



DEF_x
EXPEDITIONARY
FELLOWSHIP



THREAT

The U.S. National Security apparatus is not optimized to solve on-the-ground problems in geopolitically restrictive near-peer environments. Current training and operational standards do not emphasize cultural intelligence, cultivation of informal networks or the adaptable mindsets required to effectively support and operate in harmony with allied partner forces.

"Informal networks and trusted relationships are critical to facilitating the social fabric for creative webs of collaboration and to empower economic stability, advise, assist, accompany and strategic support efforts in today's geopolitically constrained AOs." - **Jesse Levin, ED, Defense Entrepreneurs Forum.**

OPPORTUNITY



There is an immense opportunity to create advanced training through cross-cultural exposure for both junior national security personnel and national security adjacent civilians with international partner forces and civil society. To achieve readiness, we must enhance exposure to the tradecraft of cultural empathy, situational awareness and successful network cultivation, to enable effective interoperability, diplomacy and the likelihood of mission success in geopolitically restrictive areas of operation.

"Little capacity and few initiatives exist in terms of fostering cross-national camaraderie, especially in informal gatherings, below the FOGO level and for enlisted." - **Evanna Hu, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council**



SOLUTION

The Defense Entrepreneurs Forum and strategic partners are architecting an Expeditionary Diplomacy Fellowship (EDF) for DoD employees and adjacent national security civilians. The exchange will focus on the proactive development and cultivation of cultural empathy and informal working relationships with partner nations in areas of interest to expose our more junior national security professionals to the nuances of in situ realities inherent to areas of operation that might preclude large conventional footprints.

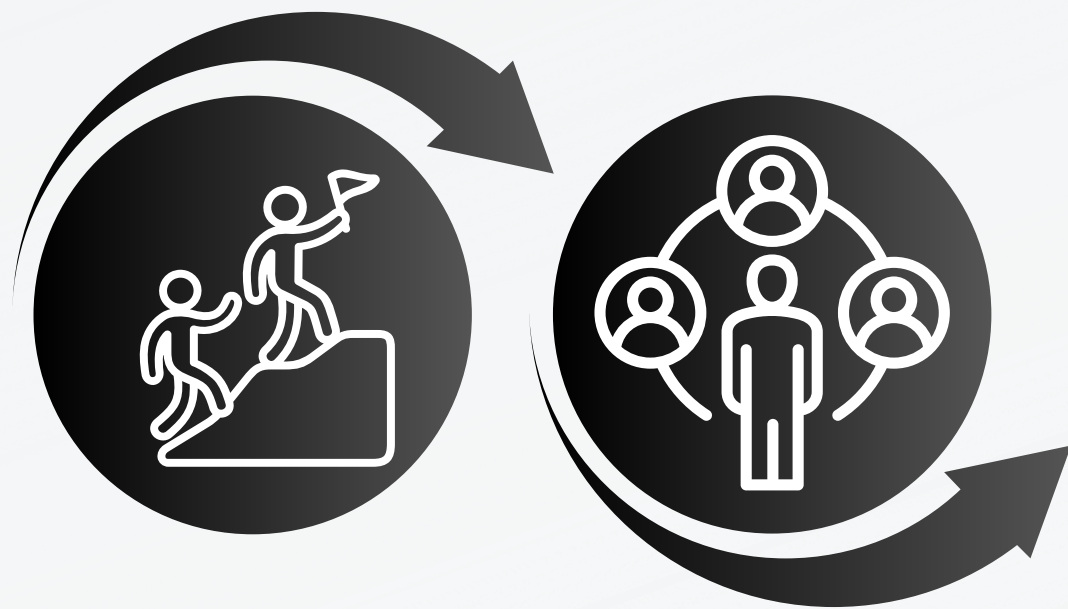


OBJECTIVE

The EDF is designed to offer training and hands-on cultural immersion to increase readiness by empowering younger national security professionals to build relationships and to establish rapport between partner forces and between civ / mil communities. This is a prerequisite to enable fluid operations that must be cultivated prior to kinetic engagements. Cross-pollination between civ / mil communities, both domestically and abroad will help participants to garner nuanced operational insights and to cultivate the unconventional resource communities required to facilitate effective and efficient interoperability and advise, assist and accompany efforts.

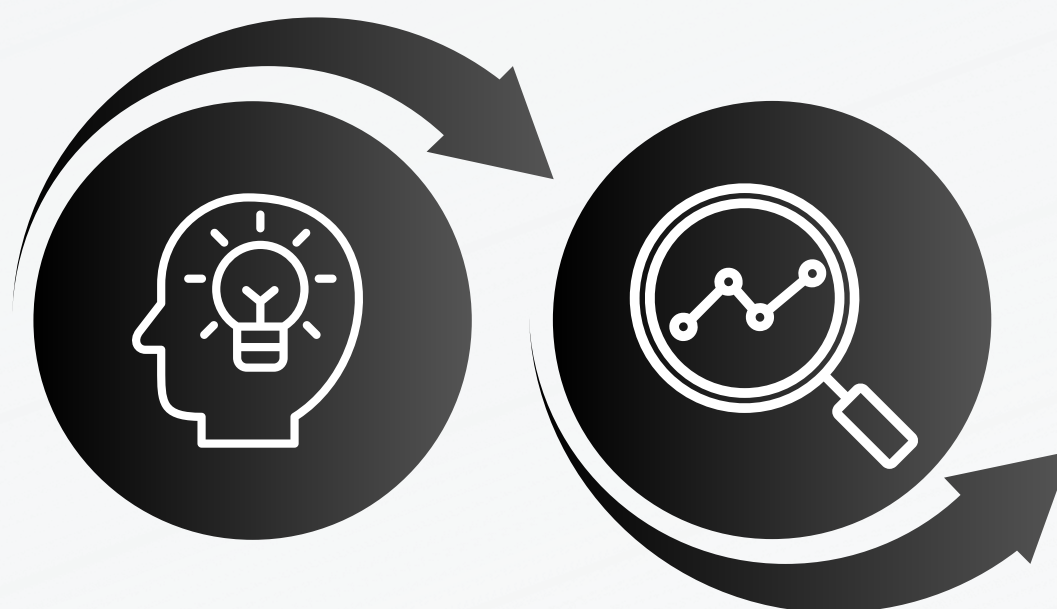
CURRICULUM TENETS

Human Terrain
Development (Storytelling,
Network Development
and Mining)



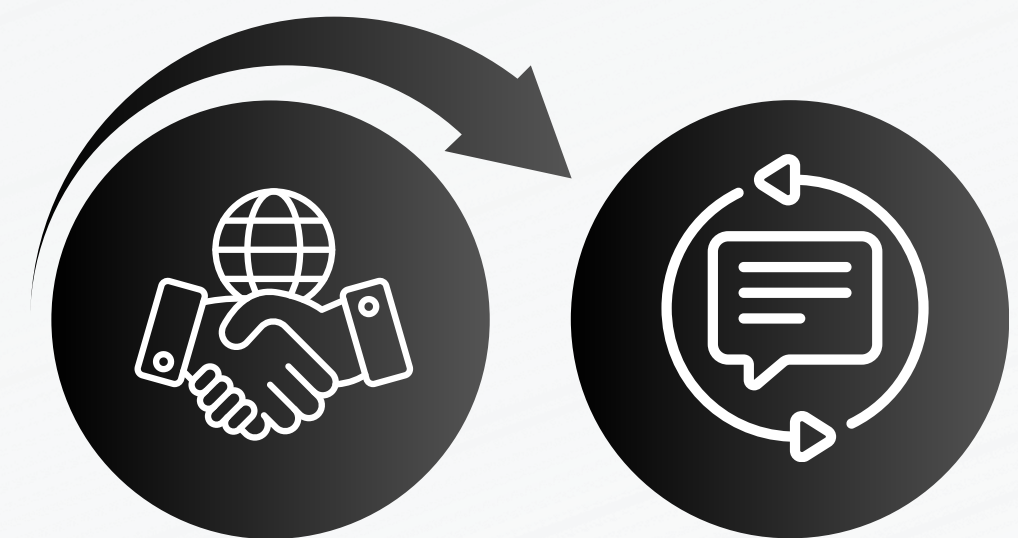
Cultural Intelligence
Strategies

Situational Awareness,
Communications Plans
and Deescalation Training



Root Cause Analysis &
Systems Engineering

Public Diplomacy and
Media Literacy



Transparent Feedback
Loops

THE APPROACH

Fellowship participants will be nominated from domestic and partner force Civ/Mil communities based on character traits, nominations and review by a selection committee from the Defense Entrepreneurs Forum. Military personnel from US and partner forces will be selected from Junior Officer and enlisted communities with civil society counterparts being selected from a wide field of expertise.

WEEK 1



DEFx TRAINING

- Case Agnostic Programming
- End-to-end DEFx Cultural Intelligence Curriculum

Week 2



PROJECT PREPARATION

- Cultural Context “Pre-Op”
- Root Cause Analysis
- Resource & Network Realization
- FTX Day-in-the-Life

Week 3-5



OCONUS TRIP

- On-the-ground Orientation
- Fellows matched with local partners
- Live-like-Local | Skills applied on-the-ground

Week 6

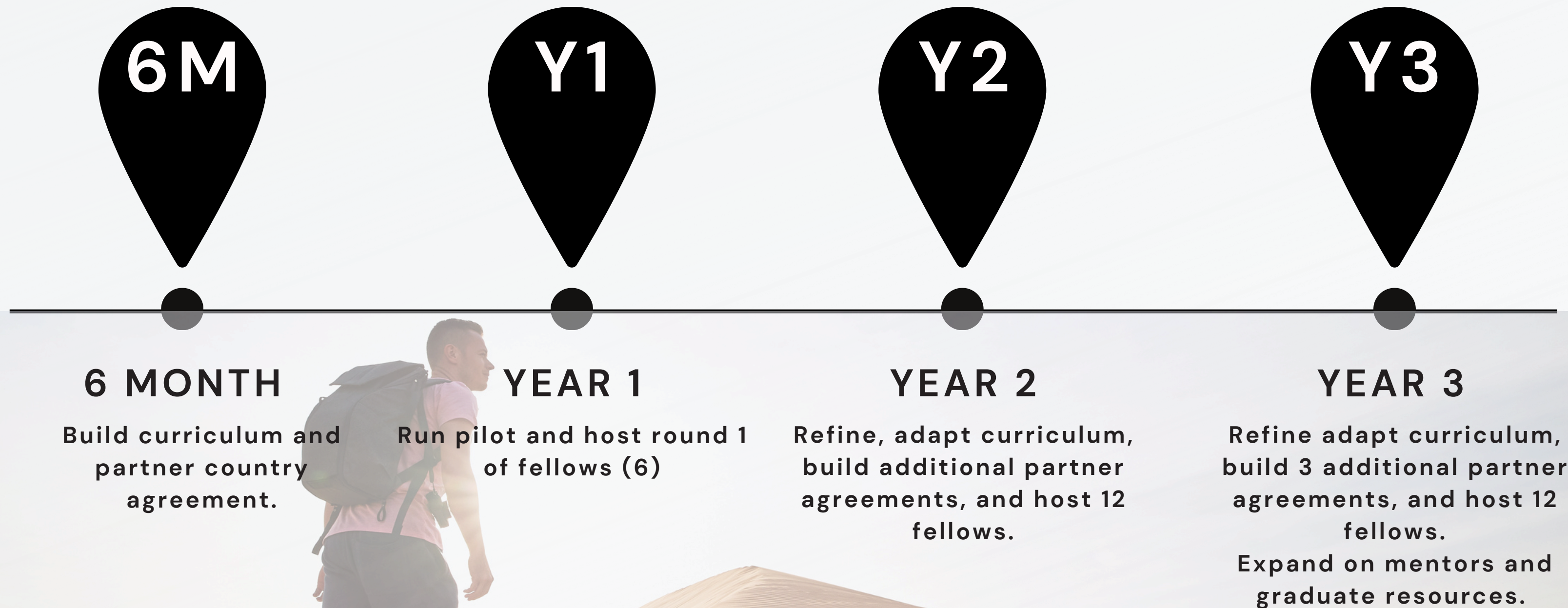


FINAL REPORT

- Performance Reviews
- Final Presentation
- Mentor Matching

TIME LINE

Prompted by a public meeting conversation with the Defense Innovation Board in March of 2024, The Defense Entrepreneurs Forum community set to work developing the framework for the Fellowship. In May, a DEFx event was hosted in Mexico to put structure and rigor to the initiative.



FELLOWSHIP ADVISORY BOARD



Jesse Levin
Tactivate



Luke Z.
Green Beret
RF Engineer



Brad Halsey
Building
Momentum



Kaj Larson
National Security
Leader



Jay McLeod
Parlay



Alex McLeod
Parlay



Evana Hu
Omelas



Mike Stewart
Tactivate



Michelle Saks
AstraNav



Kimberly Hall
Toptal



PARTNERS

