

 "Connecting Airmen with their Universal Human Experience." Fall 2015

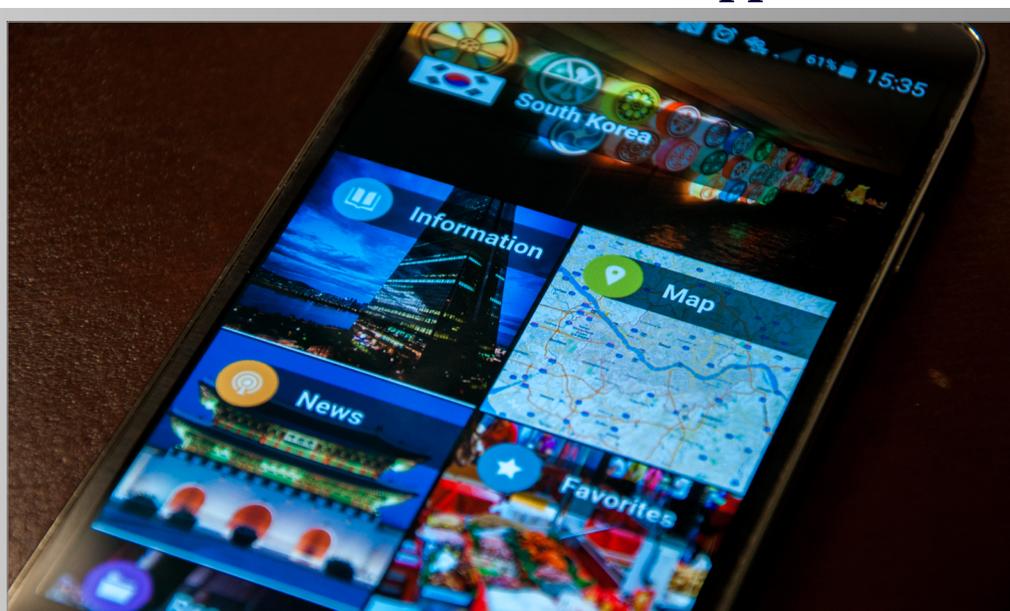
In this issue:

- AFCLC Director's Commentary by Dr. David Ronan (p.3)
- Special Feature: LEAP supports State Partnership Program for First Time (pp.4-5)
- EDITORIAL: Culture in Conflict Symposium by Dr. Patricia Fogarty (p.6)
- LEAP Supports Prep for 2016 Olympic Games (p.10)
- Important announcement for LEAP participants (p.17)
- And more!

Important Dates:

- Fall 2015 ITC Enrollment: 15-28 Sep
- Fall 2015 Intro to CCC Enrollment: 13-26 Oct
- Deadline for consideration by 2015 LEAP Selection Board: 15 August

AFCLC Makes History with Release of AU's First Public Mobile App



The AFCLC's new culture field guide app, shown running on a Samsung Galaxy Note 3. (AFCLC photo by Brandon M. Bridges)

by Brandon M. Bridges

Air Force Culture and Language Center

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. – For years, the Air Force Culture and Language Center (AFCLC) has produced and maintained a collection of pocket-sized culture field guides, each covering a different country in painstaking detail. This summer, AFCLC took the guides to the next level: making them available via mobile app.

The app's release represents a major milestone, not just for the AFCLC but for The Air University (AU) as well. Not only does it mark the first time an AFCLC function has been expressed via mobile app, but this is also the first mobile app from AU that has reached the general public.

"A lot of work went into getting this app together," said Ms. Mary Newbern, AFCLC's program manager for the mobile app project. "We've had help from people all around

the country. We're especially grateful to Hill AFB for helping us get it up onto the Apple store. This really was a team effort."

Culture Field Guides

Each of the AFCLC's culture guides is a pocket-sized handbook, which provides an in-depth look at a specific country. The detailed and carefully researched information is organized according to the Air Force's twelve domains

See App, p.8



U.S. AIR FORCE

On the Cover



A multinational group of students from the International Officer School (IOS) pose for a photo before a lecture at the Air Command and Staff College (ACSC) at Maxwell Air Force Base, AL. The lecture, intended to acclimate foreign officers with American culture, was one of many given by AFCLC faculty at adjacent schools. (AFCLC photo by Brandon M. Bridges)

About the AFCLC

AFCLC VISION

The Air Force Culture and Language Center, as the acknowledged experts, will lead the US Air Force in building a cross-culturally competent Total Force to meet the demands of the Service's dynamic global mission.

AFCLC MISSION

The Air Force Culture and Language Center creates and executes language, region and cultural learning programs for Total Force Airmen, and provides the Service with the subject matter expertise required to institutionalize these efforts.

The Air Force Culture and Language Center was founded at Air University in April 2006, embracing the Air Force Chief of Staff's intention to improve Airmen's cross-cultural competence.

In April 2007, the Air Force further demonstrated its commitment to culture learning by selecting cross-cultural competence as the centerpiece of Air University's re-accreditation efforts. In December 2007, the Center was made responsible for culture and language training, as well as education, across the entire Air Force. The Air Force Research Institute hosts the AFCLC.

600 Chennault Circle Bldg 1405

Maxwell AFB, AL 36112

Phone: 334.953.7729

Fax: 334.953.1614

E-mail: afclc.outreach@us.af.mil

Follow us on Twitter @AFCLC or Facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com/airforcecultureandlanguagecenter>

Subscribe on DVIDS:

<http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/AFCLC/>

Public Web site:

<http://culture.af.mil/>

AFCLC

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
CULTURE & LANGUAGE CENTER

From the Director

Colleagues,

I'm amazed at how professionally everyone performs here day after day. I've been at AFCLC for several months now, and everywhere I turn I see hardworking and exceptionally capable people doing great work as a matter of normal business.



This has been a productive and exciting quarter for the AFCLC. We've seen the release of our very first mobile app on both the Android and Apple OS, which is not only a major achievement for the AFCLC, but which is also the first mobile app in all of The Air University made available to the general public. All of us should be proud to be a part of such a cutting-edge innovation. For the first time, we're delivering content that Airmen need, in a format they want. In the finest traditions of the Air Force, this app represents the culmination of a true collaborative effort between people from Hill AFB, the SURVIAC team, and the Outreach and Expeditionary Skills teams from the AFCLC.

We've also continued to see high levels of interest in our two online courses. Many probably don't realize the sheer volume of work that goes into making those courses a reality, but I want to express my appreciation to the entire education support team for their dedication. Every phase of our courses, from enrollment to completion, requires hard work and constant attention to detail. To their credit, these courses always run smoothly.

I'd also like to recognize the tireless members

of our Language Division for their hard work, now under the leadership of Lt. Col. Eric Graham. In particular, our language learning program facilitators support 88 different language venues. Like our online courses, every piece of what the Language team does requires consistency, attention to detail, and a great deal of hard

work and long hours. But, instead of backing down from these increasing demands, I see everyone stepping up and meeting the challenges as they come, no matter how difficult those challenges might be.

As we continue to move forward, I know I can count on all of you to continue to give your best, and to continue to make the AFCLC the Air Force's center of excellence for all things culture. Every leader believes the team they have is the very best; I say that with certainty. For me, the Air Force Culture and Language Center team consists of consummate professionals delivering superior products and services as a matter of daily business. I'm honored to represent such an exceptional team of experts.

Sincerely,

David W. Ronan, Ph.D.

Director, Air Force Culture and Language Center

People Matter

LEAP Supports State Partnership Program SMEE for First Time, Provides Key International Disaster-Relief Training



A group of Soldiers and Airmen from the West Virginia National Guard speak with members of a visiting group of Peruvian engineers. The Peruvians came to West Virginia as part of the State Partnership Program, to receive training on disaster-relief operations. The joint training was supported by participants of the Language Enabled Airman Program (LEAP). (Photo courtesy West Virginia National Guard)

by Brandon M. Bridges

Air Force Culture and Language Center

WEST VIRGINIA - The Language Enabled Airman Program (LEAP) has long served as a linchpin in fostering relationships between the United States and its allies. In June 2015, however, that support has taken on an entirely new significance, as LEAP began supporting the US National Guard's (Army and Air Force) State Partnership Program (SPP).

History

The SPP traces its origins to the early 1990s, around the time of the fall of the Iron Curtain. After the breakup of the Soviet Union, a number of countries in the eastern bloc of Europe turned to the US for help with a variety of tasks: writing constitutions, establishing security forces, implementing justice systems, and more.

In response, the US sent Soldiers from the National Guard with relevant experience in

the civilian world; such as attorneys, police officers, firefighters, and more. The support they provided was so well-received and so successful that eventually other countries started requesting state partners. Eventually, requests began coming in from all over the world.

One such country is Peru.

In 1996, at the request of the Peruvian government, the West Virginia Air National Guard (WVANG) began providing its assistance through the SPP. WVANG was chosen specifically because the two share a number of geographical traits: mountainous terrain that makes some areas and population pockets difficult to reach, along with a predominance of the mining sector in the local economy.

Each year, the WVANG conducts a number of different Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEE) training engagements with the Peruvians. Although each event is tailored based on the request from Peru, most deal

with preparations for natural disasters.

Bilateral Engagement

According to MAJ Thomas E. Willis, SPP coordinator for Peru: "In the area of Disaster Response, West Virginia is one of our nation's best at handling interagency operations to confront a natural disaster, and so the Peruvians frequently request our expertise in preparing for natural disasters."

The SMEE, which took place from 6-12 June, involved nine Peruvian engineers, including NCOs, and officers as highly ranked as warrant officers and O-6 colonels. The group represented engineering units from all across Peru.

Joining the training mission from LEAP were Capt Miguel Gaytan, a developmental engineer stationed at Maxwell AFB; and SSgt Gorge Hernandez Rodriguez, an Electrical Power Production Craftsman stationed at RAF Alconbury in England.

"Capt Gaytan and I translated for the Pe-

ruvians from the time we went to breakfast until right before going to bed," said SSgt Hernandez Rodriguez. "From ordering food, to the actual mission and its execution, everything had to be translated both ways. We provided input on our areas of knowledge; I provided guidance on equipment inspection and maintenance."

The chief objective of the SMEE was to allow the Peruvians to observe WVANG Soldiers conducting field exercises, learning about each component of a major disaster response operation.

Along with Disaster Response, the Peruvians had also expressed an interest in learning about Search and Rescue (SAR) operations. For that, they visited several dedicated training centers in WV to include the Joint Interagency Training and Education Center and the nearby SAR Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE) Training Center. Both site visits provided ample opportunity for the Peruvians to observe firsthand the materials, structures, and safety protocols used.

The LEAP Connection

LEAP's participation in joint events like this is critical in part because they complement existing, scarce language assets. Language Intensive Training Events (LITEs) are based not only on the language capability and cultural understanding, but also on the technical need. Conversations frequently involve technical issues or military terminology that can be difficult for general-purpose translators to interpret.

That, according to MAJ Willis, is where LEAP adds value.

A Spanish speaker himself, Willis explained that after only a few hours' worth of translating work, most interpreters need a break. Having two interpreters allowed each the needed respite, while the other took over, thus allowing the mission to continue without interruption.

The key, according to Capt Gaytan, was remaining flexible in his approach to the subject matter. While he did acknowledge that he forgot several words along the way, in the end it wasn't a major problem.



Capt Miguel Gaytan (left), a participant of the Language Enabled Airman Program (LEAP) speaks to a visiting Peruvian Soldier during a joint training operation in West Virginia. (Photo courtesy West Virginia National Guard)

"I just described the process and got the message across that way," said Gaytan. "I didn't focus on getting the exact words translated, but focused on the process."

"Honestly, this mission was really easy for me," said SSgt Hernandez Rodriguez. "I was born and raised in Puerto Rico, so not only did I speak the language, I understood their culture before I went to West Virginia."

MAJ Willis also said that the support from LEAP was more than a simple boost of manpower; the participants had prepared themselves well, read all the briefings, familiarized themselves with terminology, knew exactly what to support.

"They went the extra mile," added Willis. "They weren't simply interpreting during the holed events. They also built relationships during meals, during rides to the next location, during the walk to the airfields. It makes too much sense since we're all military, the LEAP participants share a brother-in-arms link with the Peruvians."

Indeed, engagement between the LEAP trainers and the Peruvian delegation wasn't limited to duty-related exchanges.

"We also took them shopping after they were done with briefings," said SSgt Hernandez Rodriguez, "and we did a cultural

trip to Washington, DC. That trip to DC really opened their eyes to the difference in culture, especially how we take care of our fallen heroes."

Path Ahead

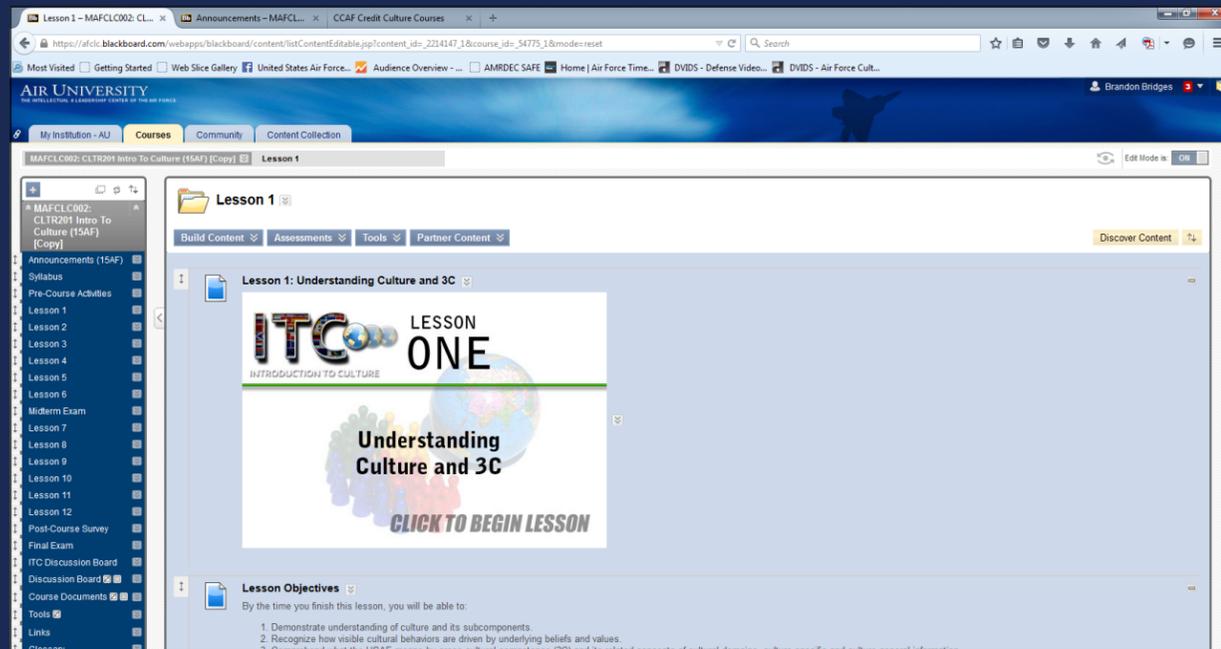
For his part, Capt Gaytan credited his long-time membership in LEAP as a major contributing factor.

"The success of our mission was built upon all the different experiences and training that the LEAP office has provided," he said. "At the end of 2013, LEAP sent me to Ecuador for a one-month training session. I learned a lot about their culture, customs, likes and dislikes. Since Peru is a neighboring country, a lot of those things are the same, and because of what I learned in Ecuador I was able to connect with the Peruvian delegation."

While the June SMEE was one of LEAP's first opportunities to support the State Partnership Program, by no means was it the last.

"We have another event with six Peruvians coming up in July," said MAJ Willis. "This time we're going to be working on a joint interagency operations center SMEE. We have two more LEAP interpreters coming out for that, and we're certainly looking forward to working with LEAP again."

CLTR201: Introduction to Culture (ITC)



Online • Self-paced • SACS Accredited • CCAF Approved

ITC is a lower-level college course for enlisted Airmen, that presents students with basic concepts and skills to build cross-cultural competence. The course explores the many aspects of human life influenced by culture, including family relationships, religion and belief systems, sports, health practices, history and myth, and more.

Since its inception in 2009, ITC has received **17,866** applications. Don't miss your chance--save these dates!

Next enrollment window:
15-28 Sep 2015

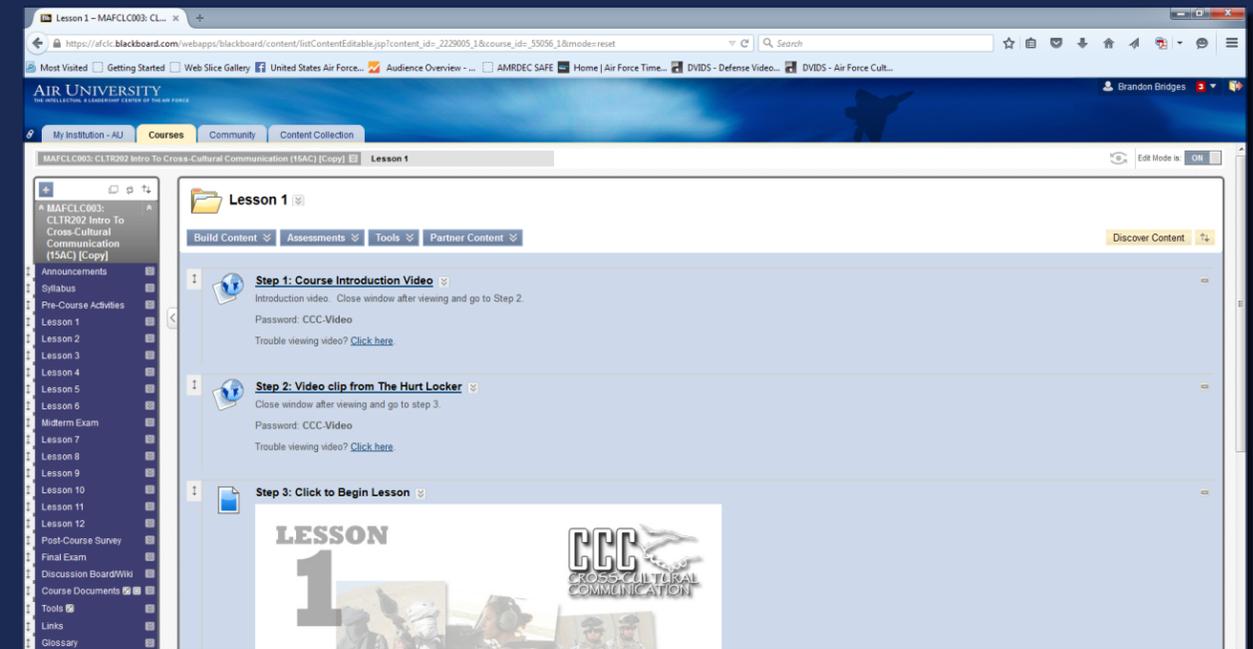
Next course date:
8 Oct 2015 - 13 Jan 2016

Interested in ITC? To learn more, call (334) 953-9292 or e-mail afclc.enroll@us.af.mil

The AFCLC offers two distance learning courses, "Introduction to Culture" (ITC), and "Introduction to Cross-Cultural Communication" (CCC). Each course is offered twice per year, and worth three semester hours of either social science or program elective credit through the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF).

*All statistics on this page current as of 13 Aug 2015

CLTR202: Introduction to Cross-Cultural Communication (CCC)



Online • Self-paced • SACS Accredited • CCAF Approved

CCC is the second course offered by the AFCLC. Like ITC, it helps develop cross-cultural competence among Airmen, by helping Airmen better understand the process of communicating across cultural boundaries. The course includes learning units devoted to nonverbal communication, paralanguage, cross-cultural conflict styles, active listening, interaction skills, and more.

Since its inception in 2011, CCC has received **6,044** applications. Don't miss your chance--save these dates!

Next enrollment window:
13-26 Oct 2015

Next course date:
5 Nov 2015 - 10 Feb 2016

Interested in CCC? To learn more, call (334) 953-9292 or e-mail afclc.enroll@us.af.mil

The AFCLC offers two distance learning courses, "Introduction to Culture" (ITC), and "Introduction to Cross-Cultural Communication" (CCC). Each course is offered twice per year, and worth three semester hours of either social science or program elective credit through the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF).

*All statistics on this page current as of 13 Aug 2015

App, continued from p.1

of culture for easy reference, and includes full-color photos as well as text.

By mid-August 2015, AFCLC will have created a total of 33 field guides, and delivered copies to deploying forces heading to locations in the Middle East, Asia-Pacific region, and Latin America.

The guides themselves have long been available in hardcopy format from the AFCLC. While they were later made available in PDF format via the Center's public Web site, the app makes them available directly to the Airmen who need them the most, in near real-time and almost anywhere in the world—without the need for separate files or third-party software.

How it Works

The app is available to users of devices powered by Apple's iOS and Google's Android operating systems. To get it, users need only visit their respective provider's online marketplace—the App Store for iOS users, and the Google Play Store for Android users—and search for the app by name, "Culture Guide." At that point, it can be installed and used just like any other mobile app.

"The notion of making our culture guides available through a mobile app like this is, in part, an effort to make them useful to the people who are going to need them most, in the way they most expect," said Dr. David W. Ronan, Director of the AFCLC. "Who among us doesn't have an iPhone or an Android device? How many of us use mobile apps for everything from banking to online shopping to managing our social media?"

"Our field guide app puts the content right where people are looking," added Ms. Newbern, "and presents it in a way that's familiar and comfortable."

At its core, the app serves as a delivery mechanism for the AFCLC's collection of field guides. In lieu of downloadable PDFs, however, the app stores all content internally, and presents it in a rich, interactive format. The app also makes it simple for

a user to mark a favorite piece of content, which can then be accessed from a dedicated Favorites menu within the app.

User Experience

Because guides are available for only a small fraction of the world's countries, an important aspect of the app is its initial presentation to users. When the app first opens, it presents users with a flat map (Android) or a 3D interactive globe (iOS), which highlights countries with guides available, below which appears an alphabetized list of those same countries.

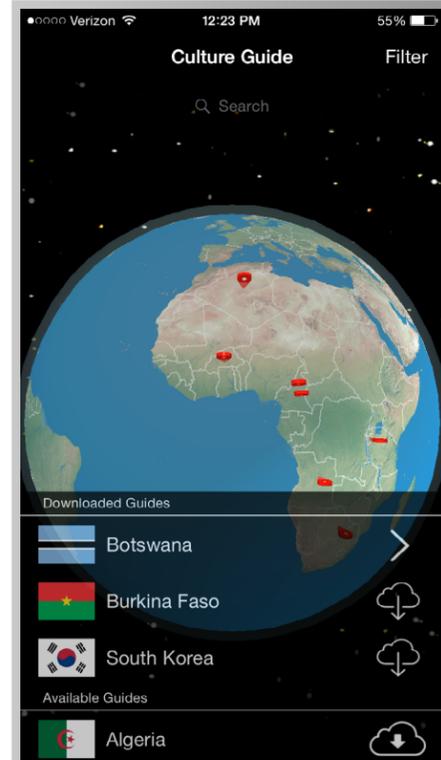
Tapping a country's marker on the map or globe automatically highlights that country in the list; downloading that country's field guide is as simple as selecting a dedicated icon alongside the country name. Once downloaded, the guide and its related material are stored locally on the device.

"The app stores everything internally," said Mr. Olin Goodhue, Chief of Mission Support at the AFCLC, after viewing the Android version. "There's enormous benefit to that, since once you download what you need, you aren't dependent on a wireless data connection. That can make all the difference to someone working in a country where mobile data service is limited or unavailable."

Downloaded content for each country is divided into six categories, which appear below the country name in the form of large, touch-friendly tiles. The first, "Information," contains a reproduction of the material from the actual field guides, organized in the same way. The remaining five, "Map," "News," "Favorites," "Resources," and "Workspace," offer supplementary content and functions.

Significance

In light of the ongoing transformation of AU, the app takes on additional significance. Aside from being the first app from AU to reach the general public, it epitomizes AU's renewed focus on leading the Air Force in providing modern, practical



The welcome screen of the mobile app, as displayed on devices running Apple's iOS operating system. The 3D globe seen here is fully interactive, and can be rotated using the phone's touch screen. Countries with guides available include red location markers. Downloads are initiated by tapping the cloud icon alongside the country names. (Courtesy photo)

innovations.

"Simultaneously, the app illustrates outreach, portability, and a practical application of technology," said Dr. Ronan, "all of which are cornerstones of the Air University transformation."

As a function of outreach and a practical use of technology in particular, the app represents an excellent opportunity to reach the younger echelons of the Air Force, by providing content in a manner familiar to them.

"Today we have people using mobile apps for just about everything," said Ms. Newbern. "We're leading the way for Air University to get our content out there like never before."

Getting Started with the AFCLC's New Mobile App*

Download the app.
On an Apple or Android device, visit your app marketplace and search "culture guides." In the search results, look for the Air Force wings.

Select desired guides.
Using the interactive map, locate and tap the country whose guide you want. Countries with available guides are marked with location icons.

Download content.
Tap the cloud icon next to the country name to download that country's field guide. (Download speeds will vary by network and by device.)

Open guide.
To open a downloaded guide, tap the country name under "Downloaded Countries." Tap a tile to access related content.

1. Information

The complete culture field guide for the selected country, featuring content identical to the print versions available from the AFCLC. Tap a cultural domain to expand.

2. Map

Complete maps of the selected country, provided by Google Maps (Android) or Apple Maps (iOS). Maps can be magnified using swipe gestures.

3. News

Provides current events, streaming radio stations, and another relevant content via dedicated RSS feeds.

4. Favorites

Allows for fast access to portions of the field guide selected by the user. Tap the star icons in each field guide section to add it to Favorites.

5. Resources

Provides supplemental documents and media. These assets are governed by a dedicated Content Management System (CMS) and will be updated regularly.

6. Workspace

Provides a convenient location for photos, videos, and notes related to the country.

*The visuals presented on this page depict the Android version only, and were generated from an early version of the app. Actual experience may vary depending upon your device and operating system.

Colleagues,

After two days at the Culture in Conflict symposium at the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom (UK), I felt like I had found my “tribe” in the world of military PME. All the attendees and presenters were people who either teach about culture at military education institutions or are interested in the influence of culture on military planning and operations.



programs.

In addition to building relationships with peers, I benefited from the symposium through the opportunity to present a paper co-written with Dr. Will Dulaney, a faculty member at ACSC. The paper discussed the methods and results of the Air Advisor in-country Afghanistan assessment from 2014. In addition, we suggested changes

Unlike the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces, a North American conference on the PME-academia nexus that I was lucky enough to attend last fall, the Culture in Conflict symposium focuses solely on culture. The twenty presentations of the symposium included topics such as protecting cultural heritage, gender roles in Somalia and Mali, cultural integrity in post-conflict Sri Lanka, and mentoring at the Afghan Army’s equivalent of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

Through the presentations, I found that many PME institutions in the US and Europe are taking similar approaches to language, region, and culture education. We also share similar struggles in measuring intercultural competence and with creating PME that meets the needs of military personnel who must constantly balance security concerns with relationship building.

One surprise was that the AFCLC offers the only self-paced online culture course for college credit to enlisted Airmen; another was the NATO plan for developing a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on intercultural competence, to which AFCLC might have the opportunity to contribute in the coming year.

I also spent time outside the conference with colleagues from the Danish Defence Academy, and learned about their novel approaches to integrating non-military university students into their degree

to the evaluation process that we have been able to propose to AFCENT for the next Air Advisor assessment. Our presentation at the conference allowed us to consult our peers on an academic and technical problem we face, and enabled us to have an informed conversation that may drive our common efforts forward over time.

Finally, since the Culture in Conflict symposium was held in the UK, I learned a lot about British culture! In general, I found the Brits and the other Europeans in general to be more reserved than most Americans are. However, once I started chatting with people and found common ground, most became quite animated and shared their thoughts on matters ranging from soccer (since I watch the Premier League) to where they like to go on holiday (vacation, to Americans), to even what they think of the future of the European Union.

In all, I had a great academic and intercultural experience!

Very Respectfully,

Dr. Patricia L. Fogarty
Assistant Professor, Cross-Cultural Relations
Air Force Culture and Language Center

AFCLC Takes Part in Culture in Conflict Symposium

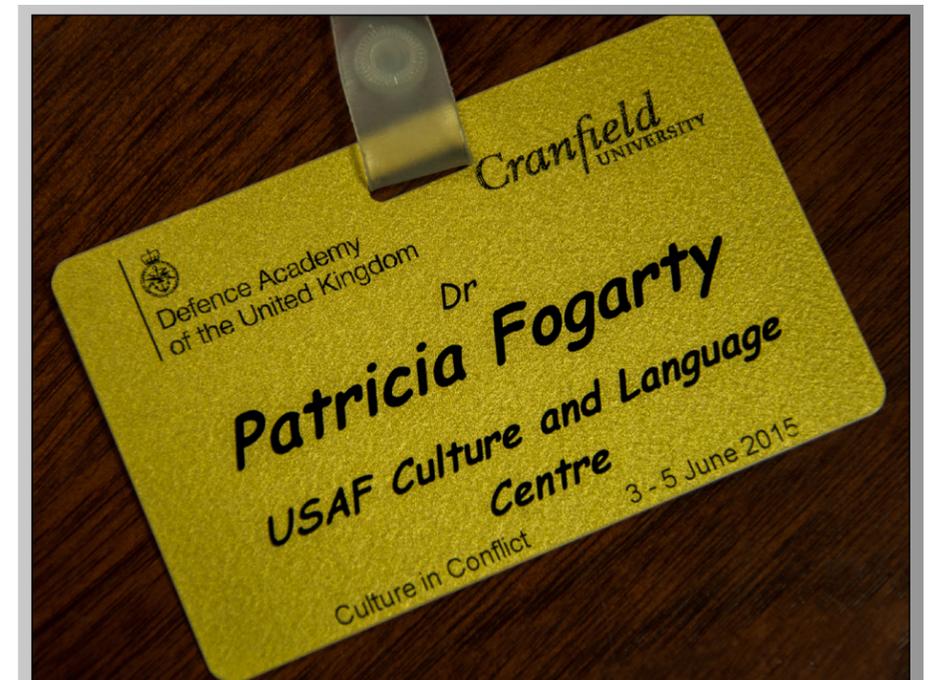
by Brandon M. Bridges

Air Force Culture and Language Center

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. – An important aspect of the mission of the Air Force Culture and Language Center (AFCLC) is to build relationships and partnerships with its peers from around the world. In pursuit of that objective, faculty from the AFCLC regularly attend international conferences, such as the recent Culture in Conflict Symposium at the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom. Held annually, the conference provides a venue to share knowledge and experience for scholars, military personnel, and students who specialize in culture education and training for military organizations.

“This symposium offered an excellent and unique forum for exchange with colleagues who are also working in professional military education (PME) institutions, particularly those in Europe,” said Dr. Patricia Fogarty, Assistant Professor of Cross-Cultural Relations at the AFCLC. She was the sole attendee from the AFCLC at the symposium. “Seven individual countries were represented, along with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and even a group of representatives from Embry-Riddle University in Florida,” Dr. Fogarty added

The symposium featured presentations from a number of scholars, including Dr. Fogarty, who presented a paper titled “An operational and social scientific approach to cross-cultural competency in ‘Train, Advise, Assist’ Missions.” Dr. Fogarty co-wrote the paper with Dr. Will Dulaney, Professor of International Security Studies, Department of Interdisciplinary Security Studies, Air Command & Staff College.



A nametag worn by Dr. Patricia Fogarty while attending the Culture in Conflict Symposium. The spellings of “Deence” and “Centre” reflect the British organizers of the event. (Courtesy photo)

The paper included the results of the last Air Advisor assessment for Afghanistan, from 2014. With representatives present from defense colleges in Denmark, New Zealand, the Netherlands, the UK, and Poland, there were opportunities to compare methodologies for evaluating Airmen’s cultural knowledge and intercultural competence.

“We got good feedback,” she said. “We were asked why certain variables were used to measure success, and what they mean. We were basically evaluating the evaluation, and proposing different methods of measurement.”

In addition to her presentation, Dr. Fogarty met with people from the UK Defence Center for Language and Culture. The exchange provided some unanticipated revelations, chiefly that the Defence Center is interested in developing a partnership with the AFCLC, as counterparts.

The conference also provided an important takeaway: according to Dr. Fogarty: on a multinational level, NATO has developed a program called “Extended Hand,” which helps NATO personnel develop intercultural skills with people from countries around the world. “NATO uses an approach similar to what we leverage in our eMentor sessions in the Language Enabled Airman Program (LEAP). They have cultural specialists from Penn State moderating live, synchronous cultural discussions about topics of interest to the groups who are participating.” The moderators help the participants navigate the discussion and to better understand the cultural influences on people’s different points of view. “Extended Hand could represent an important opportunity for the AFCLC to foster greater cultural understanding between the USAF and NATO through these virtual conversations,” she said.

LEAP Assists Brazilian Police with Prep for 2016 Olympic Games

by Brandon M. Bridges

Air Force Culture and Language Center

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. - The Air Force frequently calls upon participants of the Language Enabled Airman Program (LEAP) to support its real-world training missions, which can include a wide variety of undertakings. Every so often, however, even within the confines of the Air Force mission, unique opportunities arise. In April 2015, just such an opportunity materialized: the call to support preparations for the 2016 Summer Olympics.

Purpose and Scope

The 2016 Summer Olympics, officially known as the Games of the XXXIst Olympiad, will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in August of next year. Commonly referred to as "Rio 2016," the games have thus far attracted a total of 789 athletes from 118 nations. As with every major public event, security is a significant concern to the host nation; to help address those concerns, Brazilian officials turned to the United States.

Under the auspices of the National Guard's State Partnership Program (SPP), the Air Force Culture and Language Center (AFCLC) partnered with the West Virginia Air National Guard (WVANG) to provide language-enabled support to the Brazilian Federal Police Operational Aviation Division (CAOP), as part of a Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE).

That support took the form of two LEAP participants: Capt David Vilela, an MQ-9 pilot from Creech AFB, NV; and TSgt Fabio Horton, a Finance NCOIC from Hickam AFB, HI. Both are native-born Brazilian Portuguese speakers, and served as interpreters between WVANG and CAOP personnel.

On many occasions, Airmen are selected to support missions on the basis of their language proficiency, while their career fields only occasionally reflect the mission being supported. In the case of Capt Vilela in particular, both his language proficiency and his position were useful. In addition to being an Intelligence, Surveillance, and

Reconnaissance (ISR) subject matter expert, Capt Vilela also holds one of the highest DLPT/OPI scores in Portuguese in all of LEAP.

"I'm an Air Force combat pilot," he said, "but I also speak Portuguese and Spanish, and understand the Latin American culture."

"This is a perfect example of what we strive to do with LEAP," said Mr. Chris Chesser, Language Intensive Training Event (LITE) Program Manager at the AFCLC. "These two Airmen are from very different backgrounds, neither of which deals with language capability, and neither was stationed anywhere close to West Virginia. LEAP was able to identify their language proficiency, and when this need came up, we were able to set up a LITE and get them to where they were needed."

Security Cooperation

The initial request from the Brazilian officials was for ISR training expertise, through the International Affairs Office in the US Embassy in Brasilia. The WVANG was chosen to supply that expertise because their mission is similar to that of the CAOP: to conduct airborne ISR in cooperation with various law enforcement agencies, to conduct counter-narcotics operations.

While both LEAP participants provided support to the ISR training, TSgt Horton also supported chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives (CBRNE) instruction. Both efforts were aimed to foster US-Brazilian interoperability and regional security during the 2016 Olympics, for which CAOP will provide airborne security.

The collaboration is notable not only because it involved international cooperation, but also because it marks the first time the Air Force Culture and Language Center (AFCLC) has provided support to the State Partnership Program.

A Security Success

The work performed by Capt Vilela and TSgt Horton will, according to Lt Col W.



(Logo courtesy Wikipedia)

Todd Miller, Director of the State Partnership Program West Virginia, help increase the security of an entire ally nation, and increase its capabilities to fight crime and combat the international drug trade.

Afterward, mission organizers on all sides appeared very pleased with the outcome.

"The interpreters were extremely useful," said Lt Col Miller. "They were a key factor to the huge success of the SMEE by translating the PowerPoint presentations and interpreting briefings, discussions, and conversations."

Moreover, added Miller, involvement by the LEAP participants points a way forward for future foreign collaboration of this sort.

"This LITE set a great precedent, and was a successful proof of concept of the use of LITEs for international exchanges involving National Guard units," he said. "Future meetings are being planned to continue what we've started."

As for the LEAP participants themselves, Miller said they had positive feedback about the experience as well.

"They've never felt more useful than they did here," he said. "They had such a great strategic, nation-wide impact, and further improved their technological language vocabulary, more so than they'd expected in their entire careers."



Charleston, WV

April 2015



Air Force Culture and Language Center's (AFCLC) Language Enabled Airman Program (LEAP) to provide translation support. Capt David Vilela (MQ-9 pilot, Creech AFB, NV) and TSgt Fabio Horton (Finance NCOIC, Hickam AFB, HI), both native-born Brazilian Portuguese speakers, each played a pivotal role in making the SMEE a success.

While lending its support via the State Partnership Program (SPP) to Brazilian partners seeking assistance with security preparations for the 2016 Olympic Games, the West Virginia National Guard enlisted the assistance of participants of the





LEAP

LANGUAGE ENABLED AIRMAN PROGRAM

Are you in LEAP? These important changes could affect you!

1. Updated SEI Policy

We are pleased to announce a new feature in the LEAP Special Experience Identifier (SEI) award process. Traditionally, participants must have participated in either a LITE or an eMentor course to qualify for a LEAP SEI. Now participants may request training credit for foreign language experiences equivalent to LEAP-funded training. Examples of qualifying experiences may include foreign language courses, a Language Designated Position (LDP), International PME, or language-use Deployment or TDY. LEAP participants are encouraged to enroll in eMentor courses and update their availability for LITEs. FY16 training opportunities are available now.

2. Publication of AFI 36-4002

A new AFI pertaining to Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus (FLPB) has been released, and is the first of its kind to deal only with language pay. Look for AFI 36-4002, Air Force Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus Program, dated 16 Jun 2015. The new instruction provides information on obtaining FLPB, and applies to all LEAP participants.

3. USAF Strategic Language List (SLL)

A new Air Force Strategic Language List (SLL) is out, dated 1 July 2015. This document is FOUO, and is not available on the AFCLC public Web site, or on any public venue. Airmen interested in obtaining a copy should contact the Test Control Officer (TCO) at their installation.

Questions? E-mail: afclc.language@us.af.mil

Going abroad? Don't leave home without a guide!



AFCLC maintains a collection of culture field guides spanning a total of 30 countries, with more on the way! Each guide is a pocket-sized cultural sourcebook designed to help familiarize you with the culture, history, and geography of a specific country, with content broken down along the USAF's 12 cultural domains.

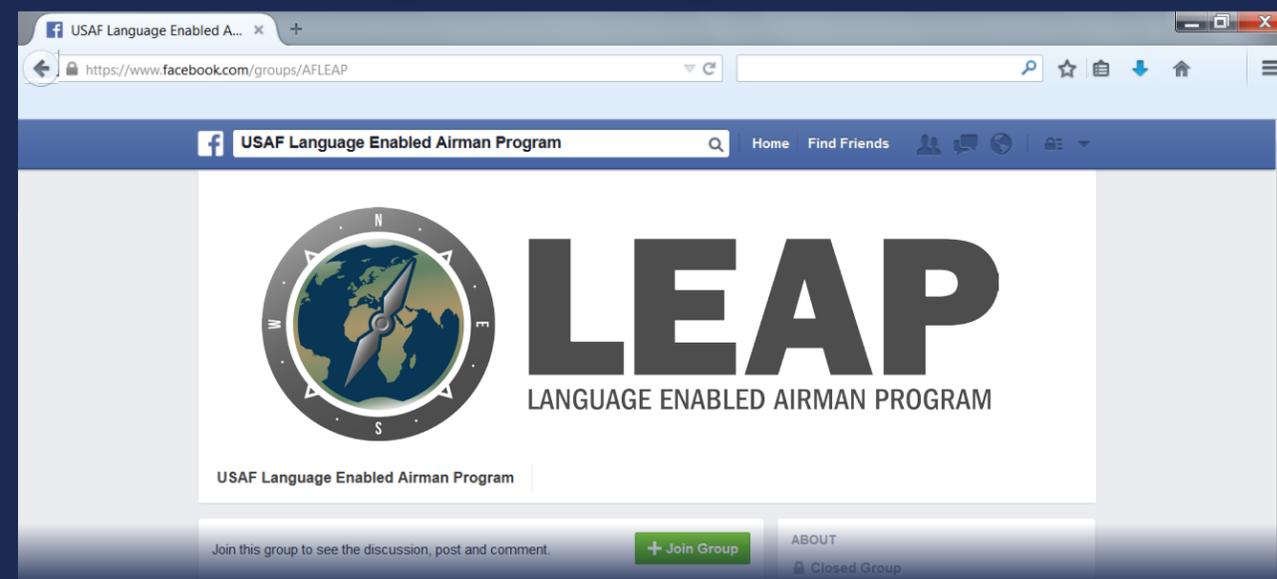
So before you travel, visit:

<http://culture.af.mil/>

and see if we have a guide for you!

*Don't miss our newest field guide, *US Forces Pacific Culture Guide: Malaysia*, published July 2015!

Are you in LEAP? Are you on Facebook?



Be sure to join* our Facebook group! Learn about all things LEAP, share your experiences, connect with your fellow group members, ask questions and get answers.

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/AFLEAP/>

*Closed group; memberships are subject to verification by LEAP staff.

US, Royal Saudi Air Force Work, Learn Together at Sheppard AFB

by Brandon M. Bridges

Air Force Culture and Language Center

SHEPPARD AFB, TX. – In partnership with the Air Force Culture and Language Center, the 82d Training Wing (TRW) at Sheppard AFB, TX is exploring the benefits of utilizing language enabled Airmen in support of their Royal Saudi Air Force (RSAF) English Language Training (ELT) mission.

In Winter and Summer 2015, the 82 TRW provided opportunities for two participants of the Language Enabled Airman Program to practice their Arabic while providing critical language support.

The two participants were TSgt Zakaria El Bouab, a Materiel Management NCO, stationed at Fairchild AFB, WA; and Lt Zouheir Samhat, an Aviation officer stationed at Dyess AFB.

“Their presence among the Arabic students was unprecedented,” said Mr. Jason Durst, speaking on behalf of the 82d TRW. “The LEAP translators brought such unique credibility to the program by representing the United States Air Force in uniform while speaking to the students in their native language. The credibility displayed by these two Airmen is unlike anything we have seen in the past.”

According to Mr. Durst, the 82d TRW’s Country Liaison Office (CLO) personnel speak Arabic, but don’t fully understand Air Force standards. Complicating the problem, contract personnel do not wear the uniform, and Air Force personnel lack Arabic language skills.

Filling that critical gap fell to the two LEAP participants. The support they provided has improved the 82d TRW’s ability to smoothly carry out the mission, in ways big and small.

“TSgt El Bouab provided translation support to 11 RSAF ELT students for



A group of officers and enlisted Royal Saudi Air Force (RSAF) servicemembers stand in front of the headquarters building of the 82d Training Wing at Sheppard AFB, TX. (Courtesy Photo)

medical and dental appointments, and also helped ELT instructors more than once,” recalled Mr. Durst. “His daily translation duties ranged from explanation of standard, discipline, personal, health, wellness, safety, security and other random day-to-day issues.”

Lt Samhat’s support played an equally important role.

“He has managed to get our RSAF CLO to fully engage with their RSAF students, and the rest of our RSAF team,” said Mr. Durst. “Prior to his arrival, most of the interaction occurred at meetings. Now the RSAF CLO are out and about, looking for opportunities to assist any way they can.”

Altogether, the two Airmen from LEAP provided translation support to over 250 students. According to Mr. Durst, 82d TRW credits the work as more than simple translation support.

The key, he said, lies in helping build cross-

cultural trust, and lay the foundation for the ELT program itself.

“Ultimately this isn’t simply about communicating the subject matter in a different language,” said Mr. Durst. “Whenever we have opportunities like this, we always try to build relationships. Being able to relate to our international partners in their own language is an excellent way to do that. I can think of no better way to show respect and make someone feel welcome.”

Durst was also quick to offer praise for both participants. “I made sure to pass on our overwhelming satisfaction on TSgt El Bouab’s and Lt Samhat’s expertise, professionalism, and performance,” he said. “Both translators played such a pivotal role that we actually requested a two-week extension for both of them.”

Editor’s note: Following the completion of this LITE, TSgt El Bouab was promoted to the rank of MSgt.

Andersen Airman Supports Army National Guard Training in Guatemala

by 1st Lt Irene Mitchell and Brandon M. Bridges

Jutiapa, TX. – Participants of the Language Enabled Airman Program (LEAP) often find themselves supporting the Air Force’s real-world mission in a variety of capacities. For one LEAP participant, just such an opportunity materialized this May, as the US Military Group Guatemala requested AFCLC support for 76 members of the Texas National Guard and 220 Guatemalan partners. The 3rd Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment had planned training exercises for drug interdiction, intelligence, and other border security operations at Task Force (TF) Salerno in Jutiapa, Guatemala. However, the mission lacked a language enabled Airman.

1st Lt Irene Mitchell, 36th Medical Group Readiness Flight Commander and a member of LEAP since 2014 had volunteered for a Language Intensive Training Event (LITE) and was selected by the Air Force Culture and Language Center as the first LEAP participant to support TF Salerno as a Tactical Operations Center’s (TOC) interpreter.

“We went in-country to train, advise, and assist, at the request of the Guatemalans,” said Lt Mitchell, who was born in Puerto Rico. “We were providing training to both officers and enlisted members of the Second Infantry Brigade, Third Infantry Brigade, and Mountain Reconnaissance Brigade, from both the Guatemalan Army and National Civil Police.”

While serving as the TOC’s interpreter, Lt Mitchell helped ensure the smooth execution and coordination of a number of operations, including vehicle contracts, safety plans, and meetings with her counterparts from the Guatemalan Army.

She also translated a number of documents for the Guatemalan Army to use in future training exercises. One, a 30-page book entitled “The Defense of Duffer’s Drift” is considered essential reading by many in the

infantry world.

On one occasion, she even organized and served as the mistress of ceremonies during a training graduation.

The experience provided a welcome opportunity for her to practice her Spanish skills.

“I haven’t been immersed in a Spanish-speaking culture in the ten years I’ve been in the military,” she said. “The Air Force has given me a tremendous opportunity, while at the same time taking advantage of my skills as a native speaker to strengthen ties with our partners in Central America.”

TF Salerno enabled the Guatemalan Army’s mission to Counter Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC) by providing training on how to conduct border control operations, command post activities, gather intelligence to support operations, and perform sustainment operations. Training also included medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) of personnel with injuries too serious to treat in the field.

“Having the opportunity to work with the Army infantry has been a great privilege; it’s not very often that we get to work with our sister services and see what they do in the field,” Mitchell recalled. “I became part of the unit. I did everything with them: eating, sleeping, PT. They took me in as one of their own.”

The mission was not without its challenges, however. While being bilingual did enable her to provide the needed support, Lt Mitchell acknowledged that serving as both a translator and interpreter proved difficult at times.

“Being bilingual, being able to translate, and being able to interpret are different things,” she explained. “Usually a person is either an interpreter or a translator, not both.”

The distinction lies in the particulars of how meaning is carried from one language into another. Maintaining the context of a statement can be challenging even under ideal circumstances; in situations involv-



Joint training in progress in Guatemala. (Courtesy photo)

ing multiple dialects, the complexity is even greater.

Despite the challenges, Mitchell says she took full advantage of the opportunity to learn how other cultures communicate differently from her own. Ultimately, the mission offered numerous opportunities for cross-cultural exchanges.

In one such instance, Lt Mitchell translated and presented a plan for setting up guards to cross a major road between the Guatemalan base and their firing range.

“This is an excellent tool that our American partners have shared with us,” noted Colonel Edmer Vargas Ortega, Intelligence and Security Commander for the Third Infantry Brigade in Jutiapa, during one of many meetings. “This road guard plan will be put into place immediately and will be implemented, not only as a lesson learned, but as a standard operating procedure for future generations.”

After completing the LITE, Lt Mitchell offered glowing words about the experience.

“I am very proud and honored to have represented the Air Force and LEAP in a successful mission with our sister service and our partner nation,” she said. “Hopefully the Army will continue to employ LEAPsters for this mission in the future.”

Editor’s Note: Following Lt Mitchell’s LITE, additional LEAP participants volunteered to support TF Salerno and other MilGRP Guatemala missions.

Robins Med Tech Words, Actions Impactful a World Away

by Jenny Gordon

Robins AFB Public Affairs

ROBINS AFB, GA. – Attention to details, an inquisitive mind and commitment to duty and country – these are just a few words to describe Staff Sgt. Aliaksei Krasouski, a 78th Aerospace Medical Services technician at Robins. After he saw information online about the Air Force Culture and Language Center’s Language Enabled Airman Program, Krasouski felt he had much to contribute not only to an Air Force he serves, but a country that borders his native land of Belarus.

The Air Force selected him for LEAP, and as a fluent Ukrainian speaker, Krasouski was able to quickly meet standards in his selected language.

This past November, the AFCLC selected him to participate in a Language Intensive Training Event to the Ukraine, where he was connected with U.S. Security Cooperation officers. In April, he travelled to the Ukraine where he spent two months.

Due to his fluency in the Ukrainian and Russian languages, he was assigned to the U.S. Embassy’s Office of Defense Cooperation in Kyiv.

Most notably, he translated documents into Ukrainian from English for the U.S.-Ukraine Joint Commission Medical Subcommittee of U.S. European Command, was involved in preparations for a EU-COM patients medical assessment visit, and served as a Russian/Ukrainian/ English interpreter who communicated patient diagnoses and conversations across three cities as part of a medical team. Helping with these patient assessments in the field was something he’ll never forget.

As an Air Force medical technician, the medical team he was a part of evaluated over 25 severely-wounded service members who had suffered injuries due to grenade, mine and bomb blasts, gun shots and

frostbite.

“With my medical background, I was able to visit medical treatment facilities in the Ukraine and assess situations,” said Krasouski. “I was also translating, attending medical conferences, and had an opportunity to work in the Ukrainian Parliament.”

“Working with the ODC in Kyiv helping the Ukraine build up its military and medical capabilities, every day there was something different,” he said.

A native of Minsk, Belarus, Krasouski was 25 when he immigrated to the United States. While in Belarus, he had graduated with a master’s degree in sports medicine and recreation, working as a coach before arriving in New York City.

He joined the Air Force in 2009 looking for more educational opportunities. After serving at Eglin Air Force Base in the Florida Panhandle, he arrived at Robins where he’s the current NCOIC of the Medical Standards Management Element in Flight Medicine.

He has since completed a degree through the Community College of the Air Force. And on the family front, he works just a few steps away from his wife, Staff Sgt. Patrice Neath, NCOIC of Women’s Health. The couple is expecting their second child.

Belarus, a landlocked country in Eastern Europe, is bounded by Russia, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and the Ukraine to its south.

Growing up in Belarus, Krasouski spoke the native language of Belarusian. Like nearby Ukraine, Russian is also still widely spoken in a country that was once part of the former Soviet Union.

Krasouski is fluent in several languages, including Russian and Polish, part of a group of Slavic languages that are closely related to one another. Belarusian is close to the Ukrainian language, so learning it was a smooth transition.



SSgt Aliaksei Krasouski tests A1C Cheree Voto's eye sight with testers and consults with her. (U.S. Air Force photo by Misuzu Allen)

“It was not difficult for me to understand both growing up, especially hearing family conversations spoken in Ukrainian,” he said.

Among his translation efforts in Ukraine, Krasouski participated in a NATO-organized Medical Rehabilitation Conference, helping translate the EUCOM speaker’s presentation into Ukrainian and assisting with language interpretations during breaks.

He also supported multiple other meetings and conferences, translating Expeditionary Medical Support information into Ukrainian, and serving as an interpreter for Public Affairs elements from throughout U.S. European Command which were visiting a military hospital in Kyiv. He was also honored to attend Parliament hearings, addressing Ukraine’s military-medical doctrine.

He hopes to continue giving back as a language-enabled airman and perform unique missions, which allow him to travel and contribute where needed.

“I have enjoyed the camaraderie I’ve found in the Air Force,” he said. “It has given me a lot of opportunities I never thought I would have in my life.”

Article courtesy of Robins AFB Public Affairs Office. Reprinted with permission.

<http://www.robins.af.mil/>



Maxwell AFB, AL

14-17 Jul 2015



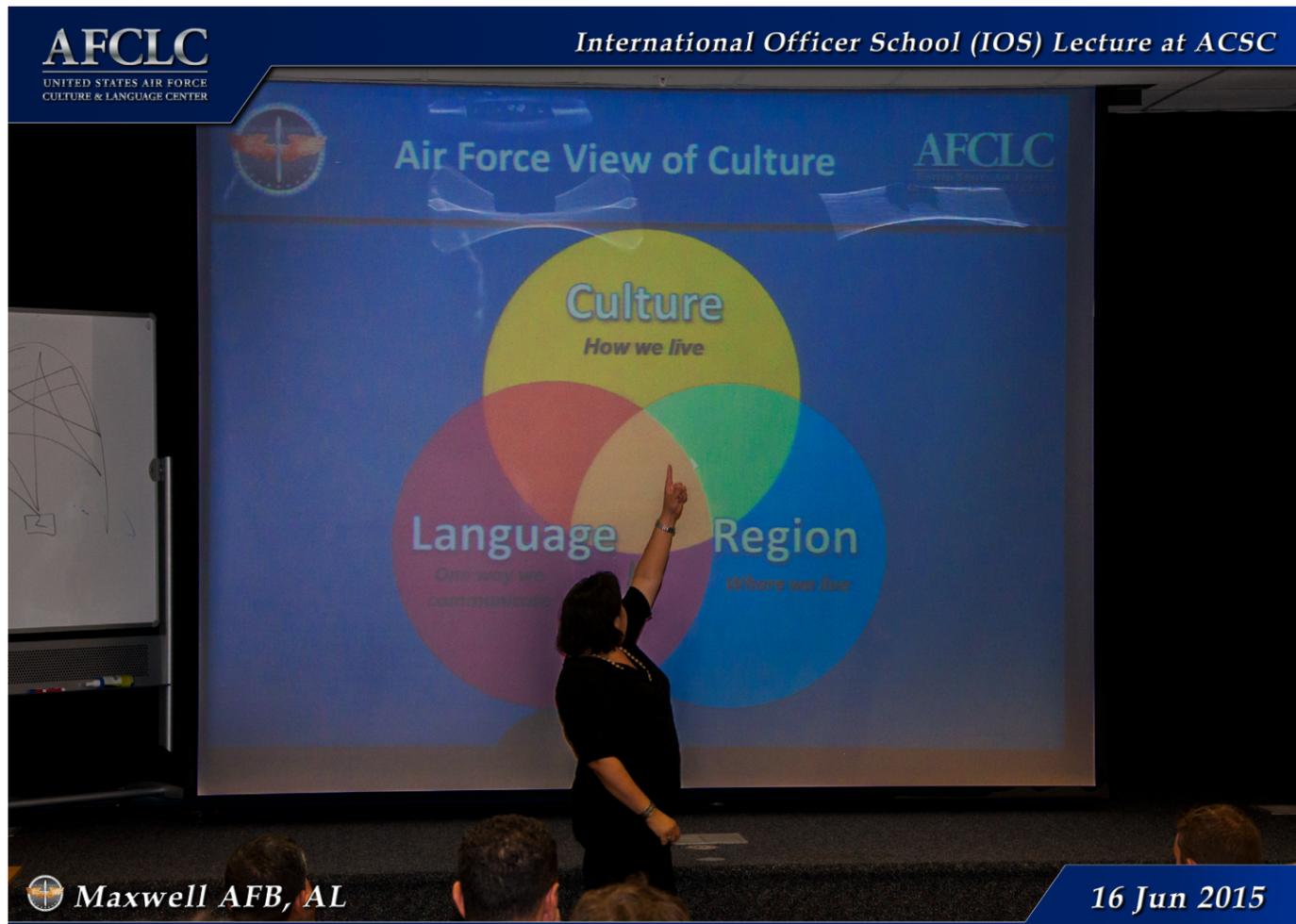
In Spring 2015, in partnership with LEAP and the Maxwell AFB DLI LTD, the DLIFLC began the lengthy process of validating new versions of the Defense Language Proficiency Tests (DLPTs) used to assess language proficiency.

The first sessions involved tests for German and Hindi; in July, the process resumed, this time with Portuguese,

Brazilian Portuguese, and Tagalog (a language common in the Philippines) as the languages whose tests were being reviewed.

The validation group included a total of 25 individuals from across the country, and blended officers (from 1st Lt to Lt Col) and enlisted Airmen (SSgt to SMSgt). Underscoring the importance of the process, the first day began with a welcome by AFCLC Director Dr. David Ronan.





Maxwell AFB, AL

16 Jun 2015



As part of its ongoing commitment to form lasting, meaningful partnerships, staff and faculty from the AFCLC routinely partner with peer institutions at Maxwell AFB to promote Cross-Cultural Competence (3C).



A major component of those efforts sees professors from AFCLC providing lectures on site at a variety of the neighboring schoolhouses. On 16 June 2015, Dr. Angelle Khachadorian, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, did just that, lending her expertise to an audience from the International Officer School, on site at the Air Command and Staff College.



Maxwell AFB, AL

10 Jun 2015



On Wednesday, 10 June 2015, Brig Gen Christopher Coffelt, incoming Commander, Spatz Center, visited the Air Force Culture and Language Center (AFCLC). While on site, he toured the Center's facilities, met staff, and received a comprehensive mission briefing from Dr. David Ronan, Director of the AFCLC.





Maxwell AFB, AL

8-10 Jun 2015



From 8-10 June, the DLIFLC Language Training Detachment (LTD) at Maxwell AFB joined its sister sites in a first-ever Language Training Summit hosted by the DLI LTD at Hurlburt Field, Florida.

Members from Miami/SOUTHCOM, Tampa/AfPak, Ft. Leavenworth; and Maxwell AFB LTDs gathered for three days to exchange information and trends on topics related to Second Language Acquisition, Applied Linguistics, and others.

The three Maxwell LTD members in attendance each gave worthwhile presentations at the summit. Dr. Victor Mbodouma presented on In-Class Assessment tools; Dr. Dongdong Zhang shared her insights into a flashcard program named Anki; and Regional Director, Mr. Rob Miltersen, conducted training on Resiliency Skills and Competencies as part of the Army Fit program.

Overall the Summit was highly successful, likely paving the way for future similar opportunities to share and collaborate on world language issues.



Maxwell AFB, AL

27 May 2015



On Wednesday, 27 May 2015, Lt Col Ole Fraehmke, Bundeswehr Geoinformation Service (BGIS) Liaison Command for the USA, visited the Air Force Culture and Language Center (AFCLC), escorted by Lt Col Andreas "Pepper" Scharff, German Air Force Advisor to HQ AU.





On Wednesday, 27 May 2015, the Hon. Matthew A. Weiller, US Air Force Foreign Political Advisor, visited the Air Force Culture and Language Center (AFCLC). While on site, Mr. Weiller received a mission briefing on the Language Enabled Airman Program (LEAP).

