



FACT SHEET

LANGUAGE ENABLED AIRMAN PROGRAM (LEAP)

In accordance with DAFI 36-4005, LEAP is a volunteer program, designed and managed by the Air Force Culture and Language Center (AFCLC) at Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, that is open to service members in most career fields. LEAP deliberately develops language enabled, cross-culturally competent officer and enlisted service members across the General Purpose Force with working-level proficiency across 103 languages to meet global requirements. With these skills, LEAP scholars can better support the application of air and space power through strengthening partnerships, interoperability, and adversary understanding. LEAP was established as a program of record in FY13.

AFCLC develops LEAP scholars through tailored, structured eMentor courses and Language Intensive Training Events (LITE) with a goal of achieving and maintaining an Interagency Language Roundtable skill level of 3 in listening, reading, speaking, and writing. eMentor is an online synchronous language course that connects service members anywhere in the world with native-level language instructors 24/7, at times that work with their schedules and mission ops tempo. LITEs are periodic TDYs averaging 30 days that place scholars in culturally complex settings to enhance their Language, Regional Expertise, and Culture (LREC) skills.

AFCLC also matches service members to DoD and governmental requirements via Training Partnerships Requests (TPR) which connect LEAP scholars to exercises, mobile training team events, conferences, virtual events, and document translation projects.

To become a LEAP scholar, a service member must demonstrate the required proficiency in a foreign language, receive endorsement from their unit commander, and compete via a board process. Selection to LEAP is based on applicants' academic history and job performance; existing language proficiency; leadership and language development potential; and Air and Space Force language requirements.

LEAP Scholars who demonstrate language proficiency at an "enabled" level may receive the LEAP Special Experience Identifier (SEI) upon meeting eligibility criteria, which makes them eligible for Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus pay and other language-related opportunities. Force managers use the LEAP SEI to match service members with language dependent assignments, deployments, and TDYs, with roles that include international affairs, military personnel exchange program, security cooperation, mobility advisory, and special operations.

LEAP is comprised of over 3,600 scholars in 103 strategic languages. For more information, see <https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/AFCLC/Language-studies>, or e-mail AFCLC.LEAP.Admin@us.af.mil.