

## INTRODUCTION >>>

LEAP French Scholar,

The purpose of this guide is to provide you a path to improving and maintaining your language proficiency. Specifically, the Department of the Air Force (DAF) is invested in your achievement and maintenance of a 3-level or higher Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT)/ Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) score in French and development of interpretation and translation skills. French is a DAF strategic language, critical to furthering US national security interests and key to global partnerships and interoperability, particularly in the United States Africa Command (USAFRICOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR). With this as the backdrop, the Development Path guide will provide recommendations on timelines, resources, and tools to improve your proficiency and utilize your skills to advance operational success with building interoperability and adversary understanding. We welcome inputs that may enhance the usefulness of this guide for the French LEAP community.

## GENERAL EXPECTATIONS >>>

### SCHOLARS WILL ACHIEVE & MAINTAIN GOOD STANDING IN LEAP BY:

- Utilizing the Language Enabled Development Resource (LEaDeR) site at <https://leader.cce.af.mil>. On an annual basis or as changes occur, update profile to include personal contact information, unit commander's contact information, and training availability/preferences. Access LEaDeR periodically to monitor DLPT/OPI scores and course expiration dates. Update instances of language experiences and utilization annually, at a minimum.
- Maintaining current DLPT/OPI scores in at least two modalities (listening/reading/speaking)
- Completing an initial and follow-on eMentor course at intervals required by LEAP policy
- Obtaining and maintaining a LEAP Level
- Completing at least one Language Intensive Training Event (LITE) or LITE equivalent
- Striving to attain and maintain a 3/3 Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) level (see <https://www.govtilr.org>) and attaining and maintaining the LEAP SEI
- Presenting a professional image of the United States when engaging with military partners

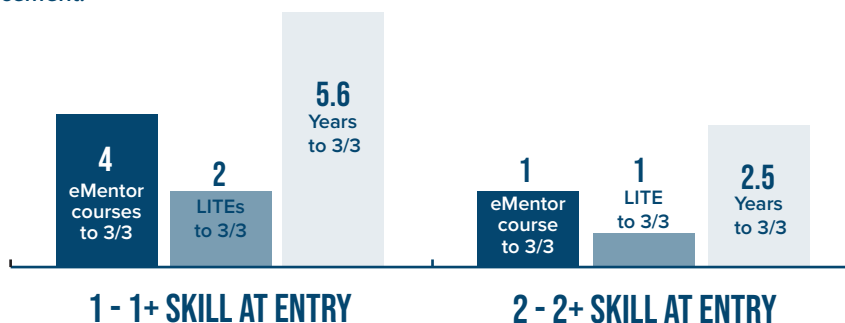
### SCHOLARS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ALSO:

- Volunteer for language-focused assignments, deployments, ad hoc taskings, and Training Partnership Requests (TPR)
- Network with other language enabled service members through LEAP Chapters and other groups
- Further LEAP outreach by mentoring subordinates, sharing one's LEAP story with peers, and advocating to leadership

Refer to [DAFI 36-4005](#) Total Force Language, Regional Expertise, and Culture Program for details on how the Department of the Air Force utilizes LEAP to build and utilize language capability across the force and Language Division Policy in the resources section of [LEaDeR](#) for details on each of the processes listed above that the AFCLC employs to manage LEAP.

## COHORT DEMOGRAPHIC METHODOLOGY

*\*Path to 3/3 is based on data AFCLC gathered through successful scholar surveys, LEaDeR data, and research on language proficiency level advancement.*



*(75 current French LEAP Scholars that entered the program below a 3/3 and achieved a 3/3 through LEAP were analyzed.)*

## 1 - 1+ SKILL LEVEL AT ENTRY

100 level / 40 hrs	Traditional Development eMentor
150 level / 40 hrs	Traditional Development eMentor
200 level / 4 wks	LITE-University (CONUS)
200 level / 40 hrs	Traditional Development eMentor
200 level / 3 wks	Traditional LITE (CONUS, OCONUS, or Virtual)
250 level / 40 hrs	Traditional Development eMentor



**AT LEAST 1 HOUR**  
of self-study spread  
across the week

Average time in LEAP to 3/3



For the full AFCLC LEAP Course Catalog visit  
<https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/AFCLC/>

## 2 & ABOVE SKILL LEVEL AT ENTRY



**AT LEAST 1 HOUR**  
of self-study spread  
across the week

Average time in LEAP to 3/3



200 level / 4 wks	LITE-University (CONUS)
250 level / 40 hrs	Traditional Development eMentor

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<https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/AFCLC/>

## 3/3 ATTAINED / AT ENTRY

- **300-400 level / 12 hrs** | Advanced Assessment eMentor
- **300 level / 12 hrs** | Special Project eMentor
- **400-500 level / 1-6 wks** | Advanced LITE

For the full AFCLC LEAP Course Catalog visit  
<https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/AFCLC/>

## OPPORTUNITIES

The Training Partnership Request (TPR) provides a means by which DoD or other governmental organizations identify LEAP scholars through a request to the AFCLC to serve in bilateral or international military education and training events, such as MSgt Dieudonne Batawila's TPR with the Global Health Engagement Conferences (see pg.6).

Advanced LITEs enhance and sustain the LEAP Scholar's language skills in an application setting. During an Advanced LITE, participants study alongside partner militaries or facilitate inter-cultural communication for a mobile training team or inter-cultural conference. Advanced LITEs typically last between one and six weeks, depending on the activity.

### IN 2025, THE AFCLC TRACKED THE FOLLOWING ON FRENCH LANGUAGE ENABLED AIRMEN:

- 365** LEAP Scholars studying French (selected or cross-trained)
- 36** Foreign Area Officers (FAOs)
- 56** Assigned to Language Designated positions
- 175** Connected by AFCLC to exercises, mobile training, and conferences across the US and AFRICOM AOR

#### SPECIAL EXPERIENCE IDENTIFIER



LEAP scholars who attain the required level of proficiency and experience are awarded the LEAP Special Experience Identifier (SEI), which serve as an indicator to force managers of those qualified for language assignments.

#### FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY BONUS (MAY QUALIFY)



LEAP scholars who earn the LEAP SEI and attain the required level of proficiency qualify for Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus (FLPB) pay. Please reference [DAFI 36-4005](#) for more information.

Use our courses and resources to grow your skills, network with other scholars, and find ways to get utilized! Your French language skills are key to the interoperability of air and space capabilities.



## NETWORK

Use the Networking tab in LEaDeR to find French LEAP scholars at your base and around the world



## TECH VOCAB

Review the French glossary under Resources / Military and Technical Vocab and help add to our library



## CHAPTERS

Get involved with your base's LEAP Chapter or charter one if no chapter exists

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

## CULTURE GUIDE MOBILE APP



Expeditionary Culture Field Guides for over **80 locations** with a variety of resources and information



**Department of Air Force certified Culture Courses** including Developing Cultural Competence (DCC) Course



Variety of **culture and region-specific** videos and podcast directly through the app



Offline capability **untethered from government IT**



App Store



Google Play

**CHECK OUT THE  
AFCLC CULTURE GUIDE APP**

## PODCASTS

- **LanguaTalk: LanguaTalk Slow French: Learn French with Gaëlle**
- **Podcast chouette de la Louve** • Nathalie MacArthur
- **French: Inner** • innerfrench.com
- **French voices** • frenchyourway.com.au
- **Si loin si proche** • rfi.fr
- **8 milliards de voisins** • rfi.fr
- **Accents d'Europe** • rfi.fr
- **Aujourd'hui l'économie** • rfi.fr
- **Chronique de Mamane** • rfi.fr
- **Lignes de défense** • rfi.fr

## APPS

- **Duolingo**
- **Mango**
- **CoffeeBreak**
- **Babbel**
- **Rosetta Stone**



## MEDIA

- **L'Histoire de France** • histoire-france.net
- **France: histoire jusqu'en 1958** • larousse.fr
- **Elikia M'Bokolo** • YouTube
- **BBC News Afrique**
- **The Bibliothèque Nationale de France (BNF)**
  - *Histoire coloniale: la France en Afrique*
  - *L'Europe découvre l'Afrique*
  - *L'Afrique des cultures*
  - *L'Afrique vue depuis la France*
- **GLOSS: Global Language Online Support System** • dliflc.edu
- **NFLC: Portal Lesson | NFLC E-Learning Portal** • umd.edu

## NON FICTION

- **The new relations between France and the African continent** • Achille Mbembe
- **The Jedburghs (2005)** • Will Irvin
- **Les centurions (1960)** • Jean Lartéguy
- **Congo, une histoire (2010)** • David Van Reybrouck
- **Benjamin Franklin (2003)** • Walter Isaacson



## BOOKS

## FICTION

- **Les Fables (1694)** • Jean de la Fontaine
- **De la Démocratie en Amérique (1835)** • Alexis de Tocqueville
- **Le Comte de Monte Christo (1844)** • Alexandre Dumas
- **Le trois mousquetaires (1844)** • Alexandre Dumas
- **Le ventre de Paris (1873)** • Emile Zola
- **L'assommoir (1876)** • Emile Zola
- **Germinal (1885)** • Emile Zola
- **Yasmina (1904)** • Isabelle Eberhardt
- **Le silence de la mer (1942)** • Vercors
- **Houseboy (1956)** • Ferdinand Oyono
- **Les bouts de bois de Dieu (1960)** • Ousmane Sembene
- **Pluie et vent sur Télumée (1972)** • Simone Swartz-Bart
- **L'amour, la fantaisie (1985)** • Assia Djebar
- **Moi, Tituba sorcière (1986)** • Marise Condé
- **Léon l'Africain (1986)** • Amin Maalouf
- **Soundjata ou l'épopée mandingue (2000)** • D.T. Niane
- **Ebène (2000)** • Ryszard Kapuscinski
- **Frères d'armes (2001)** • Stephen Ambrose
- **Suite français (2004)** • Irène Némirovski
- **Le roi de Kahel (2008)** • Tierno Monenembo
- **Une année chez les Français (2010)** • Fouad Laroui



## MAJ DARIA AWUSAH

***“The language training and the regional and culture training I developed through LEAP’s various programs enabled me to execute the mission of teaching human rights and international humanitarian law to Senegalese military personnel and intelligence community, while also strengthening our military’s partnership within the French-speaking country”***

Maj Daria Awusah serves as the Chief of Military Justice for the Space Operations Command as a member of the United States Air Force. She was selected to LEAP in Fall of 2021 as a French LEAP Scholar. Since that time, she has completed four eMentor courses - two at the intermediate level and two at the advanced level. In 2023, she completed her first Language Intensive Training Event at the Africa Consultant International (ACI) Baobab Center in Dakar, Senegal. As a passionate advocate for LEAP, Maj Awusah assisted in spearheading the creation and management of the Colorado LEAP Chapter, comprised of nearly 200 service members stationed at Peterson Space Force Base, Schriever Space Force Base, Cheyenne Mountain Space Force Station, Ft. Carson (Army installation), and the U.S. Air Force Academy.



## MSGT DIEUDONNE BATAWILA

***“ Looking at our nation’s military capabilities, I can certainly say that the utilization of existing language and cultural skills to meet our national security objectives has put the U.S. at a great advantage in this era of great power competition. In other words, LEAP Scholars like me, with their LREC skills, are the linkage between the U.S. military and the rest of the world. The late Nelson Mandela once said ‘If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.’ LEAP Scholars have been winning ‘hearts and minds’ since the beginning of this program, and that is the fact!”***

MSgt. Dieudonne Batawila is an air advisor and was selected to LEAP in 2020 as a French Scholar. Over the course of his time in LEAP, Batawila completed three Advanced eMentor courses and one eMentor Special Projects course. Additionally, he enhanced his language proficiency through several Language Intensive Training Events, including language training at the ACI Baobab Center in Dakar; Area Studies Immersions in Senegal; and a LITE University program at the University of Montana. Through his eMentor studies and language training, MSgt. Batawila has achieved and maintained a 3 Reading and 3 Listening score on the DLPT and a 3+ score on the OPI. This training equipped him for utilization by the U.S. Army, Defense Institute for Medical Operations, and during Exercise AFRICAN LION 21 and 22 for document translation support. MSgt. Batawila’s unique training and skill set in language and culture also postured him to provide critical support to strengthen a global health alliance with more than 32 African nation partners during the 2022 and 2023 Global Health Engagement Conferences hosted by the African Partnership Outbreak Response Alliance.