

Interview Questions

Maxwell AFB 08 Apr 12

1. What are the responsibilities of the Air Force Senior Language Authority?

As the AF SLA, I oversee Air Force Language, Region, and Culture (LRC) policy and programs and represent LRC stakeholders to the DoD and Air Force Corporate Structure. Also, as the Executive Agent for the Defense English Language Program (DELP), I oversee the execution of Defense Language Institute English Language Center (DLIELC) English language training programs for U.S. personnel and international military students. DLIELC is located at Lackland Air Force Base.

2. Can you explain the Air Force Language Action Panel (AFLAP), Air Force Region and Culture Action Panel (AFRCAP) and Executive Steering Committee (ESC) functions?

In response to the CSAF's 2009 Air Force Culture, Region and Language Flight Plan, we established the AFLAP and AFRCAP panels to ensure successful implementation of Air Force LRC policy. These panels meet biannually, bringing together action officers from a variety of organizations, such as US Air Force Academy, Defense Language Institute English Language Center, and Air Force Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency to provide policy guidance and recommendations on LRC matters.

The ESC is a principal-level committee of LRC stakeholders from across the AF to provide strategic-level, decision-making guidance on the DELP and Air Force LRC programs.

3. Why are language, region and cultural skills (LRC) important to the Air Force?

In a globalized world, Cross-Culturally Competent Airmen are vital to mission success wherever we find ourselves. Because our national interests require us to think globally, the Air Force must be ready to operate and communicate with our international partners at all times to effectively influence operations from the very start. This readiness includes the deliberate development of Airmen with joint war fighting skills that include foreign language familiarization, regional expertise, and cultural competencies.

4. What are some of the recent developments concerning the Air Force's approach to LRC training for Airmen?

The Air Force has made great strides in implementing the Language Enabled Airman Program (LEAP), a rapidly growing program providing Total Force Airmen with existing language capabilities the opportunity to sustain and grow their skills for future utilization.

The Air Force Culture and Language Center (AFCLC) has released six new Africa-focused Expeditionary Cultural Field Guides to be used by Airmen abroad. These guides are similar to the Iraq and Afghanistan guides already used by deployed Airmen to better understand the host nation and its people.

The AFCLC hosts General Officers Pre-deployment Acculturation Courses, providing senior Air Force leaders with a thorough understanding of the LRC implications for when they interact with their high-level host nation counterparts.

Finally, as the Cross Functional Authority for LRC, we have been working closely with Career Field Managers to better force develop personnel with language proficiency. In the future, a combination of LEAP and focused development will result in higher numbers of qualified Airmen filling language designated positions existing in most AFSCs.

5. Can you provide us some additional information on the the Language Enabled Airmen Program (LEAP)?

For Airmen with some existing foreign language skills, LEAP is a career-spanning program aimed to develop and sustain their capabilities for future language-coded assignments within their AFSCs. LEAP is administered by the AFCLC, part of Air University's Spatz Center at Maxwell Air Force Base. Key features of this program include Language Intensive Training Events (LITEs) and the eMentor program. LITEs are four to six week language immersion programs either in the United States or overseas. LEAP participants also attend live, online language training with language instructors called eMentors to further grow their skills. Interested Airmen can learn more about LEAP and our other LRC programs by accessing the AFCLC website at www.culture.af.mil/LEAP.