

00:00:05,270 --> 00:00:07,048 The Air Force has announced the creation of a new Information Operations Technical training school . Air Force Basic Military Training has an updated curriculum with a new focus on readiness and lethality . The first command , the Air Force starts here . Hey everybody welcome into the Air Force starts here and thanks for the subscribe stream or download However you might be listening to today if you give us a chance to throw us a star a review , we certainly would appreciate that as well . My name is Dan Hawkins from the Air Education and Training Command public affairs team and your host for this professional development podcast dedicated to bringing Total Force Big a Airmen inside tips tricks and lessons learned from the recruiting education and training world episode number one of 2023 of the pod and it features Mr Harold Ward , he's the director of the Air Force Culture and Language Center at Air University and we had a great conversation about how language , regional expertise and culture , education enables the agile combat employment con commonly referred to as a space Mr Ward did a great job of explaining the why and how the language , regional expertise and culture helped the Air Force execute integrated deterrence in line with Air Force Chief of Staff General Charles Q . Brown Junior's accelerate change or lose strategy as well as how the leap program , which stands for the language enabled airman program fits into that philosophy . We also spent some time discussing development of the leap scholars as well as some of the real world examples coming out of Afghanistan Ukraine that highlight the importance of language and cultural understanding and combined operations around the world . You also don't want to miss when we talk about the re release of the Air Force culture and Language centers , signature culture guide app and how the center is providing education at enterprise scale and velocity in line with our A . E . T . C . Commander . Lieutenant General brian Robinson's priority of incorporating digital age technology across the command to enable learning anywhere anytime . So let's talk Ellrich as an ace enabler . Episode 65 of the Air Force starts here , launches right now . So mr Ward , tell us a little bit about yourself dan , thanks for having me here today . And my name is Howard Ward , I'm director of the Air Force Culture and Language Center here at Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base and we have an incredible mission . Our mission is partner interoperability and adversary understanding through language region and culture education . You know , General Brown has charged us to be a force that's integrated by design with partners and allies and there's no better place than A E . T . C . First command to really start making that happen . So I'm looking forward to having a chat with you today about what we do in language region and culture And really your guys mission , even though you were founded , I say all the way back in 2006 but still you guys are approaching 20 years . But the cross cultural competence that your organization brings uh really vital in today's strategic competitive environment ties to General Brown's integrated by design , you maybe just give just a broad brush for those who may not understand what the Air Force Culture and Language Center does , how you fit into that from a culture and language perspective . Certainly uh in today's environment , our strategy is integrated deterrence . And if you look at the National Defense Strategy , all phases of that , from planning to campaigning to force development , it's all predicated on being totally integrated as a seamless team , not two groups but a seamless team with our partners and allies . And there's no pathway to get to that without a force that has skills and language region and culture and that's what we do here at the Air Force Culture and Language Center . The first you know thing that I'll tell you about is our language program called the Language enabled Airman program or leap as I refer to it the rest of that

because we know here in the Air Force , if you can't make an acronym out of it , it's not worth having . So we have a really good one for that program . Uh leap is a language development and sustainment program . It's for Airmen that have some existing level of language skills but they need opportunity and structure as we like to say whether willing and able can find opportunity and structure to be able to develop sustain and professionalize their Language skills so that they're on the bench ready for utilization whenever the needs of uh Air Force needs them for some contingency around the world . It's a career spanning learning model . You come into our program and we continue to work with you for the duration of your career to make sure that you're ready to come off the bench and and and do missions for the Air Force in region and culture . Uh There are lots of different things that we do . We have a wonderful academic faculty here , all phds highly regarded within their academic specialties that teach at the graduate level at our work college at Air Command and Staff College . They're also teaching at Squadron Officer School uh in international Officer School uh through enlisted P . M . E . Uh We have courses that we produce for the community college of the Air Force . We're very proud of those cross cultural communication and introduction to culture that our associate level courses and we'll be unveiling a new course uh since you're a special friend of ours . well , are you a sneak peek at something that's coming up in the fall ? It's a new course called uh cultural domains and it's a comparative study of american culture with Russian culture and chinese culture , Direct Response to action order charlie , where General Brown told us that we have to know our adversaries and their ways of war to include their culture and language is so we're infusing that into the associate level uh education as well . Uh we also do senior level uh immersion that are very , very tailored and specific for general officers and command chiefs that are going to certain overseas assignments where they're gonna be working very closely at the senior political military and either tribal or civic levels so that they can expect success in their first key leader engagement . And we have a wonderful uh that we have developed is without to say put the global classroom in every airman's pocket that has our field guides courseware uh culture content that I hope we get a chance to talk a lot more about today . You know , you talked about General Brown and his accelerate change or whose strategy and high end readiness for competition against our strategic competitors like Russia and china . Obviously china being the number one pacing challenge so important . And you talked about the leap program . So how do you see leap scholars with the training that they get um through language and culture ? How do you see that tying to a really big word that we hear in our Air Force today . Agile Combat employment . So it's a great question . Let's uh , start with a definitive statement . El rec language , region and culture . Language , religion and culture is an ace and neighborhood . The strategy is called integrated deterrence . The air forces operating concept to fulfill that strategy is called Agile combat employment or Ace . And as we look to ace doctrine , there's four key areas where you can look not only at leap but culture , general skills that all airmen need . Uh in order to be able to be successful under the ace construct . The first one . It's clear from the literature that ace is predicated on integration with host nation assets , not just technology and platforms , but at the people level . If we're gonna be one seamless team , we have to be able to understand the world through the eyes of our partners to be able to work with them to do it to be totally integrated . Those are skills that we have to have that we rehearse during exercises to be credible . That is the first peg in the tent in Ace's doctrine . Air Force doctrine note 1-21 . Uh If folks want to go back and read

it and take a look at it and see integration with host nation assets is a starting point now , who's going to do the work of that integration and doctrine . They're called multi capable airmen . And typically you hear that discussion centered around being able to do more than one Air Force Air Force specialty code A FSC now there , but there's something that goes beyond that . It's one thing to be able to do that with the U . S . Air Force . It's another thing to be able to do that with the Air force or the civilian population of who's going to be hosting us at our contingency locations to do that . We have to have culture and language skills to do that . And I hope a lot of folks that are listening today and I know you have a large audience here and I'm excited uh you know to talk about how we start to incorporate culture and language more into the multi capable airman , you know tool set because we really don't grow our capability and our agility by being able to do those things . Only with the U . S . Air Force , multi capable airmen have to work with their counterparts to be able to get the the operational effect that we're looking for . Now if we answer the mail on integration and multi capable airmen with culture and language skills , there's two operational effects that we can really achieve . The first is tempo . It's very clear that Ace is meant for us to to to go fast to either do some problem prevention or capitalize on opportunities as the case may be . But it's clear at tempo there's a speed organizations can operate out when they are able to communicate and connect effectively with their with their teammates . There's a speed much slower than that when you can't connect and communicate effectively with your your teammates . Culture and language skills are essential to getting the operational tempo that we want where we're dictating circumstances to an adversary rather than being reactive out their culture and language skills are vital to that . And then lastly in shaping adversary perceptions . Remember the strategy is called integrated deterrence and an effective deterrent has to have three things capability , credibility and willingness . So if we're totally integrated with the host nation , multi capable airmen are building an effective team and demonstrating to exercises over a period of time that we're a very credible force and we're willing to go out and work together . Uh it's going to affect the decision making calculus and that is really , really important that we deter and adversaries uh start to rethink the value of kinetic operations to be able to achieve some national objectives that they want . So those are the four key areas that uh that language region and culture skills are going to be vital . And personally , I don't think we get as much out of the concept as we would with the investment in language region and culture skills starting at 80 C , wow , I mean it's just a lot to unpack there . And and so I kind of got me curious thinking aboutlike , you know , we're talking about what it does for us , how do we , how do we get to that point where we have personnel uh in this program who are trained and ready to go out and execute this mission that you talk about Dan the bench for leap is over 3500 members with in 95 different languages . So we are constantly preparing folks at the at the tactical level , we go far beyond just traditional language development and you know blunt . We don't have lied just so someone can have a better lunch experience with someone from another nation . We are training up military professionals to use their culture and language skills with other military professionals in an operating environment so that we can work as one seamless , you know , team at the tactical level . We have courses where we infuse doctrine , systems , tactics into their vocabulary , lots of different , you know , types of you know things if you let's just say for instance you picked up your your language skills because your your your family or even you grew up in another country , you picked up some skills that way . Typical conversation over the dinner table

doesn't involve terms like target tracking , radar , pulse repetition frequency fragmentary warhead , fuel Bowser's uh think things like that and you have to understand how to speak those things in an operating environment to do that . That's the really the value of the leap curriculum is professionalizing the skills , but then infusing the technical vocabulary into it so that those skills are fit for operations and we have a number of different courses uh that we do that . Uh and then the second part of that is that it serves no purpose to do that . If the Air Force can't see that talent and then call it up for utilization . We've done a lot of work to ensure that every single thing that we do , every course , every immersion , every event goes into the Air Force system of record . It's in mill pds where career field managers can look at it and find it . So let's say you need to send a fuel specialist to one of the ace lead wings and that lead wing is going to have a habitual training relationship with , you know , fill in the blank country in the end up a com A . O . R . You can see that talent in mill pds match that with the technical specialty , send it to that base if it's just short term for an exercise . Uh There's a number of different ways that that talent can be accessed but that's how we go about the preparation out there , there's a tactical aspect of it and then what we do with data to make sure that the Air Force can see it and do true talent management in matching the right chairman of the right skills to the right mission . And it seems like just from what I read , you guys are able to do this now , even within the new Air Force construct of africa gin . Yes , absolutely . Uh you know with our app we have course where that our requirements in the prepare phase of origin , our flagship uh course developing cultural competence uh is a requirement uh and then are regionally focused courses are in a basket of other courses uh that can be taken to to complete the requirements for doing that . So really really happy that starting with first command recognizing how foundational that culture , general skills are in the deployed environment and are pulling that into the prepare phase so that all airmen get exposure to the principles of of culture , perspective taking so that they're prepared and equipped uh as A . T . C . Always does to have airmen ready to perform uh exceptionally when they get downrange and working with partners . So we we I mean we've talked now a little bit about the why a little bit about maybe the how how it all kind of comes together . But you know how vital now once you get through that , why and how phase um is the actual capabilities that they provide to the mission ? How does that play out on that international stage uh in multi capable airman thought process . How can you give us some maybe real world examples of of how leap scholars have really impacted international missions ? Sure , let me just uh I'm gonna start kind of generically and then I'll share a couple of vignettes uh with you . The importance that particularly the members of lead because they speak the language bring to them can't be understated relationships are key . You have to interact with people to be able to establish relationships because the relationships lead to decisions like you may base here , you may use our airspace . We will actually uh you know become interoperable with you in our platforms and we will actually go fight with you to do those things . These , these things that is I like to say left of go that have everything to do with what happens right of go are essential now in our system . We know that in building a relationship familiarity is important , but but airman Pcs , They leave and they turn over and it's just not practical that the same faces for 10 , 15 years can be going to a certain location . Uh and folks from the host nation get to know them . But that's where language and culture skills come in and particularly , uh , you know , language with the leap is a sense of familiarity that even though the faces may change , the expectations

remain constant and there's a relationship so that let's say when if I've been there for a couple of years , you know , in and out doing an exercise and then you come in and replace me because you speak the language , you understand the people there is that sense of familiarity that keeps building that relationship strong so that we get so that decision making is firm . Uh because decision making is still how we win wars out there is by making decisions faster and more effectively than an adversary and winning between the ears has everything to do with winning on the battlefield . So that's what the language and culture skills are doing on the world stage , just a couple . Let me share a story of uh it was , it's not now captain , but then Lieutenant Lorraine uh guilty Uh and an Intel officer at that time , she was assigned uh to one of the houses . I think the 18th esos down at Pope Army airfield in her squadron was tasked to go participate in a conference down in Central America where every air chief from central and South America was there . And the topic that her unit was tasked to talk about was an unclassified command and control system . Her commander because he was involved in her elite development knew that he didn't need to go find an interpreter or anything to do that . That because of the skills that she had developed from kind of like a high intermediate level to a to a fluent level with us within this unit already had the right person to go do that . And there's a great uh you know , story that when uh then Lauren Lieutenant guilty got up on the stage , there was a interpretation going on what's called simultaneous interpretation . Where there's someone in real time doing interpretation folks , we have ear pieces in listening . But when Lieutenant Kielty got up on the stage to start talking about this , every single ear piece in the room came out , went down on the table . And at that moment , every air chief in central and South America connected directly to an american airman . You can't ai that . There's no way you machine trans translate that . Uh to show how much we value the partnership and the relationships by having an american airman speak to it . Remember this quote that the President Nelson Mandela once you know said speak to someone in a language they understand it goes to their head , speak to someone in their own language , it goes to their heart . This that that's just that is an example of uh of how we win the long game there , you know , so many other great uh you know , stories that we can share just recently from Ukraine , you know , Afghanistan . Even just recently in the an exercise in the in the Philippines . Three airmen were working with the Marine Corps who were exercising with the Philippine uh Marine Corps on there . It's kind of the Marine Air Corps equivalent of the Marine Corps is equivalent of a space a concept that they're working on . And they asked us for some help to to Gaelic speakers and the relationships that are tagalog speakers . Uh we're able to build with the Philippine Marine Corps which allowed such a nice fluid uh transfer of communication in terms of performance , feedback and improving performance during that exercise . The brigade commander uh One start from the Philippine Marine Court . His quote was , I've been doing this exercise for 34 years . This is the first time the Americans have brought linguist . I can't imagine doing this without it again having them here raised all of our levels of performance To do that . The language and the culture allowed them to do some things that that that that this general hadn't seen in 34 exercise . Those are just a couple of examples and uh and and many , many more of how uh language and they would airmen are doing incredible things on the world stage . And you really made such an excellent point . If you think about when you travel or you know , I think back your story made me think back to my days in Turkey when I was a security forces airmen and I worked um in the nuclear enterprise on a Turkish air force base uh and ar 15 and five minute response

capability was actually this air force members and the pride they were take when you communicate language to communicate , you know , the directions and orders . Like it just went a long way . So what you're saying totally makes sense . And you know , you apply that to a bigger scale and the interoperability of our our armed forces with other nations and our partners and allies really makes a big deal . Um and earlier I was go back to something you briefly mentioned . Um you kind of re released your signature culture guide app . So can you um tell us about some of the new additions , new courses . You briefly handed it at some upcoming content but um you've also talked about it as enterprise uh at scale and velocity . So at the enterprise level . So tell us about the act when General Brown issued the action orders and we looked at the expectations from Action order Alpha of developing cultural competence as one of the core competencies of airmen and the expectations of Action order charlie of understanding our adversaries and also understanding our friends as well . And and by the way , pushed the throttles up to mil power and do it really , really quickly accelerate change or lose . We didn't think that we could get the scale and the velocity across the enterprise that General Brown wanted us to get in those action orders with traditional delivery methods . Now we've always had an app uh here uh at a F C . L . C . That's been a repository for our culture . Near field guides . We've produced 76 of them now and we continue to add uh more and more every year . But we thought , you know , this tool that we've got , we can do an awful lot more with it . So we uh we went to work building out the infrastructure so that we could deliver official Air Force courseware through our app because accessibility is one of the problems that we deal with every airman and and and the Security forces member . You know this extremely well , you didn't work in front of a workstation all day long where you had access , you know , to a computer . Many Airmen are still like that . Our Total Force Airmen that are traditional guardsman or reservist , uh you know , only , you know , their drill weekends , they don't have constant access , but how do we provide education , you know , to them and make it accessible in uh in real time . So we uh we we developed our courses , their official Air Force courses , course numbers , course descriptions , there is there waiting for you and Bill PDS where the Air Force can account for completion of all of them and you can complete them right on our app . You go through the course . If you can take the knowledge checks , you can get a completion certificate , then get the share button from your phone and go right to your training manager and uh and get the completion uh you know , logged , we've also built an on demand video content library that is really growing , you know , quickly with uh content for all of our different combatant commands and some , you know , generically focused as well . And I would encourage everybody to just , you know , take the app and start looking at that video content . So when you're ready to learn the global classroom is in your pocket , we're ready to teach it any time you're ready to learn uh you know through the app . And I think I've got a great story for you about how we uh I think we could say to the General Brown , we did it when it comes to scale in velocity . Uh you mentioned Afghanistan , uh when that withdrawal , uh , you know happened and lots of people were trying to leave the country and locations around the world , found out that they were going to be having a lot of guests , you know , drop in . We started getting calls like Howard we know how to do pretty much everything that we need to do except how to connect and communicate . What you know , can we we do well besides connecting them to leap scholars . Uh you know , it just simply wasn't possible possible to put enough pashto and Dari or Farsi speakers in place to handle everybody . But what we told them was to take your phone out of your

pocket . Uh if our apps are not already there , shame on you , get it on , get it on your , your phone right now and open up the Afghanistan field guide , learn as much as you can as fast as you can in three specific areas , family and kinship , everybody that's gonna be involved and helping folks get off the airplane and into a facility for processing needs to understand how important it is to keep family members uh together when you're getting them off the airplane , we even have members of leap through pocket cards uh , to send out around the world . So the folks that didn't speak any of the language could just read off the card , hold up fingers for how many people in your family . Uh , so that they could try to account for them . And then they left the airplane . We told them to learn as much as they could as fast as they could about gender roles . Because there's different ways that we see gender between the cultures and within that family group . Who do you talk to ? Uh , who would you get female airmen uh , to speak to within that family group to be able to do that ? And then lastly , learn as much as you can about health food and sustenance . Remember the folks that are getting off those airplanes , everything they knew and understood about life changed in a single day . And in your goal of keeping some level of stability in order to this is going to be a function of how much familiarity that you can show them if you at least have something for them to eat that's compatible with the dietary restrictions uh , of , of islam , then you're probably going to have enough familiarity to help maintain order . So if you learn as much as you can about those three things , uh , you know , then you're probably gonna live to get a 2nd 24 hours where you can start to learn a lot more of the nuanced things and to our knowledge . There's not been an adverse story come out in the news that had to do with culture and language uh , that uh , withdrawal . And , and we gave similar advice when Ukraine . Uh , you know , happened as well . And not just for uh , refugees from Ukraine , but folks working with our partners in Poland Romania Hungary Bulgaria around the world to be able to do that . The world just moves too quickly for traditional methods out there . We we couldn't have mailed booklets around the world fast enough to deal with this . We couldn't have conducted enough zoom sessions simultaneously in different time zones around the world . And we certainly couldn't have gotten on airplanes to get around and do in person . Uh , you know , sessions uh , like that's when when General Brown said accelerate change , he meant in the education business as well . And this is just a great example of how , you know , a E . T . C . Uh , using the education mission to impact real world operations and get a successful outcome from it ? We're really proud of that story . Thank thank you for asking . Well , I I know one of General Talese's priorities at Air University is to elevate the learning experience . And of course , General Robinson's priority of , you know , incorporating digital age technology across the command to include being able to access learning as you mentioned anywhere anytime , any device . Um , all that fits right right square into our senior leader priorities . And really so important to us being accomplished . The Air Force mission . I was curious you brought up our use of the app . Are there examples of any of our partners and allies using this app to their benefit . Well dan uh we're starting with a T . C . Uh we're really proud that A . T . C . Pulled our course where uh into the a fortune model . That's a huge statement about the importance of culture and language and working with our partners of general purpose force that's Conus based with a global mission has to have the skills and we are orders of magnitude more prepared uh to do that . And thanks to uh you know , A . T . C . Uh for bringing that in , you know , leave it to Air Force Senior N . C . O . S to be on the cutting edge of everything out there to include P . M . E . Are our friends at

the barn center that does all enlisted P . M . E . For the Air Force has incorporated our app and uh are are china and Russia courses as official requirements uh into completing both N . C . O . Academy and Airman Leadership School . And we and we hope something Slimmer will be happening in Senior N . C . O . Academy uh at some point but we're really really proud that we're reaching uh the enlisted leaders of the future to develop that global mindset of understanding our adversaries and our friends . I'd like to point out , I think since Sue was two thirds correct when he when he talked about the importance of knowing the enemy in yourself , left out Friends , everything from street our strategy of integrated deterrence to agile combat employment says we must work effectively with our friends . So we have to spend as much time making sure that we know our friends as much as we do ourselves and our enemies and uh leave it to our , our incredible N . C . O . S in the air force to figure that out . And if you don't think that's important , have an N . C . O . S that think that way , take a look at Ukraine and see what's happening with the Russian army uh , right now in the condition of their enlisted force versus in the best military in the world where we value and treasure educated and empowered uh , N . C . O . S that can lead out in the field , you know , to do that . Those are just a couple of examples and there are so many others that are in the exploratory phase looking at us . I hope you'll call me back a year from now and I think we'll take your whole podcast just answering that one question about who else is on board uh whether because others are seeing the value , not just of the content , but being able to deliver it in such a reliable , accessible manner through the phone . And today's airmen are very comfortable and learning over their phone . It's just not just watching them just learning and interacting uh , with mobile devices to be able to genuinely learn that way . We can learn a lot . We can learn fast with this platform . All right . I want to have just a little bit of fun here too . Before we go , I want to put you on the hot seat . So I'm gonna ask you a couple questions , especially regarding the app . Uh what is uh the one or two classes that are on the app right now that every airman in the Air force , regardless of a F . C . In your opinion , should take . I would start with our developing cultural competence of course , the flagship courses , the Foundation , no matter where you're going in the world , this that course , it's not specific to any region , but it's about what what culture is part of the different attributes of it ? How does culture change over time ? How do you develop the skills of perspective taking and learning to ask the right questions to not go if I were you , but to simply see the world through your eyes so that we can work together uh more effectively and gain tempo and cohesiveness uh in military operations , that's absolutely the place uh to start uh from there uh in keeping up with the the action . Orders from General Brown , I would encourage folks to take our introduction to chinese culture or introduction uh to Russian culture , you know , of course to start learning about our adversaries and the way they think we like to uh you know sometimes say that uh culture is the os of humans , it's what drives decision making . So if you want to be able to work at a speed inside the decision loop of adversaries , you understand not just what they think , but why they think that way to gain velocity inside that decision loop and culture is the way just like with your computer , if you want to know how it's going to operate , you need to know the Os for it . So if you want to know how people are gonna make decisions , you need to understand uh you know the culture , but I would also say that if you're coming out of the first command and your first assignment is going to be the japan , uh I would go take the introduction to japanese culture of course , so that you can be a lot



more familiar about uh the environment that you're going to be living with you and your family as well . Or if you're going to pcs to Korea introduction to uh Korea culture of course uh as well . So that's you know how I would guide someone and trying to pick which courses to take first . So in second to last question , I want to know out of all the courses that you've taken , whether within the app or at the school , what is the single , not single biggest , but maybe the most surprising thing you learned about culture that in a million years you may not have ever learned if you weren't taking all these courses dan . This is my answer might be a little bit strange for you , but I think that the more I learn about other cultures , the more I learned is that we have a lot in common with people around the world . Every time I a new course , a new video and learn , you know , you know , something more that uh I learned that that people are people and we have uh a lot more things in common than we do separating us and we should find comfort in that when our strategy is integrated , deterrence and our our Operating concept to do that has everything to do with integration with host nation . Uh assets are 12 domains of culture , teaching model . That's how our field guides for the countries are organized and it's just a way of bending different attributes that are common to every culture in the world , like we talked about in the Afghanistan Guide . Uh you know from there and I when I get a chance to talk to people , I tell them that the 12 domains of culture , it's either a way to find differences or it's a way to find commonalities . It depends on what you're you're you're looking for . I mean , I love striking up conversations . My favorite domain of culture is food . You might imagine . So when I'm meeting someone from another culture , tell me about your food , I guarantee you they're gonna tell me about something that I like . And it gives me a chance then it finds the , you know , commonality is that we find we find strength through unity and commonality . We find incredible breadth in our diversity to do that both are incredibly important . So understanding what we have in common and then learning how we we capitalize and become stronger through the differences is really important . So , um , that's the one simple thing that I learned that's comin through everything else is that we really have a lot in common with people around the world . If we take the time to look for it . And it's important that we do that uh , when integration so closely with our partners and allies is the key to operational success , I was trying to think what what famous person said , an army travels on its stomach . We're all , I think every army or air force in the world is probably common in that regard . Right ? So I know General Patton said that whether he originated or not , but I've heard that attributed to general , uh , you know , Patton and uh , and from first hand experience , I think they're an air force travel flies on his stomach as well . Absolutely . And so last question , um , you know , I know there's a ton of resources , a ton of information . But what's the best way if somebody wants to find out either more information about the Air force culture and language center or about the app or just what you do in general . Uh , what what's the best place for them to go , I would send them to our our website . Uh , If you just go to your your favorite search engine and type in A . F . C . L . C . Will be the first thing that comes up where you can learn about our language programs . Uh either how to you know , try to access the talent or uh if you meet the requirements to apply to come apply in and and be a scholar uh and and leap uh and develop your language skills for utilization . You can learn about all of our different academic programs , about all the content that we put out for on demand . Uh you know , consumption and many many other things as well . And of course I would send them to the app if you go to our uh to either the app store or google play type in A . F . C

. L . C . Where the first thing that comes up the app is P . K . I certificated so it's cleared for government devices and you'll find it in the app store for any government issue uh device . And I would send them there immediately to start , you know , learning more and getting access to all of our great content so that you can learn anytime that you're ready to learn . Awesome . Well , hey sir , I really thank you for your time today . This is very enlightening and and uh I need to go download that app . Yeah . You sure you sure do . And uh I appreciate the chance to talk with , you know , if I could just a final thought as we're wrapping up uh there's something that I wish more people knew about us and that is really the accessibility of of talent from the language enabled airman program . It's all there in the system of record uh where it can be consumed and that you know , I wish that more people knew that as they were sourcing talent for missions uh that they would uh go and find that talent and use it more because we develop it for the specific purpose of utilization , you know , and it's even important right here in uh in A . T . C . For for every american airman , A . T . C . Is first command , but A . T . C . Is also first command for many of our international partners as well . In in many of our bases in A . T . C . We're training international partners . So having folks that are skilled in culture and language of our partners that are coming through for training are absolutely invaluable in the system of record . You can find what's there in the bass population that we've trained up for you to use , you can interact with our website to find a way to access it . And if that relationship is habitual and ongoing , you're gonna be training airmen from country X . Every year , go source those instructors from leap so that you can make that that connection and not have the training diminished because we're not able to connect and communicate uh uh effectively . And I would also uh you like to put in a plug that often the language and culture skills are considered soft power . And sometimes there's a connotation that goes with that that it's that it's nice to have but not essential to have . I hope I've made the case with you today that everything that has to do with the viability of a space as a concept uh culture and language skills are an important part of it and anything that contributes to generating airpower for the unit , it can't be considered , you know , a nice to have . Uh It is a must have and I would say that uh you know thanks for the opportunity today and more people can hear that we're taking risk in the concept without valuing and incorporating culture and language skills uh into that concept , it's far more than soft power . The relationships are important and we build those . But if those relationships are important to be able to employ airpower in an A . R . It's it's not it's not soft , it's essential . And thank you for the opportunity to tell that story today and how A . T . C . And Air University are such a relevant part of uh of of our strategy and a very fast moving world as general Robinson says we're building the airman advantage and strategic competition and obviously you know the language and culture skills that that the uh your center provides very valuable . So again thank you for your time today . Thank you as well . Danced privilege . Just a ton to unpack there for Mr Ward . So we really appreciate him coming on to talk about how the Air Force culture and Language Center is helping prepare airmen for operations and agile combat employment environments and thought his comments on being most surprised that countries often have more commonalities than differences . Was very enlightening at the end of the interview when we talked about what's most after being at the center for so long . So really great conversation and we appreciate it as a reminder you can follow air education and training command and our commander . Lieutenant General brian Robinson on social media E T . C . Is on facebook twitter and instagram while

you can find Lieutenant General Robinson on twitter at E T . C . Underscore commander for 24 7 news and notes . You can find us on the web as well . We're at www dot A E T C dot am dot mil . Thanks for checking out the podcast as we dive into the world of recruiting , training and education for entire A E . T . C public affairs team . I'm dan Hawkins so long . We'll talk to you next time on the Air Force starts here