AFCLC Mission

Air University
Maxwell AFB, Alabama

Culture and regional faculty experts
Cutting-edge language & culture tools
Language Enabled Airman Program

Apply Air & Space Power
Partner Interoperability and Adversary Understanding
Deliberately Develop Through Language, Region, and Culture Education
Culture Guide App – Version 2.0

- 76 countries ... organized by Twelve Domains of Culture
- 2.5-hr cross-cultural competence courses, China/Russia
- AFCLC faculty videos on topics relevant to the mission
  - Accessible, impactful curriculum
  - Organically produced and curated content
  - Untethered from government platforms
  - Downloadable certificate of completion available for all courses

31,993 mobile app downloads
LEAP deliberately develops and sustains language enabled, cross-culturally capable Airmen and Guardians throughout their careers to enhance the application of air and space power; fill global mission requirements; and strengthen partnerships, interoperability, and adversary understanding.
Who are LEAP Scholars?

- 3,500+ service members, officer and enlisted in USAF / USSF
- Only Active Duty selected to LEAP at this time *(however, those who separate and continue in the Reserves or Guard may participate in Space A courses)*
- Leaders within their units and career fields ... from pilots to intel officers, from special operators to physicians
- Representation of 95 strategic languages
- Passion for language, regional expertise, and culture (LREC)
- Vision for applying their skills to Air Force missions

https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/AFCLC/LEAP-Spotlight
What’s Expected of a LEAP Scholar?

- Excel in one’s Primary career field – pilot, physician, attorney, cyber officer, maintenance officer, etc.
- Complete online eMentor courses every 2-4 years, depending on one’s proficiency level
- Volunteer for periodic LITE immersion courses, pending unit commander approval
- Support periodic short-term exercises, mobile training teams, conferences, and translation projects
- Serve in language-focused assignments and deployments based on determination of Career Field Managers and Air Force Personnel Center
Online, synchronous language courses, flexibly scheduled and delivered, designed to develop and sustain LEAP Scholars

Native-level instructor, one-on-one or with a group of 2-4

Two-hour sessions, same day/time two days a week, based on your availability

Flex courses (variable days/times) are available for irregular, e.g. flying schedules

Course length
- 40-hour / 3-month course for 2+ level and lower
- 12-hour / 3-week course for 3 proficiency level or higher
- Advanced Assessment and Special Project Course

Registration X3 per year through LEaDeR

Courses will be required every 2-4 years, depending on your proficiency level
LITEs

Based on your language, proficiency level, and regional experience

Frequency:
- Initial LITE or equivalent credit within two years of selection
- Follow-on two years later for those in the 1-2+ proficiency range
- Follow-on as resources / events allow for those in the 3-4 range

Language and cultural immersions averaging 30 days, flexibly scheduled and delivered, designed to develop and sustain LEAP Scholars

Traditional LITEs (2-4 weeks, depending on the program)
- US or overseas
- May focus on a strategic topic such as competition with China and Russia
- Virtual LITE from home station

Advanced LITEs (1-8 weeks):
- Training Partnership Request (TPR) Exercise, mobile training, or conference
- Professional military education with partner military
How can LEAP impact your career?

- Multi-Capable Airman
- Language Development & Sustainment
- LEAP Special Experience Identifier (SEI)
- Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus (FLPB)
- Networking with LREC Professionals
- Temporary Duty (TDY)
- Assignments
Career Field Opportunities

- **SAF/IA (International Affairs):** In-Region Training and Space A sustainment for Foreign Area Officers (FAO) serving in attaché and security cooperation

- **Enlisted International Affairs**

- **Reserve FAOs and Air National Guard Bilateral Affairs Officers (BAO)**

- **Military Personnel Exchange Program Participants & Instructors**

- **International Health Specialists**

- **Air Force Office of Special Investigations Agents**

- **Special Operators**

- **Air Advisors**
Other Ways to Get Involved

**SOCIAL MEDIA:**
- Join the LEAP Closed Facebook page
- View LEAP Live and AFCLC TV online events
- Engage with AFCLC’s social media pages

**BASE-LEVEL:**
- Mentor other language enabled service members
- Advocate and inform your leadership
- Participate in or start a LEAP Club

**ENTERPRISE:**
- Attend the annual Air University LREC symposium
- Write and publish in a DoD or Air Force journal
- Volunteer with AFCLC for LEAP document translation and other virtual projects
"Tyler’s bilingual leadership, technical acumen at his J-O-B and core characteristics as an officer make him one of the best I’ve worked with in 12 years as a FAO. As we polled every unit and section for outstanding performers...every single team, Colombian and U.S, mentioned Capt McGuire. That’s why we are sending him home with the Air Force Achievement Medal."

Capt Tyler McGuire
- Logistics Readiness Flight Commander
- Passenger and Fleet Services
- LEAP scholar since 2018
- Spanish Language

Col William McDowell
Commander
612th Theater Operations Group
"In the 34 times that I have performed exercises with the USMC, this is the first time that they've attached linguists. Linguists that are truly one of us. And it has made a huge difference! My Marines trust them, and my Marines are drawn to them. This needs to happen, every single time from here on out..."

Philippine Marine Corps Brig Gen Jimmy Larida
“(Senegal’s) NCOs are relied on to be the technical experts, just like we do here. So, we were charged with working with them to help them create an NCO program, not build one for them, but help them create one ... We have all of the material here in the states, but it has to be their own, it has to be Senegalese.”

SMSgt Alain Mukendi
• Supt, Infrastructure Systems
• LEAP scholar since 2013
• French and Lingala Languages

SMSgt Michael Bilharz
SPP Academic Lead
Vermont NG
SSgt Zahra Karim Zadeh

- HVAC Instructor (Civil Engineering)
- LEAP scholar since 2021
- Farsi and Arabic Languages

Brig. Gen. Matthew Reid,
Commanding General of the Naval Amphibious Task Force 51/5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade

"(KZ) provided critical leadership and oversight throughout the mission. This included working closely with the Qatari Ministry of Defense, across the JTF, including the JTF Headquarters and in the Joint Operations Center."
“Captain Klokun has been expertly translating critical intelligence sharing operations between SOTF 10.1 and Ukrainian SOF command centers on a daily basis. We simply could not accomplish our mission without Service Members with his language expertise and mastery of technical military and special operations vernacular – simply invaluable.

... we accomplished something unique and equipped him with a means to dialog directly with my command center by secure means – a huge win. Anton was key.”

- Lt Col Matthew J. Mesko
SOTF 10.1
LEAP Application Preparation

Read FY23 Selection Guidance on the AFCLC Site / Language Studies

Take Your Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT) and/or Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) through your Base Education Center

- Minimum score is 1/1 for most languages (1+1+ for languages such as French, Spanish, German, and Italian)

- If you have proficiency in more than one language, take additional tests
LEAP Application Preparation (cont)

- Obtain unofficial copies of all college transcripts and a copy of your SURF from AMS.

- Save your most recent EPRs and/or training reports (if you have any) in accordance with the instructions in the application guidance.

- Prepare four 200-word statements that convey how you learn and practice languages; what cross-cultural competence means to you; and how you hope to grow through LEAP and utilize your language skills for the mission.

- Talk to your Commander and Supervisor about why you want to be a LEAP scholar (500-character push note required from each).
2023 Application – USAF Active Duty

- Application Window 1 May – 14 July 2023
- Language Enabled Development Resource (LEaDeR) site
- Board Meets 17-18 Aug

Not eligible in FY23 *
- USSF officers
- USAF Reserve
- USAF Guard

* HHQ staff are assessing eligibility for these groups for future years
Selection Board Evaluation

What the LEAP Board evaluates to determine board scores

- Your approach to developing foreign language(s)
- 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
For More Information

https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/AFCCLC/Language-studies
afclc.leap.selection@us.af.mil