

Call for Proposals

Air University Language, Regional Expertise and Culture (AU LREC) Symposium

Maxwell Air Force Base, (Montgomery) Alabama

March 27 - 29, 2019

Dear Sir or Madam,

Take part in the 4th Annual AU LREC Symposium!

We invite you to attend the Air University Language, Regional Expertise and Culture (AU LREC) Symposium. It is a unique event that brings together LREC professionals from inside and outside the Air Force. The conference is designed for experts in the field and provides a platform for academic exchange on topics specific to culture and language education in the military.

We are also seeking presenters for the symposium. This year we will be addressing/exploring the theme of "Inter{*cultural*}operability".

Interoperability in the military context usually brings to mind the technical and procedural means for cooperating with joint and coalition partners. Cultural knowledge and skills are also an essential element of interoperability, yet they are often not emphasized in PME, military planning, and discussions of long-term strategy. Military personnel regularly face hurdles of a cultural nature when coordinating efforts at tactical, operational and strategic levels of activity. Therefore, this year's AU LREC Symposium asks participants to focus on how culture, regional expertise, and language are at the *heart* of interoperability.

We have drawn this year's theme in part from the 2018 National Defense Strategy. The document focuses on interoperability especially when it directs us to "strengthen alliances and attract new partners."¹ The pillars of this directive are to "uphold a foundation of mutual respect, responsibility, priorities, and accountability;" "expand regional consultative mechanisms and collaborative planning;" and "deepen interoperability."² In essence, the Department of Defense tells us we should work more effectively with interagency and coalition counterparts as a part of our mission to counter adversaries and deter future conflict.

So, how can we enable inter{*culturally*}operable Airmen? Presentations at this year's Symposium might address the following questions:

- How do effective communication skills reinforce partnerships and defuse tensions?
- What can we learn from our historical alliances?
- What are our regional partners doing well, and how might we apply their lessons learned?

-How is linguistic, regional and cultural knowledge integral to key areas of PME, such as leadership, strategy, planning, and international relations?

-How can the same knowledge be integrated into skill sets used during exercises and operations?

These are only some of the ways that inter{*cultural*}operability may be highlighted at the 2019 AU LREC Symposium. We invite your submissions to broaden and deepen the Air Force's understanding of this important topic!

THE LAST DATE FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS IS JANUARY 15, 2019.

You can register for the symposium beginning Dec. 1, 2018. Right now you can download the call for proposals, the abstract template, and the optional symposium PowerPoint template at this link: <http://culture.af.mil/symposium/index.html> .

We look forward to receiving your proposal. Your participation will help to make the symposium a success! If you have questions, contact us at the telephone numbers and/or email address below.

Thank you,

The Symposium Staff at the Air Force Culture and Language Center

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Footnotes:

[1] Summary of the 2018 National Defense Strategy of The United States of America, <https://www.defense.gov/Portals/1/Documents/pubs/2018-National-Defense-Strategy-Summary.pdf>, (August 7, 2018), p. 8.

[2] Ibid., p. 9.