,538 Airmen and 195 Guardians, officer and enlisted
- Eligibility categories:
 - Active Duty USAF and USSF, General Purpose Force
 - Air National Guard, Select Intel Fields
- Leaders within their units and career fields ... from pilots to intel officers, from special operators to physicians
- 73 selected or control languages + multiple cross-training languages
- Passion for language, regional expertise, and culture (LREC); vision for applying skills to air and space missions

<https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/AFCLC/LEAP-Spotlight>



What's Expected of a LEAP Scholar?

- Excel in one's Primary career field
- Complete periodic online eMentor courses and maintain DLPT / OPI currency
- Volunteer for immersions and events including exercises, MTTs, conferences, and translation projects, pending unit commander approval
- Earn the LEAP SEI (and monthly FLPB pay)
- Serve in language-focused assignments and deployments based on determination of Career Field Managers and Air Force Personnel Center



Career-Spanning Development



Air Force Culture and Language Center

Deliberately develop Airmen and Guardians, right course, right time through periodic eMentor online synchronous language courses and Language Intensive Training Event (LITE) immersions

Developmental



Traditional Online

40-hour courses, three months,
language and culture
fundamentals, levels 0 thru 2+



In-Region

Power immersions, area
studies, and commercial
language school courses,
many with homestay
family (4 wks)

Enabled



Advanced Online

12-hour courses, one month,
language and culture application,
skills for partner interoperability,
level 3 and higher



Integrated Deterrence Focus On-Site

topic fluency, regional studies,
tech vocab, student capstone
presentations (2-3 wks)

Culture + Language = Speed



Air Force Culture and Language Center

CULTURE MATTERS

Provided insight on importance of language and cultural skills on operational tempo and interoperability

- Resolved in 10 minutes what this team without language skills had been working on for 1.5 years
- LEAP training in technical vocabulary crucial to success
- Interpreted sidebar conversations before official translation which increased decision speed
- Coached culture in after-hours interactions between officers to further enhance interoperability

- Selected to LEAP in 2017
- Increased skills from intermediate to fluent
- Selected for utilization on INDO-PACOM Deployment



**Capt
William Watson**

K13B, AWACS
ABM
Tinker AFB

CULTURE AND LANGUAGE ENABLE CREDIBLE COALITION DETERRENT CAPABILITY

GREATER THAN THE SUM OF THE PARTS

Next-level Readiness for ACE, ATFs



Air Force Culture and Language Center



conventional
language schools

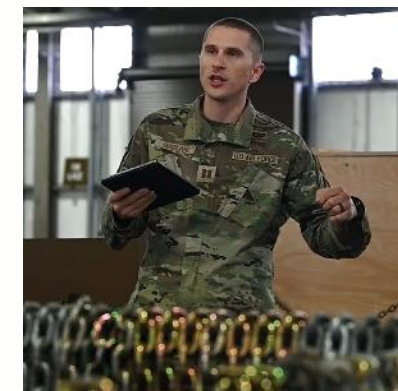
LEAP
VS
ACE
Language Enabled
Airmen Postured for Agile
Combat Employment

- 132 LEAP Scholars developed to date
- Hurlburt Field FL,
- Manila Philippines,
- RAF Mildenhall
- Morón Air Base
- Thai, Tagalog, Spanish, French, Russian, Polish, Romanian, Ukrainian, German, Portuguese

Interpretation Skills



Technical Vocabulary



Partner Perspectives



LANGUAGE AND CULTURE IS
AS ESSENTIAL TO KINETIC
EFFECTS AS IT IS TO
PARTNERSHIP BUILDING



OPERATIONAL TEMPO
INCREASES WITH
ENHANCED
COMMUNICATION THROUGH
LANGUAGE AND CULTURE



LANGUAGE AND CULTURE
SHAPES ADVERSARY
PERCEPTIONS OF CAPABILITY
THROUGH ENABLING MORE
TEAMS, CREATES DETERRENT
EFFECT THROUGH
CONFOUNDING THE
INTERPRETATION OF MASS

CULTURE+LANGUAGE = SPEED

Training Partnership Requests

"AFCLC also connects service members to DoD and governmental requirements via Training Partnerships Requests (TPR) which connect LEAP scholars to exercises, mobile training team events, conferences, virtual events, and document translation projects."

DAFI 36-4005,
3.8.1, AFCLC
Charter 4.1, 1g

T-120 to T-14

- Unit submits TPR via LEADeR with dates, AFSCs, ranks, event description / skills

Event Title

Exercise MOBILITY GUARDIAN 2023

Description

Scholars,

Please see amazing opportunity for a m

Mobility Guardian 23 is AMC's premier e

Scale Global Exercise. The internation

Japan. There will be mobility and coaliti

Japan, Australia and Hawaii. There will

~ 1-5 days

- AFCLC recruits LEAP vols; each Scholar & unit CC sign SOU

Find & Invite Participants

Language: Japanese

	Name
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maj ANDREW ROMNEY 20B4170
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lt Col JACK CHUNG 15B2235
<input type="checkbox"/>	TSgt JASON SUGIMOTO 13A5337
<input type="checkbox"/>	SrA TADAYOSHI KIRIYAMA 22E0129
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lt Col JOHN WRIGHT 11B3081
<input type="checkbox"/>	SSgt MATTHEW WRIGHT 19B2648

Pre & Post Travel

- Requestor funds travel; AFCLC tracks travel clearance, arrival status

MyVECTOR

CLC-LI 400	ADVANCED MILITARY ENGAGEMENT PRACTICUM	AFCLC Language, Region, Culture
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- AFCLC collects AARs; updates MilPDS / MyVector



AFCLC prepared eight (8) Airmen for MG '23 Japanese language support Japan / Guam

Training Partnership Requests **2022-24**

The Dynamics of Today's Missions Are Redefining "Language Requirement"

Fulfilled avg 1.16 TPRs per day



INDO-PACOM
X 226



EUCOM
X 195



AFRICOM
X 143



SOUTHCOM
X 134



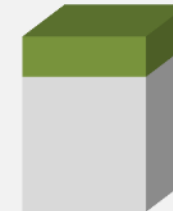
CENTCOM
X 74



NORTHCOM
X 38

All Others *
X 132

- 942 requirements
 - 441 TDYs
 - 501 Non-travel
- 614 Airmen / Guardians
- 359 unique event types
- 46 languages
- 50 countries



= TDY exercise,
MTT, conference



= Non-travel interpretation
/ translation support

* Other = base support or
global mission

Quasi-Zenith Satellite System-Hosted Payload



Air Force Culture and Language Center



Maj Melany A. Delgado

C-17A ADO

15 OSS, Hickam AFB

Japanese LEAP Scholar

"I was lucky to have worked with the QZSS-HP Program Manager and his team, including acquisitions contractors, MIT/LL Engineers who design and operate the payload, and Japanese MELCO Engineers"

HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP

AFCLC partners with USSF to match LEAP Scholars who are supporting the in-country execution of the US-JPN Space Cooperation Program – Quasi-Zenith Satellite Hosted Payload (QZSS-HP)

LANGUAGE + CULTURE = SPEED

Since January 2024, nine LEAP scholars have bridged the culture and language barrier (including critical graveyard shifts when English-speaking engineers were unavailable) in the planning and execution of programmatic tasks

MISSION READY AIRMEN

This program deepens the knowledge of Mission Ready Airmen, furthers bilateral Japanese/USSF interoperability, and enhances effectiveness of organizations involved in the process

GLSDB Training with Ukraine



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FORCE MULTIPLIERS



MSgt Igor Pogrebnyak



SrA Ivan Kril



A1C Dariia Khymchenko



Demonstrated that culture and language skills are just as foundational for effectively producing lethal effects with partner nations



Provided document translation and on-site support to train 18 members of Ukrainian Armed Forces to employ GLSDB – sourced through TPR process with AFCLC as directed in DAFI 36-4005

yahoo/news

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The New Voice of Ukraine

Ukraine reportedly uses GLSDB munitions for the first time

The New Voice of Ukraine

February 14, 2024 · 1 min read



116



GLSDB

Ukrainian forces have likely received and successfully used precision-guided Ground Launched Small Diameter Bombs (GLSDB) against Russian troops for the first time, Defence Express media outlet reported on Feb. 14.

Analysts reviewed video footage released by Russian forces, which showed remnants of the missile used in attacks on Russian-held areas. The experts identified an unusual square part with control surfaces and a barcode, believed to be the tail section of the GBU-39/B Small Diameter Bomb (SDB). The SDB is part of the GLSDB system, coupled with a rocket engine repurposed from an M26 unguided rocket artillery munition.

Read also: [Ukrainian war veteran reveals insights on utilizing high-precision GLSDB missiles](#)

The video displays only the ordnance's tail, suggesting it could be the first combat deployment of GLSDB. GLSDB was specially procured for Ukraine by the U.S. government through the USAI (Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative) program.

Read also: ['To confuse & locate air defenses' - Why Russia throws so many](#)

EXCLUSIVE

New US-made longer-range bomb expected to arrive as soon as Wednesday in Ukraine

The Ground-Launched Small Diameter Bomb doesn't even exist in the U.S. inventory.



Airman 1st Class Jonathan Catalano handles a rack of inert small diameter bombs during readiness training at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, Feb. 9, 2018. | U.S. Air Force photo by Alejandro Peña

By LEE HUDSON, LARA SELIGMAN and PAUL MCLEARY

01/30/2024 01:11 PM EST

Updated: 01/30/2024 02:07 PM EST



The Pentagon has successfully tested a new long-range precision bomb for Ukraine that is expected to arrive on the battlefield as soon as Wednesday, according to two U.S. officials and two other people with knowledge of the talks.

Ukraine will receive its first batch of Ground-Launched Small Diameter Bombs, a brand new long-range weapon made by Boeing that even the U.S. doesn't have in its inventory, according to the four people, all of whom were granted anonymity to discuss matters ahead of an announcement.

ARCANE THUNDER 24



Air Force Culture and Language Center

"Our LEAP partners were instrumental in the successful completion of ARCANE THUNDER 24. They brought a high level of cultural and linguistic expertise that benefited our daily operations. Additionally, they rounded out our Joint Force and provided creative solutions to exercise specific challenges."

LTC Aaron Ritzema, the
2nd Multi-Domain Effects
Battalion commander.



This multi-domain exercise tests interoperability between U.S. Army and Moroccan Royal Armed Forces. LEAP Scholars served as linguists during training and mobility support while providing creative solutions to exercise specific challenges.

LEAP Scholars supported U.S. foreign policy by deepening ties between US Army and Moroccan Royal Armed Forces (FAR) at a more technical level.



**SSgt
Araud Agbo**

48th Dental Squadron
RAF Lakenheath, UK



**Capt
Cassandra Preston**

OL LS FFNCB0
Hanscom AFB, MA



**Lt Col
Rodrigo I. Ocampo**

59th TES Flight Test Data Center
Nellis AFB, CO

SOCAFRICA Conference on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) in Benin



Air Force Culture and Language Center



2d Lt Anna Kemper USAF

AFIT master's student studying International Relations in Strasbourg, France as a USAF 2023 Gerhart Fellow.

French LEAP Scholar

WOMEN · PEACE · SECURITY

"This LITE ensured a fluid conference dynamic by facilitating communication between members, all while adhering to SOCAFRICA's WPS DoD objectives. WPS is an increasingly important field for the US. This LITE illuminates that the US is leading other nations and bringing influential actors together from all levels to begin having conversations around WPS"

- 2d Lt Anna Kemper USAF

The primary focus was to engage with international actors in a military capacity by moderating and translating small roundtable discussions to discuss actionable steps in strengthening the role of women in security.

Intensive multi-day immersion into the coastal west African accent, dialects, vocabulary, and culture requiring active and constant linguistic engagement

The presence of LEAP Scholars 2d Lt Kemper and Capt Klikan demonstrated U.S. commitment to communication and investment to professionalism ultimately building trust with partners and fostering positive relationships.

Application Process

- Eligibility:
 - USAF & USSF cadet seniors
 - RegAF and USSF officer and enlisted
 - ANG in select intel fields
- Cadets: Apply 13 Jan-3 Mar 2025; Board April 2025
- Officer/Enlisted: Apply 5 May-18 July; Board August 2025
- Review eligibility guidelines on AFCLC site under language / LEAP Application
- Apply via LEaDeR tool <https://leader.cce.af.mil>



What's Needed to Apply

- Application narrative (four short essay questions about your language learning background and reasons for applying)
- Defense Foreign Language Proficiency (DLPT) / Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) scores in at least two modalities (listening, reading, speaking) – certified within two years of board date
 - 1+ or higher in Category 1-2 languages (French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish)
 - 1 or higher in Category 3-4 languages (Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Tagalog, Russian)
- College transcripts (CCAF, university, etc.)
- Mandatory endorsement by Commander and Supervisor



Selection to LEAP

What the Selection Board Values

- Your approach to developing foreign language(s)
 - Strategies, techniques
 - Formal & informal study in the language
 - Summer internship programs
- Your track record as a student / scholar
- How you view cross-cultural competency
- Goals that align with future career / missions
- Leadership accomplishments and potential
- LREC experience ... but also room to grow
- What your commander and supervisor say

500-character push note = stratification, leadership potential, why their LEAP development is important





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THE AIR FORCE'S GLOBAL CLASSROOM