

## Language & Culture Center Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is the mission of the Language & Culture Center?

The mission of the Language & Culture Center is to provide timely language and culture education, training, and sustainment to enhance Special Operations Forces effectiveness and mission readiness.

### 2. What languages and culture courses are taught?

The LCC currently provides Spanish, French, Indonesian, Brazilian Portuguese, Dari, Polish, Russian, Swahili, Arabic, Korean and, on rare occasions, Chinese. Additional languages may be added based on mission requirements.

For culture, we offer both a one-day basic introduction into the aspects of cultural awareness for the special operator – the Intercultural Competence Basic Course (ICBC) and a comprehensive 4.5 day course – Intercultural Competence Course for Special Operations Forces (ICSOF) – which provides in-depth instruction in cultural awareness, communication, comparative religions, gender dynamics, negotiations, and more.

### 3. Do I get to choose the language I want to learn?

No, languages are assigned based on mission requirements of the gaining unit for initial acquisition students and the current unit of assignment for sustainment or enhancement. Students entering the Combat Aviation Advisor (CAA) pipeline should complete the Defense Language Aptitude Battery test prior to the first phase of training.

### 4. How long is the training?

The length of the training varies depending on the assigned language. Category I and II language classes: Spanish, French, Indonesian, Brazilian Portuguese, Dari and Urdu are approximately 80 training days. Polish, Russian Thai, and Tagalog are category III languages which require approximately 120 training days. The category IV language training takes approximately 160 training days and includes Arabic, Korean and Chinese. (Training days do not include weekends, holidays or other scheduled down days).

### 5. What is my duty status while I am attending a language course?

If you are on active duty and enrolled in the CAA program, you will fall under administrative control of the 19 SOS. If you are a reservist enrolled in the CAA pipeline, you will remain assigned to your unit and USAFSOS will be your duty location while you attend language training. Local students attending class on a space available basis also remain assigned to their units. Non-local students, filling space available quotas, will be on unit funded TDY orders and assigned to USAFSOS as students for the duration of their course.

### 6. What are my duty hours while I am in language training or in a culture course?

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Initial acquisition language training is scheduled from 0800 – 1500 Monday thru Friday. Lunch is 1200-1230. The language center operates on an academic hour schedule. There will be a 10 minute break during each hour of class. Tutoring is MANDATORY, at least once a week, at the instructor's discretion. When conducted, tutoring will take place from 1500 – 1530. No classes are scheduled on federal holidays, safety days or AFSOC scheduled non-duty days

ICBC and ICOSF normally run from 0800-1630. However, ICOSF (the 4.5 day course) typically concludes at 1330 on day 5 (usually a Friday). **Outbound travel should not be booked to interfere with full course attendance.**

**Note:** Physical training is not part of the Language Center's schedule. Physical training is an individual student responsibility and will not conflict with scheduled class hours.

7. What is the uniform requirement?

Duty uniforms will be worn during class hours, unless the instructor authorizes civilian attire to attend a cultural event related to the language being learned. Cultural events may include, but are not limited to cultural luncheons, consulate visits, trips to the local Thai Temple, and international festivals. Civilians taking courses should wear business casual attire.

8. Can I WAPS test while attending language school?

Yes, you will be able to test for promotion while you are a student. **If you know you will be attending language training during your testing window, please contact the Language & Culture Center Director, prior to signing your test date notification.** The Director will work with the testing office to attempt to schedule your test on a day designated as an administrative day during your course.

9. What do I have to do if I have a medical or some other type of appointment?

You must get approval from your unit for any appointments that must be completed while you are attending language school. The class schedule has built in administrative days to allot time for appointments outside of class time. Additionally, it is the student's responsibility to inform the LCC Director (not just the class instructor or class leader) of any and all appointments.

10. What methods are used to deliver language training?

Most initial language acquisition training is instructor led; however, students will complete some exercises and activities using a computer, video camera, SmartBoard or other technology. Sustainment training may be delivered in resident, blended, or online only formats, depending on the language and student and instructor availability.

11. Is there any accessibility issues?

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The Language & Culture Center is in a new, energy efficient facility. Wireless is offered in classrooms for LCC equipment only. If students want to practice at home or other locations with wireless access, the instructors or Director can recommend useful apps that are free to download.

12. Do I need any special equipment?

No, all equipment needed during class will be provided. A Smartphone, iPod, or iPad may provide excellent opportunities for practice outside of the classroom, but are not required to complete language training.

13. As a language student; what is expected of me?

If you are the ranking individual in your class, you will be the class leader. The class leader is responsible for the control, accountability, and discipline of the students in his or her class. The leader ensures language center policies are followed.

All students are expected to:

- a) Be on time and ready for class (all assignments and homework completed).
- b) Be professional and respectful of the instructor and other students.
- c) Notify the Director of any academic or curriculum issues, as they arise.
- d) Check military email accounts, at least once a day for unit of assignment taskings.
- e) Keep assigned classroom clean. Food and drinks are allowed, but all cups or glasses MUST have lids. TRASH WILL BE EMPTIED DAILY. On Fridays, vacuum the classroom before leaving for the day (language students only).

14. How will I be evaluated during language training?

You will complete several homework assignments and weekly assessments. Your instructor will provide continuous feedback on your progress and recommend additional activities for you to complete. Before you graduate from the course you will take both the Oral Proficiency Inventory (OPI) and the Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT). The combination of these two tests will serve as the final assessment of your language acquisition. The goal is to achieve a minimum of a 1/1 score.

15. Do I get college credit for completing language training or one of the culture courses?

The American Council on Education (ACE) recommends credit, based on DLPT scores. Students must complete a DLIFLC FORM 420 available from the Defense Language Institute's website: <http://www.dliflc.edu/registrar/#homepage-tab1> to obtain an official score report. In the send to section of the form, be sure to fill in the address of the college or university you are enrolled in or attending. Credit is not automatic. Your college may accept all, some, or none of the ACE recommended credit, depending on school policies.

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The 4.5 day Intercultural Competencies for SOF (ICSOF) course is accredited by the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF). All students in ICSOF will earn 2 credit hours towards an elective.

16. Will my AFSC be coded based on language attainment?

Your OPI and DLPT scores will be maintained as part of your military record. Your AFSC will not be coded, but you may be assigned to a language coded billet (position that requires language proficiency).

17. Will I get special pay for learning a foreign language?

Maybe; to receive Foreign Language Proficiency Pay, three conditions must be met. First, you must be assigned to a language coded billet. Second, your scores on the DLPT/OPI must be high enough to demonstrate proficiency and third, your language must be on the current list of eligible languages. For more information on language proficiency pay visit: [http://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/af\\_a1/publication/afi36-2605/afi36-2605.pdf](http://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/af_a1/publication/afi36-2605/afi36-2605.pdf)

18. Are there any prerequisites for attending the ICBC or ICSOF courses?

No specific requirements or clearances are required. Please see the USAFSOS main webpage for registration instructions (Training Line Number, etc).

19. Where can I find additional information if I have other questions?

For additional information contact us at: Commercial (850) 884-8504/1697/3204 or DSN: 579-8504/1697/3204. For more information about the Air Force Special Operations School please visit: <http://www.afsoc.af.mil/usafsos/>.