



COMMANDER'S CALL TOPICS

NOTE: This product has embedded hyperlinks and is best viewed online.

5 - 9 February 2018

Priority Topic of the Week Developing International Airmen

Security Cooperation as a US Air Force Priority

One of the Air Force's top priorities outlined by the secretary of the Air Force, chief of staff of the Air Force and chief master sergeant of the Air Force, is "strengthening alliances...because we are stronger together." We accomplish this through our Security Cooperation activities which enable us to build relationships with international partners, and help them build airpower capabilities and capacity. These efforts are central to our national defense strategy and the strength of the nation.

International Partnerships Need International Airmen

International Airmen are the foundation of the Air Force's military-to-military partnerships. We rely on Airmen—officers, enlisted, and civilians—with language skills, cultural awareness, and keen political-military understanding to build relationships and represent the Air Force to international partners. They serve in a variety of roles and positions around the globe.

Become a Part of Security Cooperation Efforts

There are many opportunities to get engaged with the Air Force's Security Cooperation efforts. For more information on these opportunities, visit the Air Force International Affairs website (<http://www.safia.hq.af.mil/>) or contact us [here](#).

Officer Opportunities

- The [International Affairs Specialist program](#) selects, trains, and assigns officers with international affairs expertise, while keeping them viable and competitive in their primary AFSC. Selected officers undertake intensive language training, graduate studies, and in-region training before becoming certified foreign area officers. For Airmen who complete developmental education abroad, this secondary AFSC also manages the career development of political-military affairs strategists.
- The Military Personnel Exchange Program provides opportunities for officers to participate in personnel exchanges with over 30 air forces around the world.
- Officers also represent the US Air Force and the United States as [Defense and Air Attachés](#) at US Embassies around the world, as well as [Security Cooperation Officers](#) that engage directly with international partners.

Enlisted Opportunities

- Enlisted International Airmen serve throughout the Air Force in a variety of roles, including as air advisors with mobility support advisory squadrons, instructors at schools like the Inter-American Air Forces Academy and the Inter-European Air Forces Academy, combat aviation advisors, and as Air Attaché and Security Cooperation Office support at U.S. Embassies.
- Air Force international enlisted engagement managers assist combatant commands in establishing and promoting mutual trust and respect between global air forces. Enlisted engagement helps other air forces understand the value of a professionalized enlisted force.

Civilian Opportunities with the International Affairs Career Field

- Civilians in the [International Affairs Career Field](#) provide specialized knowledge and skills required to execute international affairs programs. They possess the education, training, and assignment experiences to meet security cooperation mission requirements.



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Develop the Skills and Capabilities Needed For Security Cooperation

The Security Cooperation mission requires international Airmen with the skills and capabilities that are critical to strengthening alliances and partnerships.

Foreign Language Skills

- Airmen should consider learning a foreign language by utilizing resources available, including free online training offered to US Government employees by the [Joint Language University](#). Airmen can also participate in the [Language Enabled Airman Program](#) to enhance their language capabilities.
- Airmen should also take the [Defense Language Proficiency Test](#) to see if they are eligible for the [Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus](#). The US Air Force tracks Airmen with language skills and those with qualifying DLPT scores can be eligible for bonuses, additional training, and career broadening opportunities.

Regional and Cultural Expertise

- Airmen should also acquire regional and cultural expertise, and leverage resources like the [Air Force Culture and Language Center's](#) courses and field guides.
- Total Force Airmen who already possess regional experience can pursue the awarding of [Special Experience Identifiers \(SEIs\)](#) to be identified with expertise in a specific region of the world. Once awarded, Airmen are easily identifiable to planners and others with access to the Air Force system of record (MilPDS) as having expertise in a specific region.

International Affairs Certification Program

- The [IACP program](#) provides opportunities for International Airmen to obtain security cooperation training, education and professional certification, demonstrating their expertise and experience in strengthening partnerships and relationships.

Bottom Line

- As the Air Force continues our security cooperation efforts to strengthen our partnerships and alliances, all Airmen should prepare themselves for this mission, and seek opportunities to participate.

Additional Information

Visit the [SAF/IA website](#) for more information on international career opportunities.

Personnel Topics of Interest

- Air Force releases results of CY17D Central Selection Board ([AF.MIL](#))
- 2018 AFSA Pitsenbarger Award nominations sought ([AF.MIL](#))

Other Topics of Interest

- Air Force announces Spark Tank Finalists ([AF.MIL](#))
- Modernized Move.mil website launched ([AF.MIL](#))

Commander's Call Topic Archive: <http://www.af.mil/AboutUs/CommandersCallTopics.aspx>

Commander's Call Topics is published weekly by SAF/PA to ensure leaders at all levels remain current on issues concerning Airmen and families. Requests for information to be included in future editions should be sent to SAF/PAX via [email](#).

Submissions should include:

- 1) 1-2 sentence synopsis of the issue
- 2) hyperlink to further details
- 3) a POC name and contact information.

*Only submissions that pertaining to the majority of Airmen or specifically to command leadership teams will be considered. Local or limited-interest items will not be included.