

CONNECTION

NEWSLETTER

The

BIG ROCK EDITION

DLI 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

THE DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE CELEBRATES 10 YEARS WITH THE AFCLC

MISSING WWII PILOTS

CAPT MARCO CATANESE USES LANGUAGE TRAINING ON A SEARCH WITH DPAA

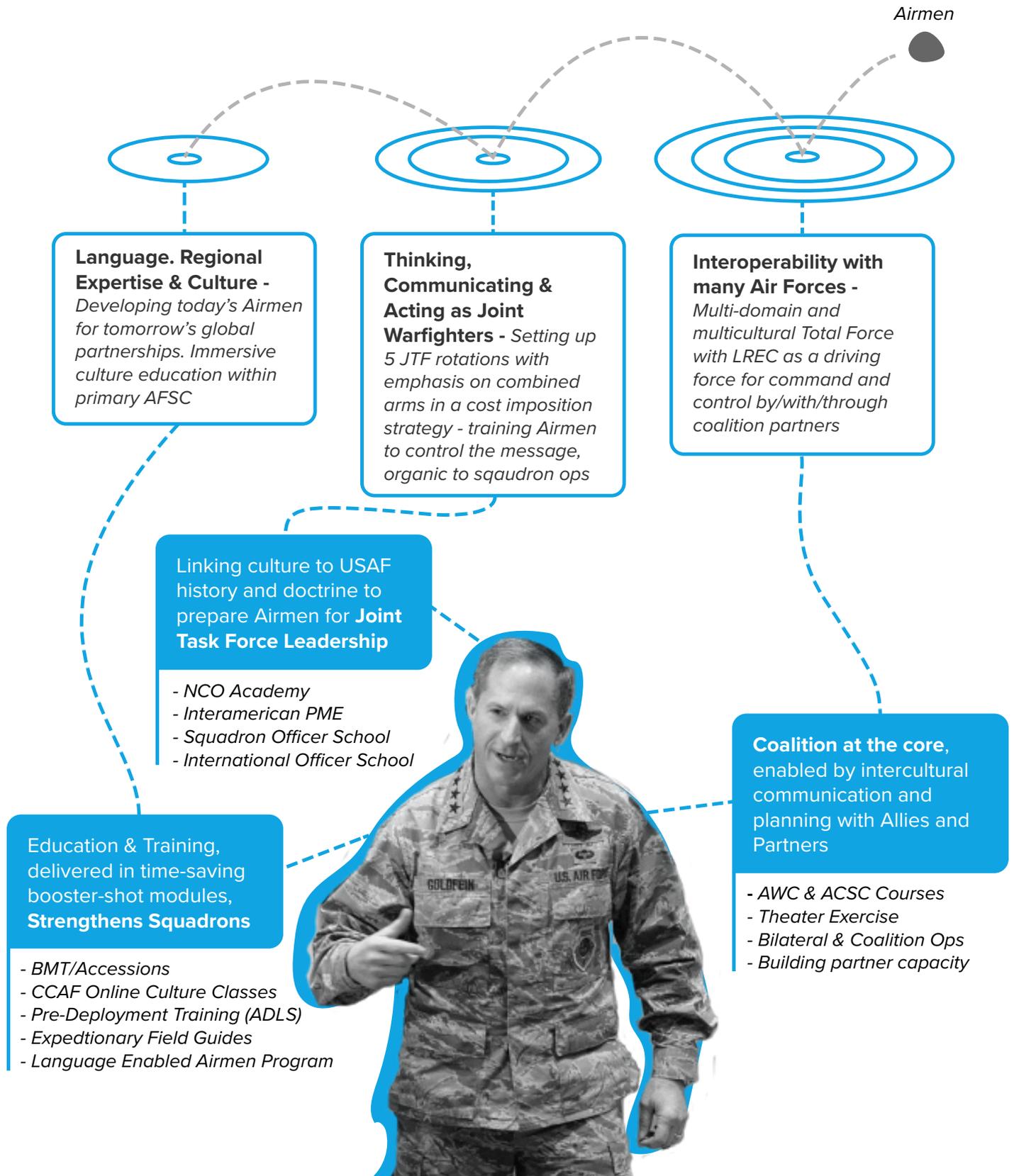
NEW FIELD GUIDES

FIVE NEW COUNTRIES JOIN OUR INVENTORY OF APP-AVAILABLE, CULTURE GENERAL FIELD GUIDES. CHECK THEM OUT HERE!

GEN GOLDFEIN'S 3 BIG ROCKS

CULTURE AND LANGUAGE TRAINING AT MAXWELL IS ANSWERING ALL THREE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF'S FOCAL POINTS.

Taking CSAF's "Big Rocks" across the Pond



Upcoming Center Activities

First Maxwell/Gunter LEAP Club meeting

2nd Annual AU LREC Symposium

Cadet LEAP Selection Board

Active Duty LEAP Selection Board

**AFCLC hosts joint service culture
coordinating committee (DCCC)**



Get up to date Center articles and info, or post your culture topics on our blog:

CULTURE.AF.MIL

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Essential and Operational



This is the tag line I've used in communicating with you since joining the Air Force Culture and Language Center (AFCLC). No matter our function in the Air Force, it is imperative that we remember we are here to support the application of airpower and that our priorities need to reflect a close connection to the guidance from our senior leaders. I'd like to lead you through a short discussion of how the AFCLC directly supports CSAF's priorities of (1) revitalizing squadrons as the beating heart of the Air Force (2) developing leaders in joint warfighting and (3) reinventing command and control.

It's no secret that external demands have taken a toll on squadrons across the service. With that in mind, the Language Enabled Airman Program (LEAP) was specifically designed as a deliberate force development tool where Airmen could volunteer to build capability commensurate with their interests and do it on their own time to prevent conflicts with their primary duties. Through the flexible LEAP learning model, Airmen can pursue a development program with benefits today in their tactical mission and open the doors to service at the strategic level in the future.

The flexibility of the model also prevents "binary choices" for Airmen, families, and commanders. With infrastructure designed to deliver "training on demand," the AFCLC is always ready and waiting to provide live synchronous culture and language content as well as world-class immersion experiences when it makes sense for the Airmen. This prevents an Airman from choosing either job or LEAP, either family or LEAP, either family or job...all of which are binary situations and no choice that produces a clear win for anyone.

CSAF has made it clear that he wants us to take our capabilities as joint warfighters to the next level which includes growing Airmen that can be Joint Task Force (JTF) commanders and command chiefs. CSAF has told us that we are "coalition at the core" so culture and language will play a central and starring role in developing leaders who can operate seamlessly with many air forces.

The more we understand about the culture and language of our valued allied and coalition partners, the more effectively we will be able to work together at the tactical and strategic levels. AFCLC curriculum supports this through tailoring the content for application in a professional environment rather than casual conversation. Because Airmen that undergo our developmental program are able to make contributions early in their careers, they are in a position to establish relationships with partner air forces that will span the duration of their careers. With these types of relationships, Airmen will be better poised as joint warfighters with our own sister services and as future JTF leaders as we partner with militaries around the world.

AFCLC also has an important role to play in reinventing the systems used for command and control. Any revision of command and control systems must take into account CSAF's mantra that we are "coalition at the core." Not every allied and coalition partner sees and embraces technology the same as we do. To achieve a high level of interoperability and operate with our partners as one seamless air force, culture and language will play a key role in strengthening CSAF's role as "global air chief."

Through the education, training, and immersion experiences gained through the AFCLC curriculum, Airmen developed in our programs are in a perfect position to contribute to this effort because their functional perspective on airpower will be broadened through the context of a global setting with many partners.

CSAF has laid out a bold vision for our Air Force, and all of us in the Language, Regional Expertise, and Culture (LREC) enterprise should seize the moment as a "call to arms" in boldly and aggressively using the tradecraft of culture and language education and training to keep our US Air Force the world's best today and well into the future.

Culture and language...essential and operational.

[Mr. Howard Ward, AFCLC Director](#)

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NEW COUNTRIES ADDED TO FIELD GUIDE INVENTORY

Culture-packed, pocket-sized and free to the public, the Air Force Culture and Language Center's Expeditionary Culture Field Guides have been a staple in field readiness and as an augmentation to deployment awareness training for our military members since 2009. Eight years later, the AFCLC is continuously adding to its inventory in response to Air Force requirements. This year, they added four new countries to the count: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Chad and Turkey.

"We are always excited to continue to produce regional expertise training and education products to our Air Force," said Howard Ward AFCLC Director, "but these field guides go much deeper than spiral-bound notebooks, they are uniquely tailored to bringing any branch's men and women into a culture while they are immersed in it." Deploying commands, training units, and simply interested individuals from around the Department of Defense make requests to the Center's afclc.region@us.af.mil organizational box to make orders for hard copies of the guides.

"We have had requests for as little as a single book to 72,000 guides in a single order to 5th AF in Japan," said Mary Newbern, who manages distribution of the guides, "I would expect interest to boom with these latest additions, especially with no end in sight, and future country editions on the horizon."

Latvia, Lithuania, Turkey and Estonia are the AFCLC's first European Command (EUCOM) guides, and mark the first ever inclusions into

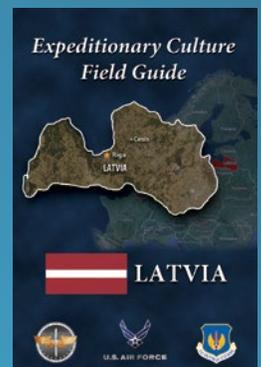
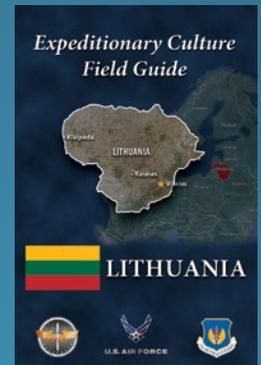
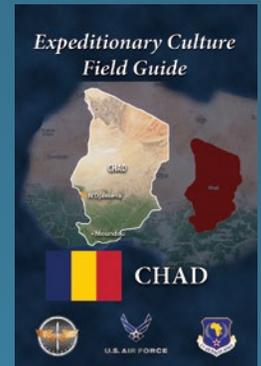
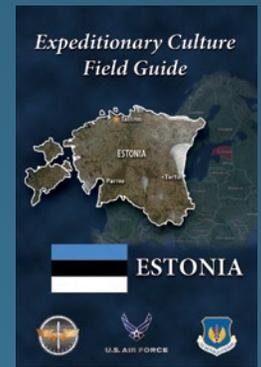
the region. The guides now cover 25 African, 6 Pacific, 3 Middle East (Central Command), 1 South American, totaling over 39 with more on the horizon.

"Directly responding to Air Force requirements places us at the forefront of the coalition service effort, and sharing the load with Joint Task Force leaders as we provide their airmen with the capabilities they need to address vexing challenges of today's fight," said Howard Ward, AFCLC Director. Laminated pocket books are only the beginning of product availability for these guides, as well.

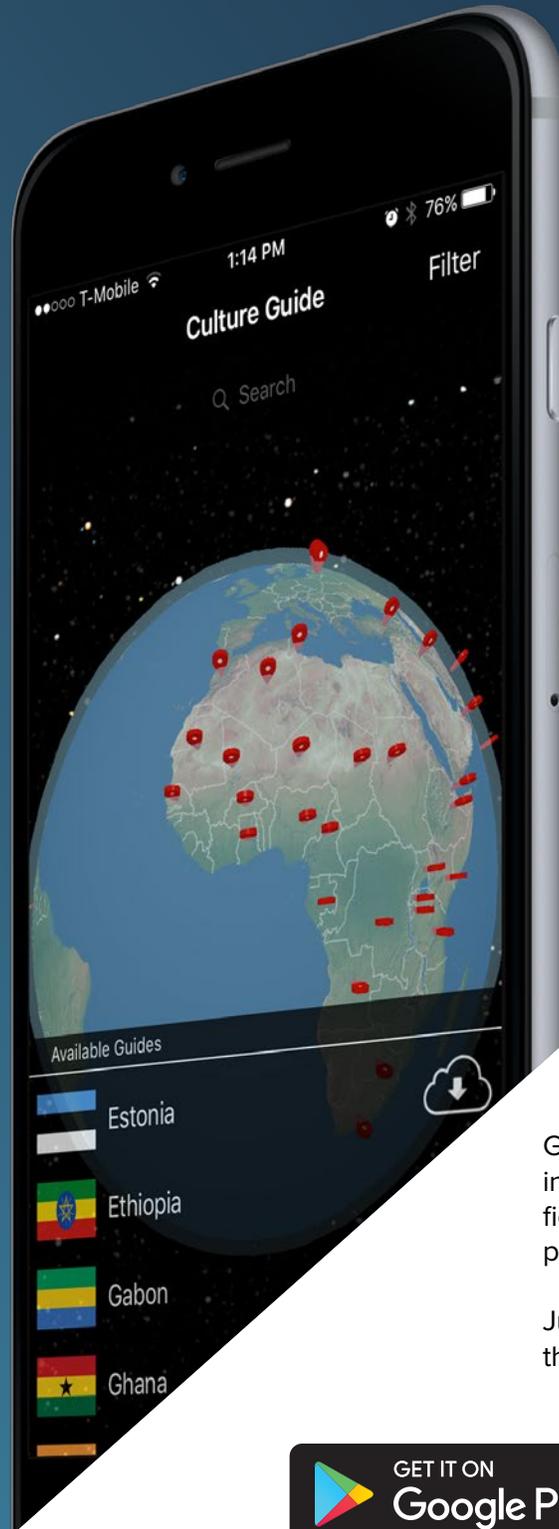
ECFGs are available completely free as their own app on Google and Apple stores right on any smart phone or app-accessible device, just by searching for "Culture Guides".

"It's thrilling to be holding one of the first print versions of a EUCOM country," said Dr. Elizabeth Peifer, a European cultures specialist at the AFCLC. "It represents a concrete return by Air Force leadership to deliver what their Airmen are asking for: culture-specific reference material." Material with a real-world relevance.

Check them all out here: culture.af.mil/ecfg or contact us to request print copies today. "Our field guides are specially designed with a number of uses in mind, but only one single operator: the Airman," said Ward.



CULTURE. SMARTER.



Gain access to our up to date inventory of expeditionary culture field guides. All on your smart phone or tablet!

Just search for “Culture Guides” in the App Store and download free.



DLIFLC & Air University: 10 Years and Counting

Story By Rob Miltersen, DLI

How time flies! 2016 marks the 10th anniversary of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center of Monterey, CA providing foreign language classes on the Air University campus here at Maxwell AFB, AL.

The fledgling language program came in response to CSAF Gen Michael Moseley's desire that language and culture training be included in officer Professional Military Education. In October, 2007 Major General Stephen J. Miller, Commandant of the Air War College, wrote a letter to Colonel Tucker Mansager, DLIFLC Commandant, requesting that a DLIFLC liaison be assigned to AU at the newly-conceived Air Force Culture & Language Center. This request was eventually realized when I was hired by DLI and sent to Maxwell AFB to begin overseeing the DLI language programs at both the AWC and Air Command & Staff College. In 2009, an official Language Training Detachment was established with the hire of 4 permanent faculty members teaching French, Spanish, Chinese and German.

Since 2006, thousands of officers attending AU schools have taken advantage of DLI's language courses

in 8 different languages. Further, our students have not only come from the academic student body but also their spouses, AU faculty, and the



International Officer's School student population.

DLI's partnership with AU goes beyond teaching just beginning, intermediate and advanced language classes. DLI instructors work closely with the AFCLC to provide Language Intensive

Training Events, or immersions, to participants of the Language Enabled Airman Program. They are also called upon for their subject matter expertise for LEAP's eMentor Special Projects Courses. During the 2016 academic year, DLI offered an official language research elective in German for which ACSC students received elective credit. At the conclusion of this pilot course, students traveled to Germany and Austria to reinforce their language skills and immerse themselves in that culture. This pilot elective course expanded in AY17 to include courses in French, Chinese, and Spanish. In 2017, DLI will partner with the AFCLC and Defense Institute for Medical Operation to provide translation and interpretation skills training to advanced LEAP participants and others.

The DLI LTD at Maxwell Air Force Base continues to reach out to all areas of AU to provide expert world-class foreign language and culture training and education. We look forward to another robust 10 years here at Maxwell AFB!

For more information on DLIFLC: <http://www.dliflc.edu/>



**GET CLOSER
TO YOUR
CCAF DEGREE
WITH OUR
FREE ONLINE
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
11 - 24 April 2017

Class Dates
4 May 2017 - 9 August 2017

Introduction to Cross - Cultural Communication

Enrollment Window
17 - 30 October 2017

Class Dates
9 November 2017 - 14 February 2018

Learn more at culture.af.mil



Staff Spotlight:

TSgt Alisha Caton

Financial Management NCO

A native of Prattville, Ala. TSgt Caton has 10 years of experience in finance and 4 in maintenance. Her time at the AFCLC is spent negotiating a wide array of tasks that support the center. She is responsible for management of over 2083 personnel in the Language Enabled Airman Program, daily purchase review and processing, and leading within a joint environment while enhancing her skills as a leader and a growing subject matter expert within her field.



Coffee, Cameroon and the Corps

Story By Seth Maggard

Maxwell AFB, Ala. – As an Air Force Academy graduate early in her career, 1st Lt. Ariel Saltin, 628th Logistics Readiness Squadron, looks for every possible opportunity to provide her skills to enhance her surroundings. Her determination sprouts from a great deal of success in her Logistics duties, which has her currently stationed on Joint Base Charleston, S.C. Time, knowledge, strength, and many other sacrifices have been made of the young Lt., yet she actively seeks additional opportunities to enhance Airpower, and another of those opportunities lies within her French language capabilities. Because of her gusto and knowledge, she took these French skills to new distances, not on some European air base, but through a unique language training opportunity with the US Marine Corps in Cameroon.

In 2014, Saltin gained a great deal of traction in putting her collegiate minor in French to good use when she was selected to the Language Enabled Airman Program. “I studied abroad and took every upper level [French] class available, so LEAP was a no-brainer for me to continue perfecting my skills when my professor told me about the program once I commissioned,” she said.

As a new LEAP participant, she quickly jumped into language training

training through LEAP’s eMentor program, taking a 48-hour synchronous online course during her off-duty hours. This helped her improve her French scores to a 3/3, a very high score on the Defense Language Proficiency Test.

After this marked improvement, Saltin became eligible for one of LEAP’s advanced Language Intensive Training Events (LITES).

Chris Chesser, the LEAP office’s LITE program manager, explained “A LITE is a TDY, averaging 30 days, that places Airmen in linguistically, regionally, and culturally complex settings. LEAP participants most commonly attend a four-week language school, while some LITES are more exercise or security cooperation focused, with or without a classroom component.”

For Lt Saltin, her LITE came in the form of blended approach—classroom education followed by hands-on practice through facilitating US Marine Corps training of the Cameroon military on countering Boko-Haram and offshore piracy. She said, “I knew that I would do in-country immersion training, but had no idea that the program would give me the opportunity to support real-world missions ... It was a really great surprise.”

at the Multi Lingual Solutions Headquarters taking intensive French classes. “It was honestly the best preparation I could’ve asked for,” she said “My confidence was so high, that I don’t think I would’ve done near as good of a job without [it].”

From there, it was off to the second leg of her LITE, the intelligence security cooperation event between the US and Cameroonian Navy and Marine Corps. “We [the US Sailors, Marines and Lt Saltin] would spend a large portion of our evenings planning out the next day’s lessons. We would work on timing, adjust phrasing for clarity, and consider possible culture barriers,” she remarked. The classes provided to the Cameroonians spanned about 8 hours a day, only stopping for lunch and a (local customary) mandatory coffee break. The rest of the time was spent speaking directly between US instructors and Cameroonian students.

“There was a ton of lingo and dialect that I did not understand, but picked up on very quickly,” she said “The operation was fast-paced, and there wasn’t much time to

stumble over my own words, so there was a huge amount of value for my own language growth as well as assisting with the joint instruction sessions.”

Back at Joint Base Charleston, 1st Lt. Ariel Saltin has resumed her normal duties as a logistics officer, but with a new wealth of knowledge, as well as proving herself to be an asset to Air Force interoperability.

“I can’t say enough about LEAP,” she concluded “where else can you get language training on your own time, travel to other countries, and get paid to operate in a joint capacity like this?”

Her sentiments are exactly what LEAP is aimed at doing for each of its other 2,144 + willing and able participants. Saltin summed up her experiences perfectly as she ended with, “Any time you can go to another country and meet new people, it gives you new perspective. Anytime you can travel to that country with LEAP training, you know you are going to be able to apply that perspective [throughout your] career.”



1st Lt. Ariel Saltin communicates lessons provided by US Marine instructors on piracy deterrence tactics to Cameroonian Marines. Saltin traveled to Cameroon with LEAP in order to provide joint training support (Courtesy photo: Ariel Saltin).



FROM THE DEPTHS

Language Program Preps Airman to Help Find WWII Crew

by Seth Maggard, AFCLC

September 2016, an American B-24 bomber aircraft lies crashed at the bottom of the ocean, off the coast of Italy. Its 8 man crew entombed among the mangled fuselage and sea life for decades. It's time to bring them home, but before that can be done, someone has to communicate between the Italian government and US agency trying to find them. That's where Capt. Catanese comes in.

Speaking Italian and being able to study at one of Italy's premier schools seems like it would be enough for most service members to be satisfied, but that is not the case with Capt. Marco Catanese, a Manpower Determinants Flight Commander with the Air Force Manpower Analysis Agency at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas.

After completing training with the Language Enabled Airman Program, at the Air Force Culture and Language Center, he took his language skills to incredible new depths, quite literally, as he assisted divers in accounting for missing American war veterans.

The journey started with Capt. Catanese's affinity for learning secondary languages from a young age. He brought these skills along when he swore in as an Air Force officer through ROTC. LEAP seemed like the next viable option that would help him sustain and enhance his language skills.

After selection, he completed two of the program's 48-hour synchronous online courses, known as eMentor, and capped it off with LEAP's capstone Language Intensive Training Event and became fully immersed in Italian culture while attending Scuola Leonardo da Vinci and saw his scores improve from a 2+/2+ to a 3/3 on his next Defense Language Proficiency Test.

"It was easy with programs like eMentor where you can schedule training around your career and other things in life," he said.

He also speaks German with a 3/2+ proficiency.

"LEAP really set up a foundation for me to take all of my language and culture pieces that I had been acquiring through all of my travels and put it into something useful," he said.

With such an impressive log of language training, Capt. Catanese did not wish to let all of it go to waste by considering himself finished.

In late 2016, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency was looking for someone to assist their members with a joint naval operation with the Italian Coast Guard, its Carabinieri military police, and local divers' association to attempt to retrieve the missing crew's remains after locating the B-24 wreckage.

U.S. Navy Divers of Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 2 prepare to lower the stage to conduct an underwater recovery operation in the Tyrrhenian Sea, Italy, Oct. 6, 2016. The Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 2 is working with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) to locate U.S. service members who went missing when a B-24 Liberator crashed during WWII. The mission of DPAA is to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel to their families and the nation. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Lloyd Villanueva)

“My brother, a TSgt, forwarded me an email that was sent to everyone on his installation requesting active duty foreign language speakers from DPAA and he knew it would interest me,” Catanese said.

DPAA’s mission is “to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel to their families and the nation,” and made no exception when planning to work alongside multinational partners now.

Capt. Catanese, fresh from his Language Intensive Training Event in Milan, was a postured candidate to fulfill this role.

He contacted them about his training with LEAP and skills in Italian. DPAA assessed him and soon had orders and funding set up for him to take part in the next chapter of his cultural immersion, off the Italian coast.

“I knew that I had some great training under my belt, but there was still unique opportunities out there like this one,” he said “in addition to a very quick turnaround time, I was being thrown at naval and maritime Italian situations, and intricate challenges.”

If it seems like this is a large task, to synchronize all communication between these two nations searching for decades-old remains of downed Airmen, that’s because it is.

The pressures soon eased off as Catanese arrived and started building relationships with his DPAA and Italian counterparts. The technical jargon was less of a challenge as it became everyday usage.

“At first, it was almost impossible to try and communicate word-for-word the entire detailed process of the underwater dredging system and filling the bucket, but in time all of our confidence and knowledge became better and we worked together very well,” said Catanese.

Capt. Catanese’s experiences, while unique, are very typical in LEAP. The free Air Force language program postures its members for real-world language taskings, such as DPAA missions, following extensive training and vetting of their LREC skills.

“We didn’t end up recovering their remains,” he said “but I sincerely hope to be called back when [DPAA and the Italian government] return to try again.”

Although the search yielded little more than sand and debris for the divers, it was a success for Catanese.

The benefits of eMentor, LITEs, and opportunities like this are overwhelming when cultural-competency is assessed by both our officers and their commands even after returning home. Their skills are sharpened and they become exponentially more valuable to the entire US coalition partnership when properly postured with focused training and utilized in a way that builds on their training.

“I hope to commute all of this experience into a Regional Affairs Strategist position, and opportunities like this one with DPAA supported by my LEAP training are perfect roadmaps to success in those goals.”

Check out LEAP on the AFCLC’s website: culture.af.mil

DPAA’s website: www.dpaa.mil



Course Electives Faculty Overview

The AFCLC's faculty of regional specialists support Professional Military Education at Air university. Term 2 was no different as Unique culture experts instructed JTF leaders and commanders of the future with core and electives classes like:

Tribal and Traditional Cultures in the 21st Century

Dr. Angelle Khachadoorian

For most of human history, communities based on traditional cultures were the norm. Nowadays, cultures that are organized along tribal lines, or which attempt to maintain their traditional cultures, are experiencing considerable pressures toward change. Many of these culture groups share significant characteristics, such as social structure, value systems, responses to the nation-state and adaptation to the changing global power structures and economy.

Effective Communication for Leaders in the Global Context

Dr. Susan Steen

This course challenges military leaders to think critically about issues of culture, communication and conflict in a world whose borders are increasingly porous. We know, for example, that cybercrime, global disease spread, natural disasters, security issues, and humanitarian crises – all contexts in which our military forces are actively involved – don't necessarily recognize boundary lines drawn on a map. If "coalitions" are indeed "at the core" of solving some of the world's most complex interconnected problems, how do military leaders forge effective relationships with partners and allies? How can they strengthen their understanding of cultural constraints and complexities, and recognize ways in which the underlying values, beliefs, and assumptions of different cultural groups – allies and adversaries – shape their worldviews? the way they communicate with and relate to others? their decision-making strategies? their perceptions and management of conflict? What frameworks and skills are needed to establish rapport and build efficacious relationships with culturally different others? The goal of this course, ultimately, is to arm military leaders with the knowledge, understanding and skills essential to successful communication in 21st-century intercultural contexts.

Power, Identity, and Security in the African Post Colony

Dr. Scott Edmondson

The US Africa Command promotes a "by, with, and through" approach to security, enabling "African solutions to African problems." Military personnel operating under this strategy require deeper understanding of the sociocultural dynamics and diverse political configurations on the continent-and how they came into being-in order to engage African partners more effectively. This course then provides an intensive introduction to the study of Africa. The overall aim of the course is to introduce students to the major themes and debates that have dominated interdisciplinary scholarship on the region; to complicate any simple assumptions made about Africa; and to develop a more comprehensive perspective on the provision of human security in this region.

Program Manager Self-Funds Language Training in Mexico

Mr. Chris Chesser, LEAP program manager, tirelessly works with language enabled Airmen, who have met language training requirements, to send them on fully immersive, language intensive training events in a culture of their specialization. These 30 day tdys are designed to put Airmen in culturally complex environments separate from an operational requirement. Mr Chesser place participants on these educational experiences daily, but he was unsure of what they really experienced, because of his current civilian status. There was only one choice to make: take care of the funding (which turned out to be budgetary) and attend the training. He states: I undertook a self-funded LITE to México City while on annual leave. As a LEAP manager, I predicted value in walking in the steps of our participants. I worked directly with the Frida Spanish School, one of many outstanding Spanish language programs program we use for Overseas Traditional LEAP and RAS Immersion participants. The instruction was exactly what I needed! All instructors were clearly well trained in many languages. Use of English in the classroom was minimal. In my classes were students from the US, England, Germany, Israel, Australia, Japan, Brazil, and Guadalupe.

If you speak Spanish and haven't visited México, don't assume you know the language and culture of México.

From the instruction I received at the Frida Spanish School and the interactions I had on a daily basis with the locals, learned there are many nuances that can distinguish one



from someone who is “with it” from one who clearly isn't. In just two short weeks, I feel my Spanish language skills are as strong as ever, and I look forward to building upon these skills in the coming year.

However, my experience yielded more than language education; I learned how to interact and communicate with people face-to-face and built a cross-cultural competence that transcends classroom study.

I am fortunate and elated to have attended this self-directed LITE, and to bring this first-hand knowledge home to help guide the Air Force's premier language training program: LEAP.



A Call to Arms: send us your focus for the future of LREC

Howard Ward, AFCLC Director

You have been deliberately developed for so much more than just speaking a language.

Seven years ago, the Air Force saw a future need for JTF capabilities within our officer and enlisted ranks. So, they planted seeds in the form of the Language Enabled Airman Program. They started at ground zero at the Culture and Language Center, and many of you have not only watched it grow, but have been integral in getting us here. Today, our AF leadership is ready to pick the fruit from its matured investment.

As essential as a round of immunizations, as operational as a communications tower, and as strategic as a weapons system, language and cultural expertise are at the tip of commanders' tongues.

LEAP Airmen are making meaningful contributions in language dependent billets around the world, growing numbers are filling the ranks of Foreign Area Officers, providing language/culture expertise in strategic venues that involve current and former heads of state, and informing strategic decisions with a blend of technical expertise from their career fields and regional expertise from their LEAP experiences.

The ability to grow strategic leadership skills in harmony with your primary job is consistent with CSAF's letter to airmen on revitalizing squadrons as the beating heart of the Air Force. With the LEAP SEI, an Airman has had at least one in-country experience living on the economy and studying at a local university; this gives the Airman an incredible grassroots

picture of the political views of the population. Finally, LEAP Airmen have the ability to link regional expertise to our nation's most vexing security challenges because you are experts in airpower and your region.

The "call to arms" I want to sound is a recognition that Airmen who have undertaken the demands of LEAP now have an opportunity and obligation to put your technical expertise and education to use. CSAF has asked us directly to rise to a challenge of becoming a greater force in the joint fight so that an Airman's perspective is always influencing it.

Documented ability to think, write and speak as a regional affairs expert gives credibility to the idea that our participants are leaders of the future that CSAF has asked us to become.

A window of opportunity has opened for Airmen of all ranks to make a difference in shaping our nation's future through contributing scholarship and critical thinking

Tell us what you think through some thoughtful writing, in as little as 500 words or as well researched and documented as you choose, and let's move out together in a new era of force development to become the strategic leaders capable of flying up to be the JTF Commanders and Command Chiefs of the future!

Culture and language...essential and operational.

Submit to:
afclc.outreach@us.af.mil or afclc.wordpress.com

Future JTF Leaders: Maj Charlynnne McGinnis

We sat down to hear her story fresh from the the Phillipines as part of her unit's advon and organic tagalog speaker.

AFCLC: What was your motivation for joining LEAP?

McGinnis: Maintain proficiency. I had a language skill that I hadn't used in such a long time before joining LEAP.

AFCLC: Where do you see your career going from here and is LEAP opening doors?

McGinnis: It's really where the Air Force takes me, right? But I do feel that because of LEAP, I continue to hone my skills as an Intelligence Officer while at the same time, being more equipped to maintain and build more relationships with our Asia-Indo-Pacific partners.

AFCLC: What skill level did you have when you entered our program and where do you assessed yourself now?

McGinnis: I was a 3/3 coming into the program. I am still a 3/3, but a much different one, a much more confident 3/3. I took my OPI for the first time two years ago because I didn't have the confidence to take it before. Fortunately, I've had awesome instructors during my eMentor training who challenged me a lot.

AFCLC: Would you have identified yourself to the Air Force as having language skills (DLPT test) without LEAP?

McGinnis: Yes, I would but I would be more hesitant to volunteer myself to deploy if asked. LEAP definitely gave me a boost of confidence.





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