



# AFCLC

Air Force Culture and Language Center

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**THE AIR FORCE'S GLOBAL CLASSROOM**

**Language Enabled Airman Program (LEAP)  
Overview**

# AFCLC Mission



Air Force Culture and Language Center



Air University  
Maxwell AFB, Alabama

Culture and regional faculty experts

Cutting-edge language & culture tools

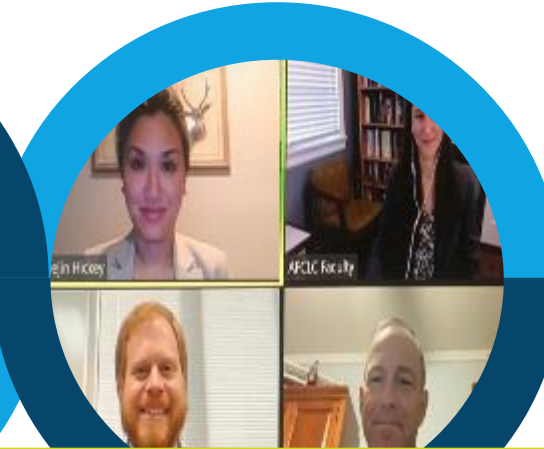
Language Enabled Airman Program



Apply Air &  
Space  
Power



Partner  
Interoperability and  
Adversary  
Understanding



Deliberately Develop  
Through Language,  
Region, and Culture  
Education

# Education at Enterprise Scale & Velocity



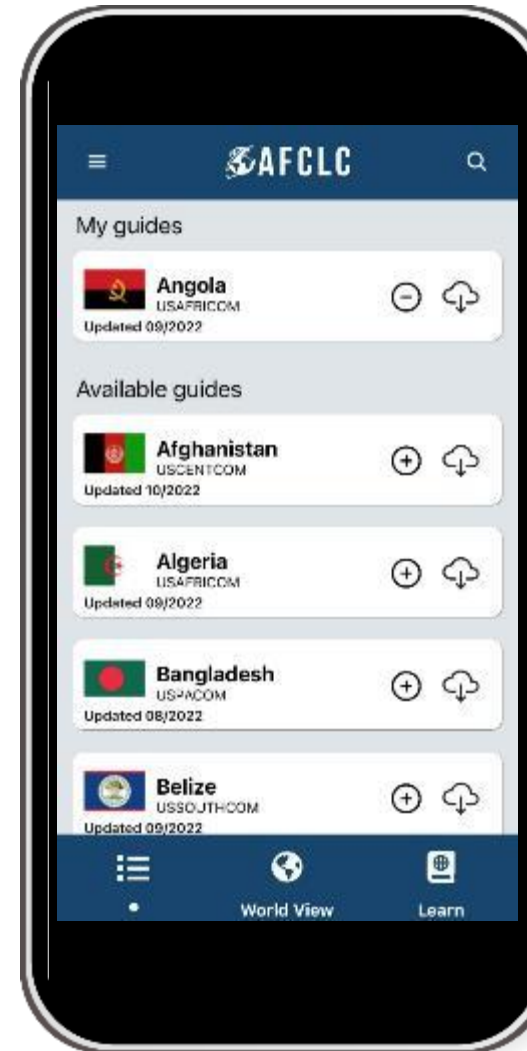
Air Force Culture and Language Center

## Culture Guide App – Version 2.0

- 76 countries ... organized by Twelve Domains of Culture
- 2.5-hr cross-cultural competence courses, China/Russia
- AFCLC faculty videos on topics relevant to the mission
- Accessible, impactful curriculum
- Organically produced and curated content
- Untethered from government platforms
- Downloadable certificate of completion available for all courses



**31,993**  
mobile app  
downloads



# Language Enabled Airman Program



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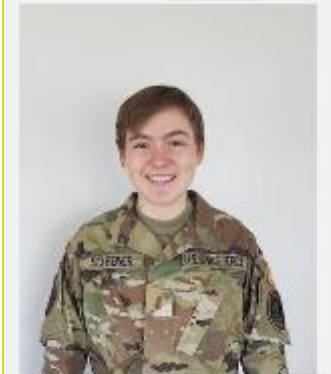
***LEAP deliberately develops and sustains language enabled, cross-culturally capable Airmen and Guardians throughout their careers to enhance the application of air and space power; fill global mission requirements; and strengthen partnerships, interoperability, and adversary understanding***

# Who are LEAP Scholars?



- 3,500+ service members, officer and enlisted in USAF / USSF
- Only Active Duty selected to LEAP at this time (*however, those who separate and continue in the Reserves or Guard may participate in Space A courses*)
- Leaders within their units and career fields ... from pilots to intel officers, from special operators to physicians
- Representation of 95 strategic languages
- Passion for language, regional expertise, and culture (LREC)
- Vision for applying their skills to Air Force missions

<https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/AFCLC/LEAP-Spotlight>



# What's Expected of a LEAP Scholar?

- Excel in one's Primary career field – pilot, physician, attorney, cyber officer, maintenance officer, etc.
- Complete online eMentor courses every 2-4 years, depending on one's proficiency level
- Volunteer for periodic LITE immersion courses, pending unit commander approval
- Support periodic short-term exercises, mobile training teams, conferences, and translation projects
- Serve in language-focused assignments and deployments based on determination of Career Field Managers and Air Force Personnel Center



*Online, synchronous language courses, flexibly scheduled and delivered, designed to develop and sustain LEAP Scholars*



Native-level instructor, one-on-one or with a group of 2-4



Two-hour sessions, same day/time two days a week, based on your availability



Flex courses (variable days/times) are available for irregular, e.g. flying schedules



Course length

- 40-hour / 3-month course for 2+ level and lower
- 12-hour / 3-week course for 3 proficiency level or higher
- Advanced Assessment and Special Project Course







Registration X3 per year through LEaDeR



Courses will be required every 2-4 years, depending on your proficiency level

***Language and cultural immersions averaging 30 days, flexibly scheduled and delivered, designed to develop and sustain LEAP Scholars***



-  Based on your language, proficiency level, and regional experience
-  Frequency:
  - Initial LITE or equivalent credit within two years of selection
  - Follow-on two years later for those in the 1-2+ proficiency range
  - Follow-on as resources / events allow for those in the 3-4 range
-  Traditional LITEs (2-4 weeks, depending on the program)
  - US or overseas
  - May focus on a strategic topic such as competition with China and Russia
  - Virtual LITE from home station
-  Advanced LITEs (1-8 weeks):
  - Training Partnership Request (TPR) Exercise, mobile training, or conference
  - Professional military education with partner military



# How can LEAP impact your career?



- Multi-Capable Airman
- Language Development & Sustainment
- LEAP Special Experience Identifier (SEI)
- Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus (FLPB)
- Networking with LREC Professionals
- Temporary Duty (TDY)
- Assignments



# Career Field Opportunities



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- **SAF/IA (International Affairs):** In-Region Training and Space A sustainment for Foreign Area Officers (FAO) serving in attaché and security cooperation
- **Enlisted International Affairs**
- **Reserve FAOs and Air National Guard Bilateral Affairs Officers (BAO)**
- **Military Personnel Exchange Program Participants & Instructors**
- **International Health Specialists**
- **Air Force Office of Special Investigations Agents**
- **Special Operators**
- **Air Advisors**

# Other Ways to Get Involved



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## **SOCIAL MEDIA:**

Join the LEAP Closed Facebook page

View LEAP Live and AFCLC TV online events

Engage with AFCLC's social media pages



## **BASE-LEVEL:**

Mentor other language enabled service members

Advocate and inform your leadership

Participate in or start a LEAP Club



## **ENTERPRISE:**

Attend the annual Air University LREC symposium

Write and publish in a DoD or Air Force journal

Volunteer with AFCLC for LEAP document translation and other virtual projects





## Bilateral Exercise Relámpago Colombia

*"Tyler's bilingual leadership, technical acumen at his J-O-B and core characteristics as an officer make him one of the best I've worked with in 12 years as a FAO. As we polled every unit and section for outstanding performers...every single team, Colombian and U.S, mentioned Capt McGuire. That's why we are sending him home with the Air Force Achievement Medal."*

### Capt Tyler McGuire

- Logistics Readiness Flight Commander
- Passenger and Fleet Services
- LEAP scholar since 2018
- Spanish Language

Col William McDowell  
Commander  
612th Theater Operations Group



## Capt Timothy Nolan

- Special Operations Pilot
- LEAP scholar since 2019
- Tagalog Language

## USMC's Southeast Asia Regional Operating Concept, Philippines

*"In the 34 times that I have performed exercises with the USMC, this is the first time that they've attached linguists. Linguists that are truly one of us. And it has made a huge difference! My Marines trust them, and my Marines are drawn to them. This needs to happen, every single time from here on out..."*

Philippine Marine Corps Brig Gen Jimmy Larida



## SMSgt Alain Mukendi

- Supt, Infrastructure Systems
- LEAP scholar since 2013
- French and Lingala Languages

## Vermont NG SPP Senegal Enlisted PME Initiative

*“(Senegal’s) NCOs are relied on to be the technical experts, just like we do here. So, we were charged with working with them to help them create an NCO program, not build one for them, but help them create one ... We have all of the material here in the states, but it has to be their own, it has to be Senegalese.”*

SMSgt Michael Bilharz  
SPP Academic Lead  
Vermont NG



## SSgt Zahra Karim Zadeh

- HVAC Instructor (Civil Engineering)
- LEAP scholar since 2021
- Farsi and Arabic Languages

## World Cup Qatar

*“(KZ) provided critical leadership and oversight throughout the mission. This included working closely with the Qatari Ministry of Defense, across the JTF, including the JTF Headquarters and in the Joint Operations Center.”*

Brig. Gen. Matthew Reid,  
Commanding General of the Naval  
Amphibious Task Force 51/5th Marine  
Expeditionary Brigade



## SOTF 10.1 Poland

*“Captain Klokun has been expertly translating critical intelligence sharing operations between SOTF 10.1 and Ukrainian SOF command centers on a daily basis. We simply could not accomplish our mission without Service Members with his language expertise and mastery of technical military and special operations vernacular – simply invaluable.*

*... we accomplished something unique and equipped him with a means to dialog directly with my command center by secure means – a huge win. Anton was key.”*

### Capt Anton K. Klokun

- Force Support Officer
- Chief, Readiness and Plans
- LEAP scholar since 2022
- Ukrainian and Russian Languages

- Lt Col Matthew J. Mesko  
SOTF 10.1



# LEAP Application Preparation



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Read FY23 Selection Guidance on the AFCLC Site / Language Studies



Take Your Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT) and/or Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) through your Base Education Center





- Minimum score is 1/1 for most languages (1+1+ for languages such as French, Spanish, German, and Italian)
- If you have proficiency in more than one language, take additional tests

The screenshot shows the AFCLC website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the AFCLC logo and the text 'AIR UNIVERSITY (AU)'. Below the navigation bar, there is a breadcrumb trail: 'HOME > AFCLC > LANGUAGE STUDIES'. The main content area is titled 'LEAP DOCUMENTS' and contains three links: 'FY23 LEAP Cadet Selection Process', 'FY23 LEAP Cadet Application', and 'FY23 Active Duty Selection Guidance Memo'. A blue arrow points to the 'FY23 Active Duty Selection Guidance Memo' link.

# LEAP Application Preparation (cont)



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-  Obtain unofficial copies of all college transcripts and a copy of your SURF from AMS
-  Save your most recent EPRs and/or training reports (if you have any) in accordance with the instructions in the application guidance
-  Prepare four 200-word statements that convey how you learn and practice languages; what cross-cultural competence means to you; and how you hope to grow through LEAP and utilize your language skills for the mission
-  Talk to your Commander and Supervisor about why you want to be a LEAP scholar (500-character push note required from each)



# 2023 Application – USAF Active Duty



Air Force Culture and Language Center



Application Window 1 May – 14 July 2023



Language Enabled Development Resource (LEaDeR) site



Board Meets 17-18 Aug

## Not eligible in FY23 \*

- USSF officers
- USAF Reserve
- USAF Guard

\* HHQ staff are assessing eligibility for these groups for future years

AFCLC LEADER

HOME LEAP APPLICATION TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ENDORSEMENT RESOURCES FAQ

View Privacy Statement

LEAP Application Qualification [Return to Overview](#)

This board will only accept applications between the start and end dates.

Select your Board: FY23 Active Duty Board: May 1, 2023 - Jul 14, 2023

# Selection Board Evaluation

## *What the LEAP Board evaluates to determine board scores*

- Your approach to developing foreign language(s)
- Your track record as a student / scholar
- How you view cross-cultural competency
- Goals that align with future career / missions
- Leadership accomplishments and potential
- LREC experience ... but also room to grow
- What your commander and supervisor say





# For More Information

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<https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/AFCLC/Language-studies>  
[afclc.leap.selection@us.af.mil](mailto:afclc.leap.selection@us.af.mil)