



LEAP: PREPARING FUTURE FAOs

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).

FAO (see AFI 16-109)

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).



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.

LEAP

The AFCLC identifies, selects, and develops Airmen across the General Purpose Force for LEAP, including junior officers who express interest 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.

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

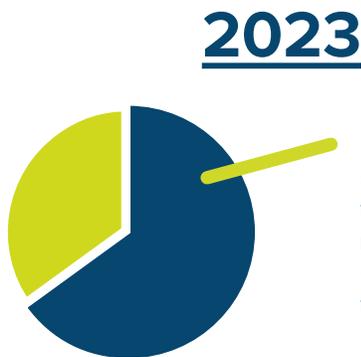
LITEs

3

eMentor
courses

1

TPR



65%

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

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

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/>



AFCLC CULTURE GUIDE APP



Expeditionary Culture Field Guide for over **80 locations** with a variety of resources and information



Department of Air Force certified Culture Courses including Developing Cultural Competence (DCC) Course



Variety of **culture and region-specific** videos and podcast directly through the app



Offline capability **untethered from government IT**



App Store



Google Play