The Air Force Culture and Language Center (AFCLC), located at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, executes comprehensive Language, Regional Expertise, and Culture (LREC) training and development and manages the Language Enabled Airman Program (LEAP). The SAF/IA International Affairs Specialist Program and AFCLC collaborate via a partnership aimed at developing LEAP officers as potential candidates for further development as Foreign Area Officers (FAO).

FAOs provide regional expertise and professional foreign language competency to build effective relationships with global partners. This international expertise is key to sustaining coalitions, pursuing regional stability and security cooperation, and contributing to multi-national operations.

For traditional development accession, officers may be selected at 7-10 years, commissioned service (See AFI 16-109 for specifics).

The AFCLC identifies, selects, and develops Airmen across the General Purpose Force for LEAP, including junior officers who express interest in international affairs. Although LEAP offers no direct path to FAO selection, active program participation may make officers more competitive for a career in international affairs through language development, in-region immersions, and leadership opportunities.

LEAP: PREPARING FUTURE FAOS

SERVE
in their selected region, representing the DoD and USAF in embassies and other assignments

DEVELOP
policy impacting U.S. international affairs

ADVISE
ambassadors and commanders on regional issues

BUILD
trust through a variety of security cooperation roles such as foreign military sales, international military education and training, etc.

1 APPLY
Apply to LEAP early in a career, as a cadet, enlisted member or Company Grade Officer

2 EXCEL
Excel in primary career field and attain high stratifications on performance reports, demonstrating future potential as a FAO

3 DEVELOP
Develop through online and immersion courses and events, including leadership roles with partners and allies via exercises and conferences

4 COMPETE
Compete for FAO, leveraging record of performance, language proficiency, regional experience, and international affairs master’s degree.
**COURSES**

**eMENTOR** online synchronous language courses with native-level instructors

**LITEs** (Language Intensive Training Event) 2-4 week immersions in the target region, often with a home stay family

**TPRs** (Training Partnership Request) via exercises, mobile training, and conferences with partner military

**IMPACT**

OFFICERS IN LEAP WHO ARE SELECTED AS FAOS ON AVERAGE HAVE COMPLETED

- **2** LITEs
- **3** eMentor courses
- **1** TPR

*Impact is based on data AFCLC gathered through Language Enabled Development Resource (LEaDeR) data*

2023

65% of officers selected through traditional development routes to FAO were initially selected and developed through LEAP

**RESOURCES**

**AFCLC FAO TEAM**

Contact an in-region-training specialist for additional tips on future FAO development

@afclc.fao.lrec@us.af.mil

**TECH VOCAB**

Review your target language's glossary under Resources / Military and Technical Vocab in LEaDeR and help add to our library

**NETWORK**

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

**CHAPTERS**

Get involved with LEAP private organizations at your base or charter one if no chapter exists

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