

CONNECTION

NEWSLETTER



MAJ SYLVIA KIM

There's no limit to where this LEAP participant will go in the world!

YOUR ONE-STOP LREC EDUCATION UPDATE

This issue is packed with our newest products in culture education and language programs

AY17 @ AU

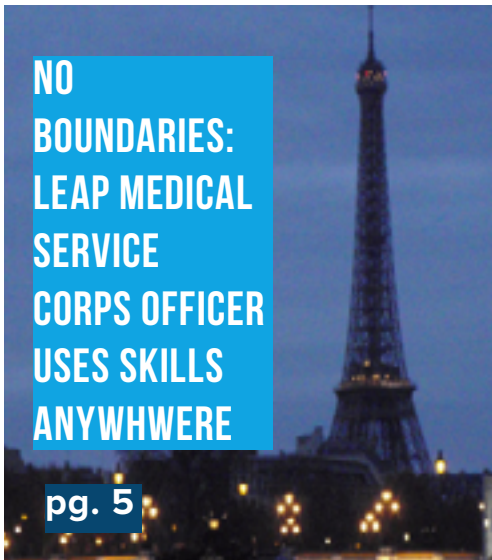
Classes have begun for AY17 at Air University- get an inside scoop on what culture courses are on the calendar

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FROM THE DIRECTOR



Greetings from the Air Force Culture and Language Center (AFCLC). The staff and faculty of the AFCLC continue to press ahead in providing quality language, region and culture education and training products to Airmen.

Enjoy the following highlights:

Das Language Enabled Airman Program (Sprachförderungsprogramm der AF) oder LEAP unterstützt, fördert, und baut auf vorhandene Sprachkenntnisse und Fähigkeiten der Soldaten der AF auf. Das Ziel ist es, die Soldaten der AF zu befähigen, um den Anforderungen der AF gerecht zu werden. Ein aktuelles Beispiel ist die Anstellung des LEAP Teilnehmers MSgt EL Bouab bei der 818 MASA in einer von ihren vorgesehenen Arbeitsstellen für Linguisten der arabischen Sprache. MSgt EL Bouab hat im Jahre 2014 mit LEAP begonnen, hat am eMentor und an LITE Ausbildungsprogrammen teilgenommen. Er hat das Sprach-SEI bekommen, was es ihm ermöglichte, der 818 MSAS

beizutreten. Herzliche Glückwünsche gehen an MSgt El Bouab und das AFCLC dankt ihm für seinen Dienst.

El Centro de Lengua y Cultura de la Fuerza Aérea tiene el placer de presentarles nuestra aplicación para teléfonos celulares “Guías Culturales”. Los usuarios de iOS y Android pueden ahora acceder a toda la colección de guías culturales de nuestro centro directamente desde sus dispositivos, y almacenar aquellas que necesiten utilizar más tarde.

Para empezar, visite la tienda de aplicaciones de iOS o la tienda Google Play, escriba “culture guides” y busque las alas de la Fuerza Aérea.

Le Centre de Culture et de Langue de l'Armée de l'Air (AFCLC) offre deux cours à distance: L'introduction à la culture et la communication cross-culturelle. Ces deux cours valent trois unités de valeur trimestrielles dans le système de “Community College” de l'Armée de l'Air. Prière de vous référer au site web de AFCLC pour les informations se rapportant aux dates des inscription et cours.

上個星期，郝博上尉 (Capt Hobbs)寫信給空軍語言文化中心(AFCLC) 表達謝意，“我認爲 AFCLC提供的課程對提高語言能力起到關鍵作用，我的考試成績就是證明。” 郝博上尉二零一零年進入AFCLC中文培訓項目時，國防語言能力測試的成績是 1+/2+，現在達到3/3。

If you can read any of these four updates above, thank you. The Air Force

values your language skills and the AFCLC is dedicated to providing Airmen with language and culture education. Please take a look at our website, <http://culture.af.mil> for information on AFCLC programs and the many ways AFCLC can assist you.

Thank you!

To our participants who came in to conduct a LEAP program review last month. Representatives from A1D/V, RAS program, LREC office, IHS Program, and Air University offered their insight on how to build and continue LEAP to new heights in the coming years.

To our counterparts at Maxwell's DLIFLC Language Training Detachment, who assist with many of our efforts at the Center, as well as teach at AWC and ACSC. They freely provided their expertise in translating the above statements for this newsletter.

To our Air Reserve Component counterparts, Brigadier Generals Cashman and Jacobs, who visited the Center in September in order to help us find more opportunities and education for our Guardsmen and State Partnership Programs.

Col Thomas Skrocki, AFCLC Director

CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!

Access all of the AFCLC's culture general and specific expeditionary field guides in our mobile app.

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CULTURE EDUCATION EXPANDS AT AU

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SETH MAGGARD, AFCLC

The suspended golden scenery, suffused by litanies of droning insects and searing pavement from the scorching Alabama sun, has given way to a tattoo of boots and book bags meandering through the Air University campus. The corporeal silence of another summer break has been shattered by the bustle of thousands of new students as Maxwell AFB is once again home to a mélange of military uniforms from a variety of services and nations.

Academic Year 2017 is already shaping up to be an exciting time for both faculty and students as they rev into a cycle saturated with strategic knowledge of Airpower. That knowledge is predicated with concepts of cultural education as well as shared experiences in building international partnerships. The Air Force Culture and Language Center is all too familiar with Language, Regional Expertise and Culture education as the essence of its multi-faceted menu of programs. The faculty is a stellar lineup of academic minds from the anthropological field, who provide a perfect blend of cross-cultural understanding with operational considerations in classroom scenarios.

Dr. Scott Edmondson is currently teaching his first full iteration of students at the Air Command and Staff College, a core course titled International Security Studies 1.

“Total force aspects of our mission are unique to many of our discussions,” Edmondson said “to have an anthropologist, international military, Airmen, Marines, and Army leaders

interacting on the same classroom topic is a valuable opportunity.”

Edmondson will also teach an elective this January, called “Power and Identity Security in the African Post Colony,” that sits closer to his field of research and study involvement. AFCLC instructors share the responsibility of teaching core courses with AU staff as one of its many partnerships to ensure optimal culture education to the total force. He and his 12 students are in contact multiple times a week, engaging in guided cultural discussions designed by Edmondson to challenge their thinking on relevant matters.

The partnership and symbiotic relationships do not end at ACSC, however, as Dr. Patricia Fogarty can attest. She has been involved in several academic cycles at AU, and is currently teaching a cutting-edge elective at Air War College, titled “Contending with Corruption: Perspectives on Corruption and Anti-Corruption Initiatives.”

“My primary focus is for these students to be able to not simply diagnose cultural training scenarios in the classroom, but to guide their understanding to create operators who can diagnose real-world events in the future,” Fogarty said.

The course answers a call outside of the AU classroom as well.

“It fulfills a need for our students to receive some unique and specific culture preparation, as well as a need mandated by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff,” she said while holding copies of the syllabus in an eager

fashion to spread knowledge about the new opportunities that AFCLC is a part of.

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has mandated a need to support future joint operations through training and education. Interoperability is a paramount focus of many of the courses offered by AFCLC staff, but this course focuses predominantly on the intricate paradigm of international corruption across three landscapes: cultural, economic, and political. Because of this exact method of delivery, Fogarty’s course has helped AU fulfill a Special academic elective requirement in order to meet the Chairman’s priorities for Language Regional Expertise and Culture inclusion in military education.

“It has taken a great deal of planning and coordination on our parts to be able to offer this course, but it is ultimately a win-win for AU, AFCLC, and most importantly, our students,” Fogarty remarked after completing the first week of lectures in the course’s term-long schedule.

Partnerships have reached new heights for AFCLC faculty beginning with this academic year. Instructors and students alike are placing an overwhelming influence on the importance of LREC education that will have a ripple effect throughout the entire military. International collaboration and current knowledge from cultures around the world are part of the driving force maintaining Air University’s place at the forefront of professional military education, as well as adapting Airpower for a global future.

COURTESY PHOTO



NO BOUNDARIES: LEAP MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS OFFICER USES SKILLS ANYWHERE

BY SRA ADREAN MCMILLION

Managed by the Air Force Culture and Language Center (AFCLC), the Language Enabled Airman Program (LEAP), is a career-spanning program to sustain, enhance, and assist with the utilization of the existing language skills of general purpose forces. LEAP has postured one of its participants, Maj Sylvia Kim, to carve out a unique career path thanks to its intensive training program.

In 2011, Maj Kim applied to LEAP to help sustain her French proficiency. Upon acceptance, she started participating in LEAP's eMentor program—live on-line language classes to enhance reading, listening, writing and speaking abilities. She has consistently returned to these courses over the past four years to maintain these perishable skills.

Maj Kim was also provided opportunities to undertake LEAP's language and culture immersions, called Language Intensive Training Events (LITEs). During Maj Kim's first LITE to Algiers, Algeria, she translated correspondence between the US Embassy and the Algerian military as well as assisted the FBI and DEA with a counternarcotic/counter-drug trafficking and border security course for the Algerian Gendarmerie. During a follow-on LITE, she provided curriculum support and translated critical medical and healthcare management coursework into French for the Defense Institute for Medical Operations (DIMO), a part of International Health Specialist's (IHS) Global Health Engagement. By partaking in these activities, she was able to practice the skills she gained through her eMentor courses and apply the invaluable knowledge she gained from her experience in the AFRICOM AOR and through her mastery of French medical terminology and concepts.

During Maj Kim's recent LITE to Paris, France at the end of 2015, she assisted the US Embassy by coordinating the movement of over 700 incoming personnel, fuel trucks, and other military aircraft and engaged in preparations for COP21, the largest global climate change conference in the world. Tragically, a series of terrorist attacks ripped through Paris the night of the November 13th, 2015, the third week of her immersion. All her language training and skills were put to the test during the following tense weeks in Paris. Maj Kim assisted with the arrival of Gen. Paul Selva, Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, as he and the French government worked on a plan to overcome these attacks. She stated, "Being on the ground in France for a LITE put you at the right place and the right time to get an once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Thanks to her tireless efforts to sustain and enhance her French language skills through the training provided by LEAP, Maj Kim was recently hand-selected to fill a staff billet at DIMO in San Antonio, TX. In her current position she applies her refined skill sets as a Medical Service Corps officer in her role as a DIMO Administrator. With her unique international development background and Medical Readiness experience, she applies her language and cultural skills daily by preparing staff members as they plan, deliver, and execute mobile training courses to partner nations. This helps expand their healthcare systems and infrastructure, increasing interoperability and promoting theater security cooperation in the AFRICOM, CENTCOM, EUCOM, PACOM and SOUTHCOM AORs.

She contributes her success within the IHS community to the invaluable experiences she has received through LEAP. As she states, "Because of LEAP, I am a multi-faceted, multilingual officer in the US Air Force. It has provided opportunities for me to excel and speak the same language as pilots, logisticians, intel analysts, linguists, and other specialties across the Services and Agencies in a joint environment."



MAJ KIM IN ALGIERS FOR JOINT FBI TRAINING (COURTESY PHOTO)



**GET CLOSER
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COURSES!**

The Air Force Culture and Language Center offers two online courses that provide college credit through the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF). These courses are currently only available to enlisted members of the US Armed Forces.

Introduction to Culture

Enrollment Window:
19 Sep - 2 Oct 2017

Class Dates:
12 Oct 2017 - 17 Jan 2018

Introduction to Cross - Cultural Communication

Enrollment Window:
18 October - 31 October 2016

Class Dates:
10 November 2016 - 15 February 2017

Learn more at culture.af.mil



MEET OUR NEW PROFESSOR:

Dr. Elizabeth Peifer

Dr. Elizabeth L.B. Peifer is Assistant Professor of Regional and Cultural Studies (Europe) at the Air Force Culture and Language Center. She holds a Ph.D. in European History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and has over fifteen years of university teaching experience. Dr. Peifer specializes in contemporary German society and culture, and her teaching and research interests include: social movements, the language and culture of radicalism, generational identity, public memory and national narratives, and genocide studies.

LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TOURS AFCLC

Story by Seth Maggard
Photos by Seth Maggard & Luke Easley

Maxwell AFB, Alabama -- Representatives from the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce got a front row seat to see how the Air Force does culture and language education and training on June 9.

Director of Defense Technology

College of the Air Force cultural education courses, pre-deployment preparation, pocket field guides outlining a specific country's cultural environment, and the Language Enabled Airman Program, which offers language instruction to



Development Richard Plaskett, Vice President of Business Development Ron Simmons, Vice President of Community Strategies Sheron Rose, and Senior Manager Bonnie Evans visited the Air Force Culture and Language Center in order to learn and interact with its many programs that educate airmen in international relations, communications, and building partnerships.

The small group of representatives participated in an overview of the center's online Community

Representatives from the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce talk with AFCLC staff about culture education programs in the Air Force on June 10, 2016. The meeting was held in order to strengthen local partnerships as well as provide training for future international business connections with Chamber staff. (AFCLC photo by Seth Maggard)

Airmen identified with a pre-existing skill.

"We have business partners from around the world that we interact with," Simmons said "this kind of culture education is exactly what people need before they meet with those individuals. I had no idea that

this was available in the Air Force.”

Activities moved into the LEAP office in order to showcase the program’s advanced personnel tracking system, LEADeR. Technical managers of the program took instant requests from the attendees, such as: “how many Tagalog speakers are in the Air Force right now that I can use for an upcoming deployment and where are they?” A complete list was accessed and identified all of them in under five seconds.

“Successful military to military partnerships will be critical to the Air Force’s ability to project strategic Air Power within the international community. LEAP prepares the everyday Airman for mission success by identifying, training, and sustaining strategic language and cultural skills that are needed to influence our mission partners,” said Lt Col Eric Graham, Director of LEAP operations at the AFCLC.

The AFCLC’s presentation was not restricted to a single briefing room and slide show; rather, the

Chamber members gained hands-on experiences by undergoing an immersive scenario based exercise in an office decorated to reflect a business meeting room in the Arab Emirates.

“Communication is what it’s all about, whether it is in our experiences building business partnerships or military activity, we can’t expect to be successful if we can’t properly communicate and relate to our audience,” Simmons said.

Role players talked with the Chamber representatives and shared chai tea while a noisy ambience of bustling streets blared over a nearby speaker. Their task was to quickly negotiate a business trade with a culture that is more focused on pleasantries than business. In addition, they also underwent a checkpoint exercise to show the difficulty in interacting with culture communication.

“My heart was pounding the entire time!” exclaimed Evans “that was a very real look at how foreign

relations are very complex and dangerous without prior instruction.”

The meeting concluded with a newfound relationship of cross-cultural competence, which inspired the AFCLC and MCC representatives to make plans for future partnerships and shared learning.

“We came for a quick glance at what the center offered and are leaving with a wet appetite for more from this center, as well as a deep understanding of international culture and valuable training for our own business relationships in the future,” Plaskett said after the meeting.

“Local partnerships like these are strengthening businesses, military capabilities, and the relationships that we all influence in our daily operations,” said Colonel Howard Ward, AFCLC Director.

Ron Simmons, Vice President of Business Development at the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce, negotiates a business transaction with Seth Maggard, a role player with the AFCLC, during a training scenario to teach cultural communication styles on June 10, 2016. (AFCLC photo by Luke Easley)



LEAP PARTICIPANT HAS TRUE TEST DURING TURKISH MILITARY COUP

by Seth Maggard, AFCLC

Major Sean Carlson poured a cup of tea and settled in a chair at a tea garden, while taking in the serene landscape that was all too familiar to him in Turkey. Suddenly, the piercing roar of six F-16 fighters ripped through the stagnant air like a disturbance on a calm water top. The rhythmic humming of voices crackled over air waves as local news reporters scrambled to report. Familiar with the local language and culture, Carlson leaned in to try and catch what was happening.

“I knew instantly that this was not a normal situation,” he said as he recollected the events of that evening. He and his counterparts with the 1st Emergency Rescue Group were settling in after a day of operations supporting

Turkish military with helicopter rescue flights in Afghanistan. Carlson was included in the operation as an Airmen with a multitude of cultural knowledge and experience that created interoperability throughout their deployment.

That evening proved to be unlike anything the service members had experienced before, though, as the Turkish military enacted a coup attempt to overthrow the government. The results of that evening are all too familiar to us now, but when Carlson and his counterparts were interrupted during their evening tea, there was no forewarning that could’ve set them up for what was going on outside of the small air base.

“As the linguist, I immediately thought to contact the 1 ERQG Deputy and notify

him what I was hearing and seeing.” Carlson said, noticing that many of his counterparts, several American service members, were still off base and needed to be recalled immediately in order to avoid being caught in the combat nearby. On Maj Carlson’s word, the Deputy was able to swiftly receive word of what was going on and safely recall all of his troops to the relative safety of the Turkish Air Base.

Maj Carlson’s language and cultural knowledge were trained and sustained by his participation in the Language Enabled Airman Program. Since 2011, Carlson has participated in the program’s numerous online courses with eMentor, as well as special cultural immersion training opportunities with LEAP’s Language Intensive Training Events. These events took him to Turkey in 2015, where he formed partnerships



SOURCE: ASSOCIATED PRESS

and gained training with local Turkish military.

“I spent most of my childhood in Turkey, some of my family is from there, and I grew up speaking the language, so most of my training in LEAP were opportunities to maintain my language skills,” he remarked.

The LEAP program provided Maj Carlson with language tutoring that was specific to his military proficiency, with a plan to span his career and inject opportunities for real-world training in country.

“I actually heard about LEAP from a friend who made it seem like the program was a perfect fit for someone with my skills, and I’ve enjoyed every moment of my training,” Carlson said.

Flash forward to 2016, Maj Carlson was identified as the culturally proficient operator that 1 ERQG needed to bring to Turkey in support of its rescue missions. On that night, Carlson’s language skills would be tested further than anyone had anticipated, but he was well-prepared. In the following hours after

the fighters cut through the skies and alerted the start of the coup attempt, the acquisitions specialist Carlson was listening and interpreting local news stories for leadership and others that were filtering into the base after being recalled.

“I noticed that there was a difference in what was being reported on Turkish news, and what the American media was publishing,” Carlson said as he again recalled the events from the safety of a Maxwell AFB office “the local media was publishing things like ‘This street has tanks on it and is blocked’ or ‘all helicopters are being grounded’”

“There was definitely a shift in operations after the coup attempt. Most of our previous military partnerships had been severed, and local police were guarding the base. Flights were grounded, and many services on the air base shut down. It was my duty to still bridge cultural gaps and interoperate with many of the individuals coming on base.”

LEAP training led to a quality maintenance of his language skills and will continue to train and maintain him for inclusion into real-world events just like this one. There was no way of knowing what was going to happen when the LEAP program primed Maj Carlson, which is a testament to the quality of training and the seamless operations put forth through its stellar participants each day. Maj Carlson is a notch above many when considering his investment into the program and utilizing his skills on a whim like this in such dire situations.

He is not planned to return to Turkey anytime in the future, but is definitely planned to continue maintaining his language skills for when the time comes again to identify an organic GPF operator to provide their skills for the sake of Airpower and emerge as a proficient asset from the local Language, Regional Expertise and Culture community.



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MARCH 29 - 30, 2017 | MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE



IMPORTANT DATES

Proposals Due
1 February 2017


**Notifications Sent
to Selectees**
3 March 2017

Registration Deadline
17 March 2017

Presentation Deadline
22 March 2017

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