



FACT SHEET

U.S. Air Force Fact Sheet

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE EXPEDITIONARY SKILLS TRAINING

Airmen must be prepared to respond to any contingency, anywhere, anytime. To ensure they are ready, the Air Force has mandated targeted Cross-Cultural Competence (3C) training. 3C is the ability to quickly and accurately comprehend a culturally-complex environment, then appropriately and effectively act to achieve the desired effect.

The Air Force Culture and Language Center (AFCLC) supports the Air Force by developing and sustaining a tiered Expeditionary Skills Training (EST) program to ensure Airmen have the cross-cultural competence necessary to provide the Nation with global vigilance, reach and power.

Cultural processes and ideals have both general principles, such as categories of behavior and beliefs, and specific manifestations, when they are shaped by particular linguistic or regional aspects. The universal principles are referred to as "culture-general" and the particular manifestations are referred to as "culture-specific."

EST reinforces the culture-general foundational learning emphasized in education, then provides culture-specific instruction. The AFCLC develops and sustains Airmen's cross-cultural competence through a four-tiered training program:

Tier 1: Foundational: Culture-general training delivered to all Airmen through accessions or initial occupational training, such as Officer Training School or Basic Military Training School.

Tier 2: Expeditionary Skills Training: Culture training for all Airmen is also delivered at the Wing level in alignment with the standard Air Expeditionary Force battle rhythm, required to maintain mission ready status. The primary delivery method for this training is through the Advanced Distributed Learning System. More than 400,000 Airmen have received Tier 2 training in either:

Tier 2A: All Airmen must maintain ES proficiency by completing culture-general training through ADLS as they prepare for their AEF vulnerability period.

Tier 2B: All deployment-tasked Airmen must receive culture-specific training, usually through ADLS, targeted to the specific cultural circumstances of the deployment location.

Tier 3: Culture-specific: Culture-specific training for select Airmen deploying to unique locations requiring specialized training based on threat assessment and mission responsibilities. This training is conducted at various joint venues throughout the Defense Department. An example is the Air Advisor Course, which contains more than 30 hours of culture-general, culture-specific and language training.

Tier 4: Expeditionary Skills: These are courses that must be rapidly developed and fielded to train Airmen on skills needed to meet critical and emerging requirements. The scope of Tier 4 training is up to 6,000 in-resident students and 12,000 web-based students per year.

For more information, see www.culture.af.mil, e-mail afclc.pa@maxwell.af.mil or call 334-953-7729.