inl PREP

Country Explorer

INL
U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE

2025

Overview

Use the following study guide to connect your studies during this program to your role during deployment.

Prioritize your learning needs

What do you need to know about your host country to succeed? Brainstorm and organize your learning priorities for this program.

Explore your host country

Complete the study guide throughout the program to explore and organize key aspects of your host country. The study guide is divided into three sections:

1. Country profile
   Discover and review your host country's history, people, culture, and more.
2. Context of the criminal justice system
   Examine the current state of your host country's judicial, policing, and correctional capacities.
3. Emergency contacts
   Gather critical contact information in case of an emergency.

Use the resources available in the classroom (e.g., tablets, computers, etc.) and the list below to support your research.

Suggested Resources

U.S. Department of State (and other agencies)	**News & Reports**
→ U.S. Embassies: usembassy.gov → Travel.State.gov: Country Information: travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages.html	→ Refworld: refworld.org → Law Library: guides.loc.gov/nations-world → Reliefweb: reliefweb.int/countries
Country Overviews	
→ IMUNA: imuna.org/resources/country-profiles → DLIFLC Familiarization: fieldsupport.dliflc.edu → Transparency International: transparency.org	→ World Culture Encyclopedia: everyculture.com → World Factbook (CIA): cia.gov/the-world-factbook → Wikitravel: wikitravel.org

Your Role

Describe your role and assignment.

Learning Priorities

List three important things you would like to learn about your host country that will help you be successful in your role.

1	
2	
3	

Part 1: Country Profile

Explore and research key aspects about your host country.

Research general facts about your host country and consider aspects that may affect your goals during deployment. Refer to the list of resources on page 1 to get started.

This section is best completed during the Mission theme.

Country Overview	
Location	
Population	
Land borders	

Additional notes:

Areas & Regions	
Capital	
Major states/counties	
Major cities	

Additional notes:

History

Summarize the history—ancient and modern, as applicable—of your host country.

Economy

GDP per capita	
Unemployment rate	
Youth unemployment	
Poverty rate	
Sources of revenue	

Additional notes:

Political Structure

Describe the political structure of your host country. Consider aspects such as:

- Type of government in place
- Whether a guiding constitution exists
- How the executive, legislative, and judiciary functions are fulfilled
- How elections are conducted and who is eligible to vote

What is the current state of the political system?

- ☐ Fragile state
- ☐ Stable state
- ☐ Emerging democracy
- ☐ Post-conflict

Additional notes:

List defining events or catastrophes that have occurred. Is the country recovering from recent turmoil, such as a natural disaster, epidemic, war, or conflict?

People & Society

Describe the social, religious, and cultural practices that influence the people of your host country. Consider:

- Nationality
- Population
- Ethnicity
- Ethnic tensions
- Social structure
- Languages
- Literacy rate
- Education
- Social and family structure
- Cultural norms
- Modes of greeting
- Dress
- Favorite pastimes
- Superstitions

What are the major religious or spiritual practices? List connected holidays or celebrations.

Describe the dynamics of significant ethnic or religious tensions in your host country.

Daily Life & Safety

Research key aspects for daily life while deployed. Consider features such as:

- Food and water
- Lodging
- Roads and transportation
- Airports
- Security precautions
- U.S. embassy/consulate location
- Government locations
- Currency/exchange rate
- Obtaining cash/ATMs
- Power adaptors
- Places of interest

Currency		Exchange rate	
Voltage		Frequency	
Calling code	+		

Additional notes:

Part 2: Context of the Criminal Justice System

Examine the current state of your host country's judicial, policing, and correctional capacity.

Explore the current conditions of your host country's criminal justice system, factoring in political, cultural, economic, and social issues. Depending on your role and focus, you may want to dive deeper for some topics in this section than for others. This guide is designed to support you and your priorities.

This section is best completed during the Human Rights and Foundations themes.

Justice Sector Assistance

Political and developmental considerations: Describe which political dynamics could affect justice sector assistance during your deployment. What is the state of the political environment, and how could it affect the level and type of assistance possible (e.g., authoritarian regime, emerging or stable democracy, etc.)?

Legal tradition: Describe the legal systems and trial processes used in your host nation.

Legal system primarily influenced by:

- ☐ Common law
- ☐ Customary law
- ☐ Civil law
- ☐ Religious law

Trial process:

- ☐ Adversarial system
- ☐ Mixed or other
- ☐ Inquisitorial system

Engaged institutions and actors: Identify the roles, functions, and existing capabilities of justice sector institutions and actors, primarily those entities responsible for investigating allegations of illegal conduct, prosecuting the guilty, exonerating the innocent, and remedying the needs of victims in a fair and efficient manner.

Current INL program: Refer to your country's *Integrated Country Strategy* or *Country Program Framework* to see whether your host country has an existing profile for INL justice sector assistance. If so, what are the focuses and priorities listed?

Regional standards: Many countries belong to regional and sub-regional organizations that have adopted binding and declaratory instruments. What are the regional standards for your host country?

Police Assistance

Type of police assistance program: Determine the type of police assistance occurring in your host country. If multilateral or coalition-based, list the other partners involved in the assistance.

☐ Bilateral assistance ☐ Multilateral assistance ☐ Coalition-based assistance

Policing model: Determine the organizational configuration of your host country's police force and describe any major features or issues with it.

☐ National forces ☐ Paramilitary forces ☐ State, provincial, or municipal forces

Entry to police service: Describe how, when, and at what level individuals may enter police service. Determine who has discretionary authority.

☐ Single-entry system ☐ Dual or multiple-entry systems (rank-and-file, sergeants, commissioned officers)

Criminal investigations: Describe the role of the police in criminal investigations. The answer will be rooted in the legal system and trial process for police and can be found within the country's code of criminal procedure. If not handled by the police, describe who completes criminal investigations for the country.

Challenges: Are there known challenges to police skill-building, reform, and development in your host country? If none, which challenges do you expect to face based on your research and understanding of the current dynamics?

- ☐ Resistance to change
- ☐ Ineffective organizational management
- ☐ Reactive rather than proactive policing
- ☐ Dual or multi-level entry into police service
- ☐ Existence of public corruption
- ☐ Absence of police accountability
- ☐ Host-nation resource allocation favors military
- ☐ Human rights abuses
- ☐ Meaningful participation of women in policing
- ☐ Poor coordination with criminal justice system

Corrections Assistance

Prison profile: If you were to create a profile of your host country's prison system, what would it look like? Consider:

- Who administers the correctional system in your host country? Is it a federal or a national system?
- What is the management philosophy? Does it focus on a prison system, a corrections system, or both?
  - ☐ Confinement for breaking laws (prison system)
  - ☐ Goals for rehabilitation and reform (correction system)
- Are alternatives to incarceration commonly used? If so, what are some of those alternatives?
- What programs are in place to occupy the prisoners' idle time?
- How are juveniles confined?
- How are at-risk populations confined?

Challenges: What are some of the known challenges your host country is facing in its corrections system, and how could these challenges affect your work as an advisor? Common issues include, but are not limited to, human rights violations, overcrowding, criminal elements operating inside prisons, violence in prisons, poor conditions, and degraded infrastructure.

Part 3: Emergency Contacts

Gather critical contact information in case of an emergency.

Be prepared in case of an emergency. Research available resources in your deployment area as well as which facilities are reliable and safe to use.

This section is best completed during the Personal Safety theme.

U.S. Embassy Information	
Phone number	
Address	
Additional notes:	

Nearest Medical Facility and Contacts	
Hospital	
Primary doctor	
Pharmacy	
Additional notes:	

Emergency Contact in Host Country	
Name	
Number	
Relationship	
Address	
Additional notes:	

Emergency Contact	
Name	
Number	
Relationship	
Address	
Additional notes:	

International Narcotics and Law Enforcement

U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE