



FACT SHEET

U.S. Air Force Fact Sheet

AIR FORCE CULTURE AND LANGUAGE CENTER 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 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 supports the Air Force by developing and sustaining a tiered Expeditionary Skills Training program to ensure Airmen have the cross-cultural competence necessary to provide the nation with global vigilance, reach, and power.

Cultural processes have universal principles, such as categories of behavior and beliefs. These principles are common to all cultures. Cultural processes also have 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 and then provides culture-specific instruction. The AFCLC develops and sustains Airmen's cross-cultural competence by providing Tier 2 Expeditionary Skills Training via the Advanced Distributed Learning Service, as well as through Expeditionary Culture Field Guides.

Tier 2: Expeditionary Skills Training: Delivers culture training for Airmen 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 ADLS. Several hundred thousand Airmen have received Tier 2 training in either:

Tier 2A: Culture-general training provided through ADLS and required for all Airmen in preparation for potential deployment.

Tier 2B: Culture-specific training, usually through ADLS, required for all deployment-tasked Airmen. This training is targeted to the specific cultural dimension of their deployment location.

ECFGs: The AFCLC offers spiral-bound, pocket-size, and laminated booklets that introduce the 3C knowledge necessary to operate in any environment, and then address the unique cultural features of particular societies. These ECFGs prepare U.S. forces for deployment to culturally-complex environments and help them successfully achieve mission objectives. These guides complement other existing training media, such as classroom instruction and cultural awareness computer-based training. The fundamental information contained in the guides will help Airmen, Soldiers, Marines, and Sailors understand the decisive cultural dimension of their assigned location and gain the necessary skills to achieve desired results. Guides on a variety of countries are available for download through the AFCLC's common access card-enabled website.

For more information, see culture.af.mil, e-mail afclc.region@us.af.mil, or call 334-953-7156.