



FACT SHEET

U.S. Air Force Fact Sheet

GENERAL OFFICER PRE-DEPLOYMENT ACCULTURATION COURSE

The Air Force Culture and Language Center offers the General Officer Pre-Deployment Acculturation Course (GOPAC) to prepare senior Air Force leaders for overseas command assignments.

In Fall 2009, the Commander of the International Security Assistance Force requested that the Air Force Chief of Staff ensure Air Force General Officers receive thorough preparation in language and culture prior to deployment. In response, the Air Force Culture and Language Center developed GOPAC, which has since been delivered to dozens of Air Force senior leaders en route to Afghanistan, Iraq, Japan, Qatar, UAE and elsewhere.

GOPAC provides 50 hours of formal instruction (30 hours on language and 20 hours on culture) over seven and a half days. Significant self-study is required during non-classroom hours. Language instruction is conducted by trained and certified Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) personnel. The culture curriculum is designed and delivered by AFCLC's team of in-house faculty experts, with assistance from colleagues from across Air University, DLIFLC and external organizations.

As a result of GOPAC, officers will possess limited functional foreign language proficiency, so they can:

- Satisfy minimum courtesy requirements/simple face-to-face conversations on familiar topics;
- Produce limited continuous discourse, but only with prepared and rehearsed material;
- Ask for help/verify comprehension of native speech, since misunderstandings will be frequent.

General officers will also have a solid understanding of cultural issues, and with minimal guidance can:

- Apply key cultural concepts to help achieve specific mission objectives;
- Take the perspective of others and project second/third-order effects of own and others' behaviors;
- Apply basic skills of cross-cultural communication (including use of a translator), relations (including establishing rapport) and negotiations (including conflict management).

Media reports of former GOPAC students are available at <http://culture.af.mil/media.html>, including:

- "Ala. Leads The Effort To Train Generals In Culture and Language." 2011. WAPR. [\[AUDIO\]](#)
- "Air Force Senior Language Authority and Brig. Gen. Anthony Rock Complete Iraqi Familiarization Course." 2011. *DLIFLC Globe*. [\[TEXT\]](#)
- "Crucial Training Prepares Flag Officers for Deployment." 2011. AFNS. [\[TEXT\]](#)

General Officers and Senior Executives are identified for GOPAC by the Component Numbered Air Forces. Headquarters Air Force, Senior Leader Management schedules attendance.

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