

**BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY
OF THE AIR FORCE**

AIR FORCE INSTRUCTION 16-108



**7 MAY 2019
Certified Current, 16 March 2023
Operations Support**

**MANAGING THE AVIATION
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

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RELEASABILITY: There are no releasability restrictions on this publication

OPR: SAF/IAPX

Certified by: SAF/IAP
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Supersedes: AFI16-108, 17 August 2015

Pages: 8

This instruction implements Air Force Policy Directive 16-1, *Security Cooperation*, and Headquarters Air Force (HAF) Mission Directive (MD) 1-16, *Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force International Affairs*. It defines the scope of the Aviation Leadership Program (ALP) and provides guidance for managing and administering the ALP. This instruction does not apply to the Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard. This AFI may be supplemented but all supplements must be routed to SAF/IAPX for coordination prior to certification and approval. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the Office of Primary Responsibility using the AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*; route AF Form 847s from the field through Major Command (MAJCOM) international affairs or security assistance offices. The authorities to waive wing/unit level requirements in this publication are identified with a Tier (“T-0, T-1, T-2, T-3”) number following the compliance statement. See AFI 33-360, *Publications and Forms Management*, Table 1.1 for a description of the authorities associated with the Tier numbers. Submit requests for waivers through the chain of command to the appropriate Tier waiver approval authority, or alternately, to the Publication OPR for non-tiered compliance items.

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SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This publication is updated to reference DODI 2010.12. Major changes include the addition of AETC/IA responsibilities concerning the ALP, SAF/IA signed ALP invitations, and reference to SAF/IA led ALP prioritization procedures.

1. Purpose. This instruction provides guidance concerning the United States Air Force (USAF) Aviation Leadership Program.

2. Program Definition. The ALP is an Air Force funded undergraduate pilot training scholarship program for students from friendly, developing countries.

3. Overarching Program Goal. Provide US pilot training to friendly foreign nations in order to further interests of the United States, promote closer relations with such nations, and advance US national security.

4. Eligible Foreign Nations. Title 10, United States Code, Section 348, establishes the ALP and allows the Secretary of the Air Force to make it available to ‘personnel of the air forces of friendly, developing foreign countries.

5. Program Scope. The ALP consists of:

5.1. **Language training.** English language training at the Defense Language Institute English Language Center (DLIELC).

5.2. **Undergraduate pilot training.** ALP includes a special UPT program (T-6 aircraft) and initial flight screening.

5.3. **DoD Field Studies Program (FSP).** ALP students participate in the DoD FSP—as defined in ARMY REGULATION 12-15; SECNAVINST 4950.4B; AIR FORCE INSTRUCTION 16-105, *Joint Security Cooperation Education and Training*, 3 January 2011, Chapter 11. The FSP is developed and implemented with the specific objective of promoting an understanding of US society, institutions, and ideals and the way in which these elements reflect US commitment to basic principles of internationally recognized human rights.

6. Responsibilities.

6.1. **Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force International Affairs (SAF/IA).** In accordance with HAF Mission Directive 1-16, SAF/IA is delegated authority to establish and administer the Aviation Leadership Program, under the policy oversight of the Department of Defense, in accordance with DoDI 2010.12.

6.1.1. **Security Assistance Policy International Education and Training Division (SAF/IAPX) shall:**

6.1.1.1. Act as the SAF/IA focal point for policy and program issues concerning the ALP.

6.1.1.2. Initiate an annual call to Combatant Commands (CCMD) for prioritized country nominations within their area of responsibility (AOR). In accordance with DoDI 2010.12, CCMDs coordinate AOR nominations with Air Components (CCMDs may also request Air Components provide recommendations first).

6.1.1.3. Schedule, organize and facilitate boards to determine distribution of ALP allocations.

- 6.1.1.4. Staff the documents that propose countries to the Defense Security Cooperation Agency Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA). This staffing should be done at least 30 calendar days before the desired date for offering an ALP scholarship to foreign country. The early staffing date is required to allow Department of State review/approval (e.g., ensure countries are eligible to participate).
 - 6.1.1.5. Staff board results to Chief of Staff of the Air Force for approval.
 - 6.1.1.6. Provide SAF/IA-signed formal invitations to SAF/IA Country Directors for transmittal to US in-country points of contact (i.e., Security Cooperation Organization personnel or Air Attaché at the in-country US embassy).
 - 6.1.1.7. Notify Air Education Training Command International Affairs (AETC/IA) and Combatant Commands of Chief of Staff of the Air Force-approved allocations.
 - 6.1.1.8. Staff ALP agreements (coordinated with SAF/GCI) to SAF/IAP for signature.
- 6.1.2. SAF/IA Regional Divisions will:**
- 6.1.2.1. Provide country recommendations (with rationale and/or justification) for the ALP prior to, or during, scheduled prioritization boards.
 - 6.1.2.2. Participate in boards to determine ALP allocations.
 - 6.1.2.3. Assist SAF/IAPX in preparing and addressing invitation letters.
 - 6.1.2.4. Forward formal ALP invitations and agreements (if applicable) in-country to Security Cooperation Organization or Attaché counterparts for country counter-signature.
 - 6.1.2.5. Ensure Air Component counterparts are notified of ALP invitations
 - 6.1.2.6. Provide assistance in resolving ALP-related issues as well as take chain-of-command reporting actions in accordance with AR 12-5/SECNAVINST 4950.4B/AFI 16-105 on ALP related incidents, issues, or problems concerning students within the regional division's AOR.
- 6.2. HQ Air Education and Training Command (HQ AETC) will:**
- 6.2.1. Include ALP resource requirements in its budget request.
 - 6.2.2. Provide Air Force Security Assistance Training (AFSAT) Squadron with a fund cite for student transportation costs and payment of a supplemental living allowance.
 - 6.2.3. Reimburse AFSAT Squadron for expenses incurred in providing DoD FSP activities for ALP participants from the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) account.
- 6.3. Air Education and Training Command International Affairs (AETC/IA) will:**
- 6.3.1. Serve as the AETC focal point for advising SAF/IA on ALP issues.
 - 6.3.2. Monitor AETC execution of the ALP and provide appropriate ALP guidance within AETC.

6.3.3. Coordinate on all AETC ALP issues (e.g., concerning specific ALP candidates or programmatic issues).

6.4. Air Force Security Assistance Training (AFSAT) Squadron will:

6.4.1. Administer ALP students in accordance with AFI 16-105_IP.

6.4.2. Provide ALP candidate information (e.g., bio, flying hours) to the International Military Student Officer at the ALP flying training activity. AFSAT takes action on any concerns and issues raised by the ALP flying training wing.

6.4.3. Monitor ALP student progress and in accordance with AFI 16-105_IP, para 10-103, ensure SAF/IA regional divisions and SAF/IAPX are notified any issues and/or problems (to include AETC/IA or AFSAT/CC recommended actions).

6.4.4. Provide information on the status of ALP students and the program when requested by SAF/IAPX or SAF/IA Country Directors.

6.4.5. Determine FSP costs incurred to support ALP students and request reimbursement from AETC/FM. (T-2).

7. ALP Selection/Nomination Methodology.

7.1. **Prioritization.** Countries nominated to receive ALP scholarships are prioritized by a board chaired by SAF/IAR in accordance with SAF/IA Operating Instruction 16-2, *International Training Prioritization Boards*, <https://cs2.eis.af.mil/sites/11815/default.aspx>. Board members include SAF/IA Regional Division representatives and AF/A5SS (Regional Strategy Cell).

7.2. Key considerations.

7.2.1. Combatant Command prioritized nominations (resulting from SAF/IAPX annual call for nominations).

7.2.2. Board inputs and recommendations (i.e., SAF/IA regional divisions, AF/A5SS).

7.2.3. Supporting considerations and rationale. Amongst eligible countries with similar engagement priorities, consider the following factors:

7.2.3.1. Strategy alignment. Current strategy to include National Defense Strategy, USAF Security Cooperation Strategy, and Combatant Commander Strategy should be considered and referenced.

7.2.3.2. Foreign air force capability to effectively use and sustain an ALP candidate (i.e., likelihood of appropriate follow-on assignments in country's air force).

7.2.3.3. Foreign air force budget. A country with sufficient cash to purchase modern aircraft systems and flying training should not be considered as a high priority for this USAF program.

7.2.3.4. Existing grant programs. A country receiving small US grant programs should have priority over larger US grant recipients.

7.2.3.5. Existing security cooperation programs. A country with which the USAF has few people-to-people programs or initiatives (training programs, Personnel Exchange Program, military-to-military contacts) should have priority over countries with which the USAF has many programs.

7.2.3.6. History of attendance. Every effort should be made to ensure distribution of ALP scholarships to maximize the engagement potential of the ALP.

7.2.3.7. Number of quotas. Unless supporting rationale or justification warrants additional quotas, only one ALP quota is allocated per country. CSAF must approve multiple quotas, and the justification provided must meet security cooperation objectives.

8. ALP Candidate Criteria. SAF/IA recommends screening boards give the following criteria top priority and advocates the following candidate selection criteria:

8.1. The ALP candidate should be one of the top graduates of the participating country's air force academy or another young officer with the potential to achieve a top leadership position in their air force. SAF/IA will consider second or third-year cadets on a case-by-case basis.

8.2. The ALP candidate must be a member of the country's air force and have a service commitment prior to participation in the ALP.

9. Program administration. ALP students are administered the same as International Military Education and Training (IMET) students in accordance with AFI 16-105_IP, except that costs for ALP students are charged to USAF appropriations.

9.1. **Medical standards.** Medical standards for flying in USAF aircraft are to be in accordance with AFI 16-105_IP with further guidance as outlined in AFI 48-123, *Medical Examinations and Standards*.

9.2. **Language training:** As stated in [para 5.1](#), the ALP includes English language training. ALP candidates must meet established language capability requirements before beginning aviation training. Language pre-requisites established by AETC are currently 85 English Comprehension Level and Oral Proficiency Interview score of 2/2.

9.3. **Per diem/billeting/food/health services.** Benefits and allowances are in accordance with AFI 16-105_IP for IMET students; however, all charges are to USAF appropriated funds. Per Title 10, United States Code, Section 348 and DoDI 2010.12, ALP students are authorized health services and are therefore not required to purchase separate healthcare insurance.

9.4. **Dependents.** ALP students are not authorized bring dependents to the US during their training period. If an ALP student brings dependents without authorization, they will be considered unauthorized dependents in accordance with AFI 16-105_IP, e.g. not authorized identification cards, exchange and commissary privileges, and medical services. In addition, IAW Deputy Security Cooperation Agency Manual 5105.38-M, if dependents are authorized at any time, they require health care insurance (verified by the in-country US Security Cooperation Office). Any failure to maintain health care coverage for dependents could result in the ALP student's immediate disenrollment from training.

9.5. **Alien Flight Student Program Endorsement.** Security Cooperation Office is responsible for providing Alien Flight Student Program endorsement through the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) web site <https://www.flightschoolcandidates.gov/dodindex.html>, prior to candidate's departure from country.

9.6. **TSA Security Screening.** ALP candidates must meet TSA security screening criteria to hold a certificate, rating or authorization prior to entry into flight training **(T-0)**.

KELLI L. SEYBOLT
Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force
International Affairs

Attachment 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

DoDI 2010.12, *Aviation Leadership Program*, 18 November 2008,
AFI 48-123, *Medical Examinations and Standards*, 5 November, 2013
AFI 16-105_IP *Joint Security Cooperation Education and Training*, 3 January 2011
AFI 33-360, *Publications and Forms Management*, 1 December 2015
AFMAN 33-363, *Management of Records*, 1 March 2008
HAF Mission Directive 1-16, *Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs*, 14 January 2015
SAF/IA Operating Instruction 16-2, *International Training Prioritization Boards*, 20 February 2009
Title 10, United States Code, Section 348

Adopted Forms

AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AFSAT—Air Force Security Assistance Training
ALP—Aviation Leadership Program
CCMD—Combatant Commands
DLIELC—Defense Language Institute English Language Center
DSCA—Defense Security Cooperation Agency
FSP—Field Studies Program
HAF—Headquarters Air Force
IAW—In accordance with
OPR—Office of Primary Responsibility
USAF—United States Air Force
US—United States