

FACT SHEET



LANGUAGE ENABLED AIRMAN PROGRAM (LEAP)

Governed by DAFI 36-4005, LEAP is a volunteer program, open to service members in most career fields, that is designed and managed by the Air Force Culture and Language Center (AFCLC) at Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. LEAP deliberately develops language enabled, cross-culturally competent officer and enlisted service members across the General-Purpose Force (GPF) with working-level proficiency across 87 languages to meet global requirements. Through LEAP, the Air Force develops a highly capable, motivated, agile inventory of Airmen and Guardians from across the GPF who provide the connective tissue that bridges language and cultural barriers with allies and partners to create a more interoperable, lethal force prepared for agile combat employment. LEAP was established as a program of record in 2012.

AFCLC develops LEAP scholars through tailored, structured eMentor courses and Language Intensive Training Events (LITE) with a goal of achieving and maintaining an Interagency Language Roundtable skill level of 3 in listening, reading, speaking, and writing. eMentor is an online synchronous language course that connects service members anywhere in the world with native-level language instructors 24/7, at times that work with service members' schedules and mission ops tempo. LITEs are periodic TDYs averaging 30 days that place scholars in culturally complex settings to enhance their Language, Regional Expertise, and Culture (LREC) skills.

AFCLC also matches 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.

To become a LEAP scholar, a service member must demonstrate the required proficiency in a foreign language, receive endorsement from their unit commander, and compete via a board process.

Selection to LEAP is based on applicant's academic history and job performance, existing language proficiency, leadership and language development potential, and Air and Space Force language requirements.

LEAP Scholars who demonstrate language proficiency at an "enabled" level may receive the LEAP Special Experience Identifier (SEI), upon meeting eligibility criteria, which makes them eligible for Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus pay and other language-related opportunities. Force managers use the LEAP SEI to match service members with language dependent assignments, deployments, and TDYs, with roles that include international affairs, military personnel exchange program, security cooperation, mobility advisory, and special operations.

LEAP is comprised of over 3,700 scholars in 87 strategic languages. For more information, see <https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/AFCLC/Language-studies> or e-mail AFCLC.LEAP.Admin@us.af.mil.