Stakeholder Review

2024-2025

AUIX

AIR UNIVERSITY INNOVATION ACCELERATOR

Taking Ideas
"One Step Beyond."

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Members of Air University, Valued Partners, and Esteemed Stakeholders,

At the Air University Innovation Accelerator (AUiX), we believe innovation is not a buzzword—it's a discipline. It's a posture of intellectual curiosity, strategic urgency, and purposeful collaboration. This year's Annual Stakeholders Report reflects that shared commitment, capturing our collective progress, partnerships, and evolving vision as we work together to shape a future-ready Department of the Air Force.

AUiX was founded with a clear purpose: to accelerate problem-solving across Air University and the broader defense ecosystem. We do not own ideas—we enable them. As a collaborative partner to AU's schools, centers, and faculty, we work with commanders, directors, educators, and students to move insights off the whiteboard and into the warfighter's hands—transforming promising concepts into prototypes and presentations into capabilities. More than a project hub or staff office, AUiX serves as an intellectual catalyst—where futures literacy, design thinking, and operational analysis converge to support the mission, enrich curricula, and confront the challenges that matter most to our Air and Space Forces.

In a time of accelerating complexity, our strategic edge depends on more than technology—it depends on people empowered to think differently. That's why AUiX operates at the intersection of education and experimentation, linking thought leadership with practical execution. From student-led research and AI-assisted scenario design to synthetic learning environments, hands-on workshops, and enduring partnerships with industry and academia, we're helping drive the cultural and cognitive shifts essential for the Department of the Air Force to thrive amid disruption.

This year, we focused on strengthening that edge—building capacity in futures thinking, autonomy, learning analytics, and design-led innovation. We also deepened our role in faculty development, curriculum support, and thought partnership across PME. Each initiative was grounded in the same foundational question: How might we equip our warfighters to outthink, outmaneuver, and outimagine the threats of tomorrow?

AUiX's vision is clear: Leading Air University innovation, collaboration, and strategic foresight to prevail in an era of Great Power Competition. But leadership, in our view, means service—connecting, empowering, and amplifying the work of others. We're not just helping solve problems—we're helping reframe them. In doing so, we're supporting AU's ongoing transformation of what innovation looks like within the context of military education.

We also recognize that none of this can happen in isolation. The strength of AUiX lies in the strength of our network—commanders who sponsor bold experimentation, faculty who cultivate curiosity, students who challenge assumptions, and partners across government, industry, and academia who bring expertise, insight, and critical perspective. Your continued engagement makes our work possible—and more impactful.

As you explore this report, we invite you to reflect not only on what has been achieved, but on the shared direction we're charting together. The path forward demands agility, creativity, and the courage to rethink what's possible. We're ready—and we're honored to walk this journey with you, as collaborators, co-creators, and champions of strategic innovation.

With respect and gratitude,
Dr. J. William "Bill" DeMarco
Director, Innovation and Analysis A39 (AUiX)

The AUiX Concept

The Air University Innovation Accelerator (AUiX) was established to advance Air University's (AU) role in addressing the challenges of Great Power Competition (GPC) through innovation, collaboration, and strategic foresight. AUiX connects AU students, faculty, and staff with partners across the Department of Defense (DoD), academia, and industry, fostering collaboration to develop capabilities, strategies, and technologies that enhance military effectiveness. AUiX's efforts align with the National Security Strategy and the AU Strategic Action Plan, directly supporting the AU Commander's priority to strengthen AU's scholarly contributions to national security, strategic competition, and the profession of arms by taking ideas "one step beyond."

THE AUIX VISION:
"Leading Air University innovation, collaboration, and strategic foresight to prevail in an era of GPC."

THE AUIX MISSION:
We Accelerate Problem Solving through Education, Communication, Engagement… Taking ideas one step beyond.

AUIX GOALS AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

1. **Establish AUiX as a Thought Leader in Innovation and Strategy with Expertise in Futures Literacy and Technological Foresight**
   AUiX is committed to becoming a recognized leader in military innovation and strategic foresight. By publishing three research papers in leading journals, participating in diverse conferences, and hosting thought leadership workshops, AUiX will strengthen its position as a hub for innovation and strategy, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and inclusivity.

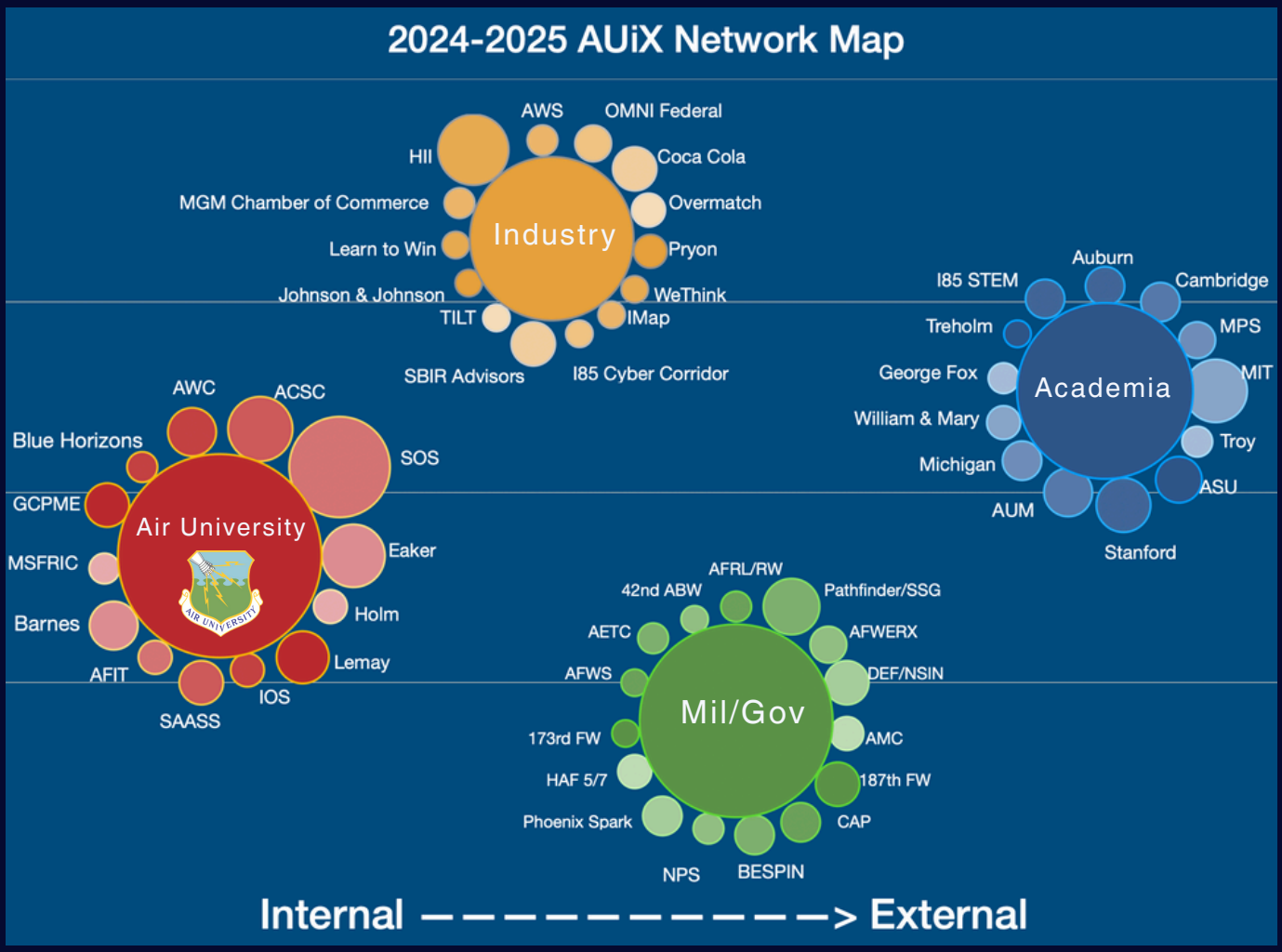
2. **Position The Eagle Institute as the Operational Hub for AUiX's Innovation Ecosystem**
   By serving as a nexus where conceptual thinking collides with practical applications, The Eagle Institute drives organizational transformation and fosters a comprehensive culture of innovation. This centralized approach will enhance collaboration across departments, streamline innovation processes, and accelerate the development and implementation of new ideas.

3. **Enhance Human Performance, Data Management, and Decision-Making Using AI**
   Leveraging cutting-edge AI technologies, AUiX will improve decision-making across DoD education ecosystems. Deploying CHUCK 2.0 for strategic exercises and integrating AI tools like DRADIS into coursework will empower students to process real-time data, adapt to complex scenarios, and refine their critical thinking skills.

NETWORK MAP

The AUiX Network Map offers just an overview of the intricate web of stakeholders that collaboratively shape and contribute to the innovation ecosystem.

- Air University (Internal): AUiX engages with faculty, students, and administrative units within AU, fostering an environment where ideas seamlessly traverse disciplinary boundaries.
- Academia (External): Connections are established with renowned institutions, nurturing collaborative partnerships that bring cutting-edge research and academic expertise into the innovation space.
- Industry (External): A myriad of stakeholders contribute valuable industry perspectives, resources, and mentorship, providing a bridge between academic concepts and real-world applications.
- Military and Government (External): These entities reinforce the commitment to aligning innovative endeavors with national security imperatives.

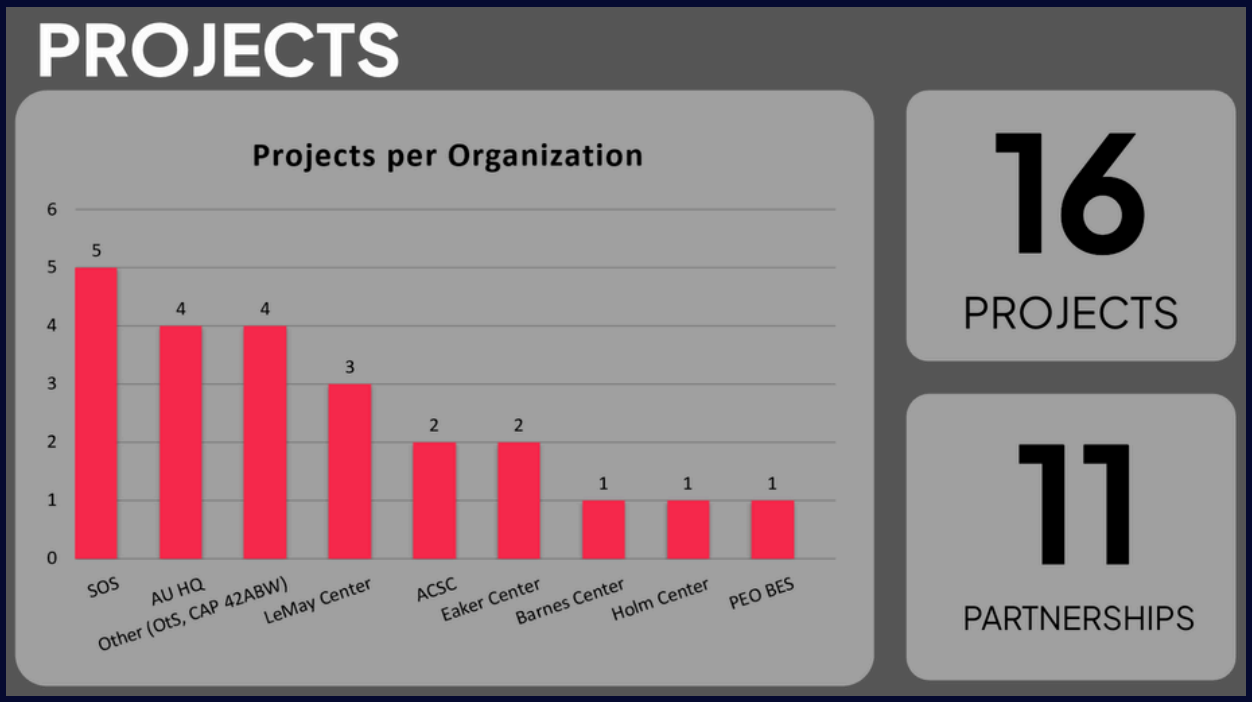


2024/2025 KPI Report

The AUiX KPI report captures the metrics representing its mission execution alongside all stakeholders of the organization for the period of June '24 through JUne '25.

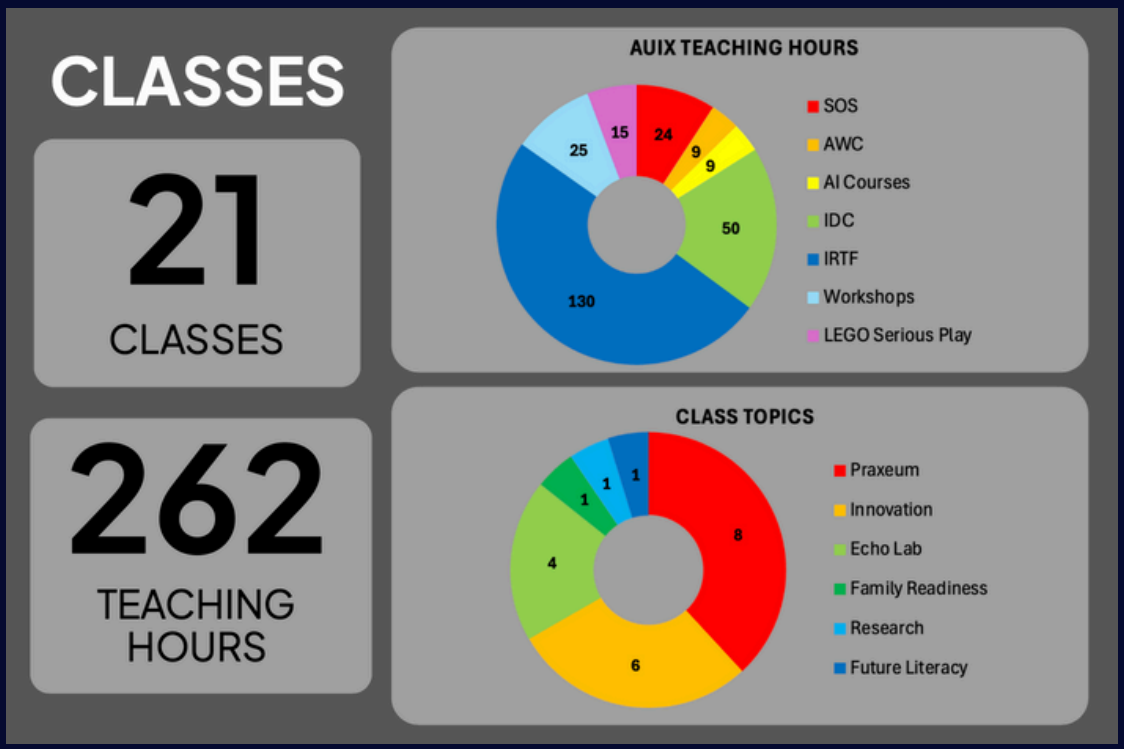
PROJECTS

The number of projects broken down by the respective organizations which they support. (Note: Some projects have multiple partners.)



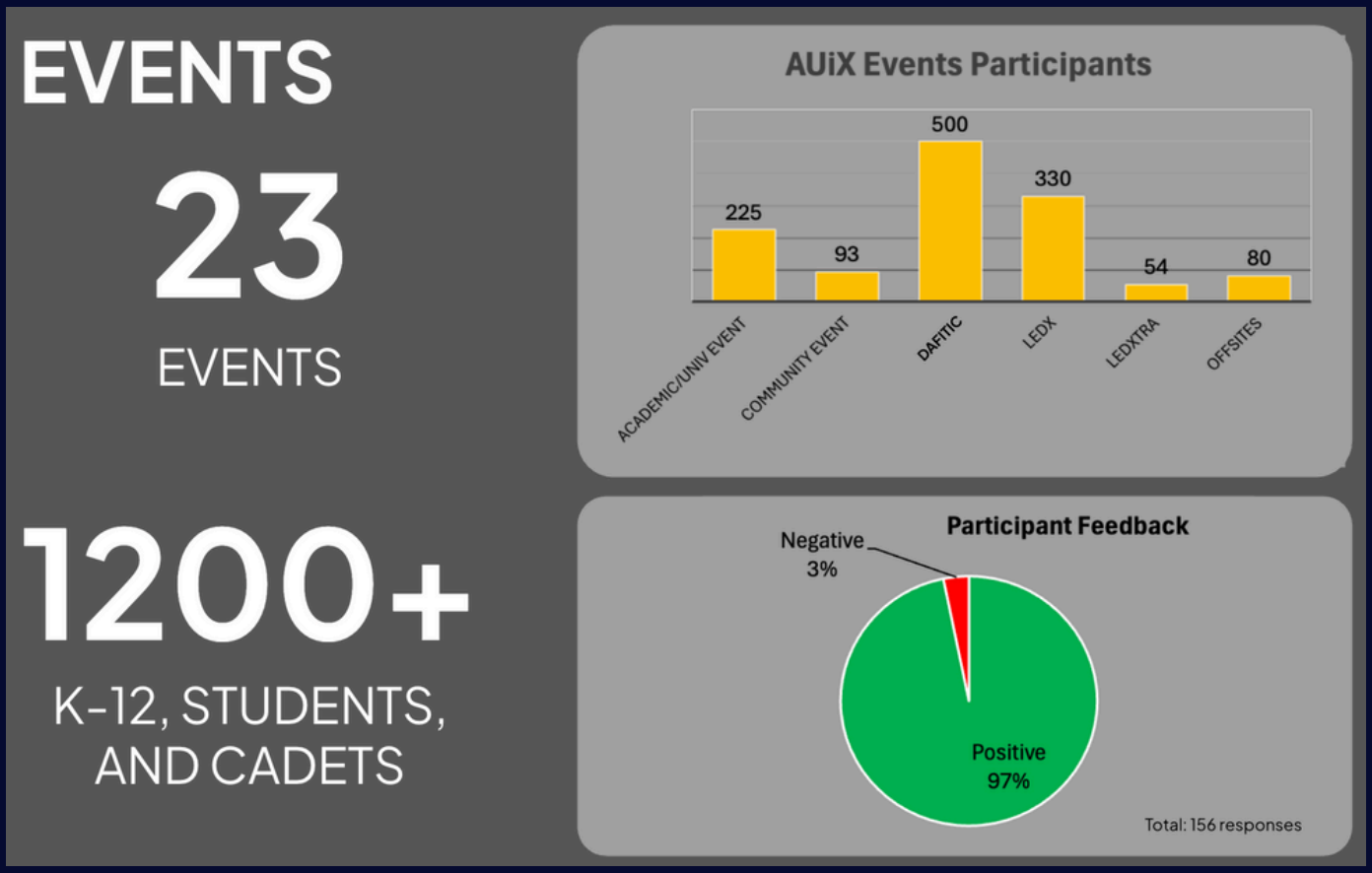
CLASSES

The amount and distribution of hours AUiX contributes to education in the academic community.



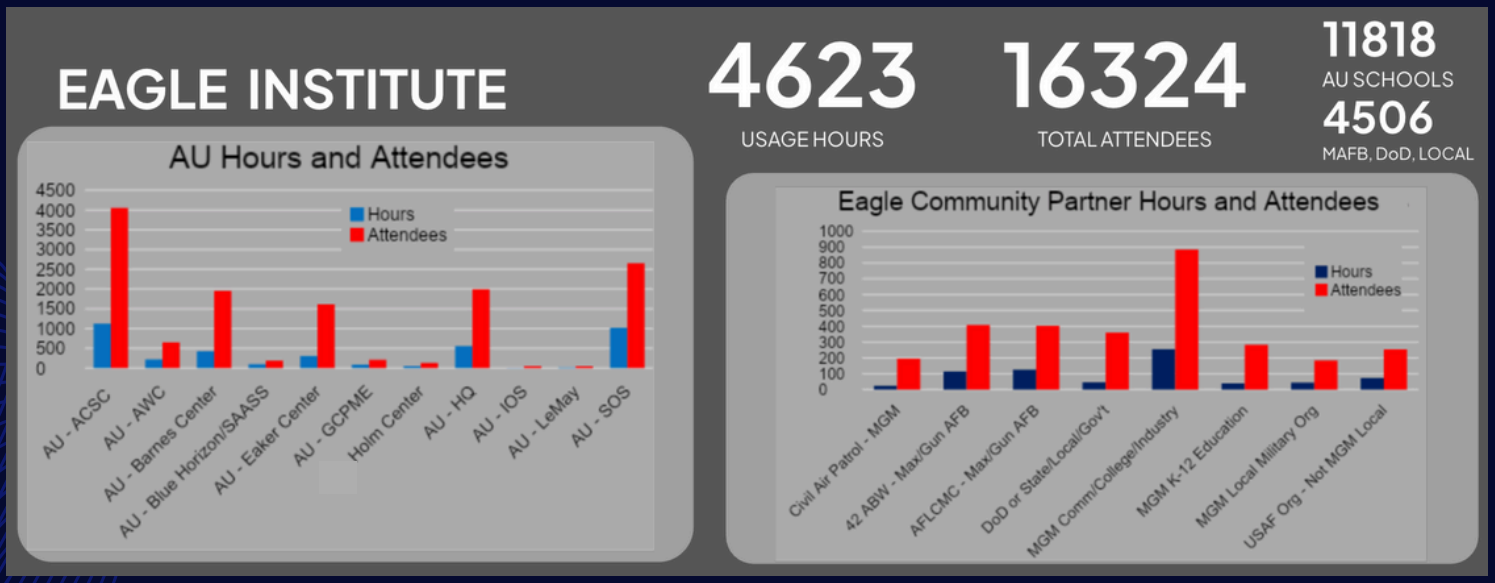
EVENTS

The representation of events hosted in collaboration with various organizations and stakeholders.

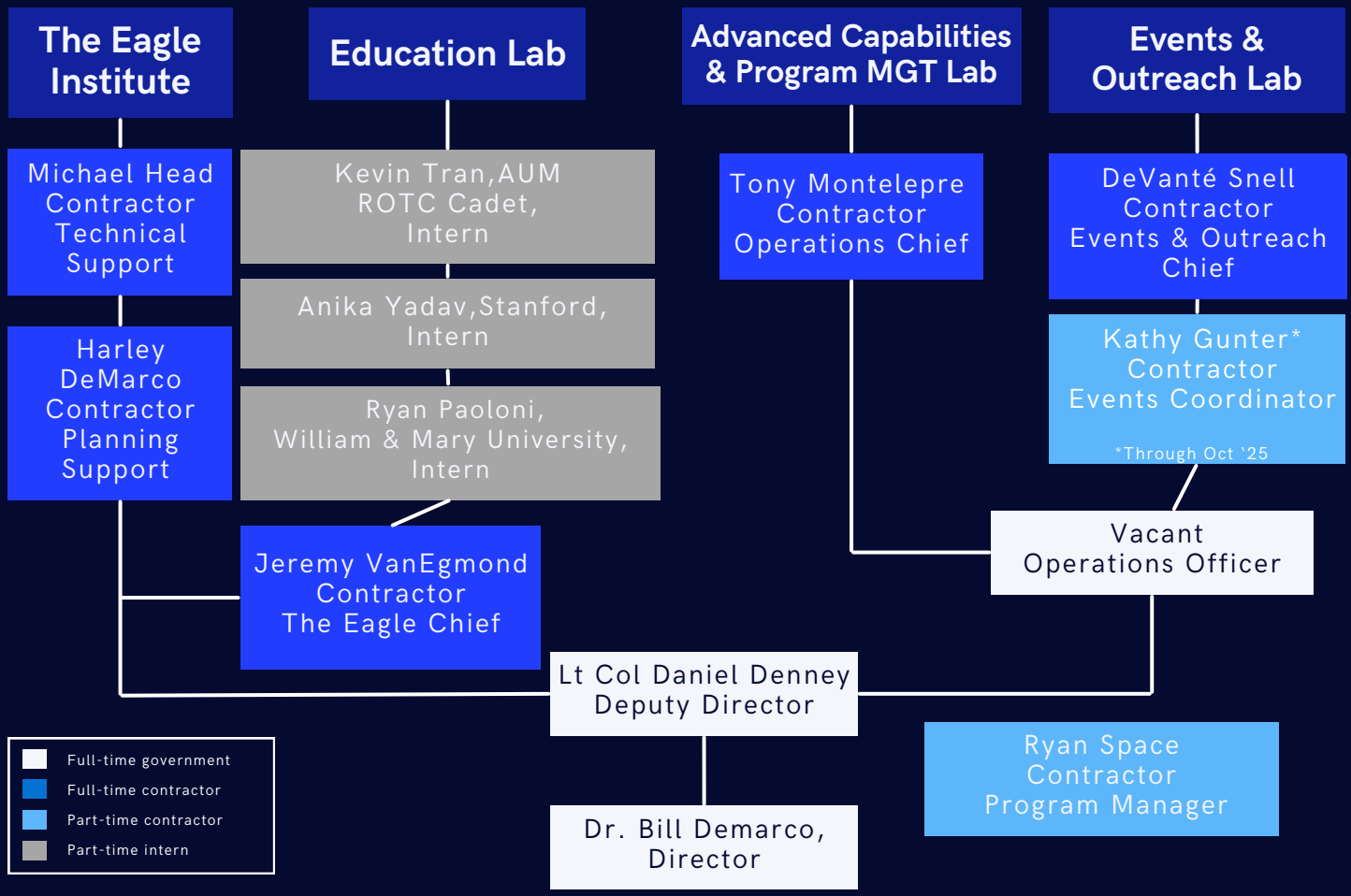


EAGLE INSTITUTE

***T**he diversity of groups and amount of resources allocated based on reservations at The Eagle Institute.*



LABS OVERVIEW



AUiX is divided into five sub-organizations that serve as dynamic hubs of innovation, each with a unique focus and mission to drive transformative advancements:

- Eagle Institute: This is the central hub and workspace for AUiX. Comprised of Praxeum, Echo Lab, and Chimaera classrooms, it serves as a collaborative space fostering research, development, and advanced learning. Praxeum revolutionizes education, Echo Lab conducts research for evidence-based decision-making, and Chimaera focuses on emerging technologies. Additional spaces include Viper, Raptor, and Pegasus.
- Education Lab: Dedicated to revolutionizing education and curriculum development through technical innovation, this lab has a mission to develop, deliver, and maintain state-of-the-art classroom environments. It also focuses on creating innovative educational technologies, strategies, and practices to transform the learning experience.
- Advanced Capabilities & Program Management Lab: With a mission to deliver innovative solutions to the warfighter, the lab strategically analyzes National Security Strategy objectives and develops tailored solutions for operations and materiel initiatives.
- Events & Outreach Lab: This lab is instrumental for engaging audiences and communities through innovative events and outreach activities. Goals include creating innovative event concepts, increasing audience engagement, expanding outreach to new communities, establishing partnerships, and enhancing sustainability.

THE EAGLE INSTITUTE

The Eagle Institute provides a physical space to promote the fulfillment of the AUiX mission to Air University, serving as a nexus where conceptual thinking collides with practical applications for the USAF, the community, the nation, and beyond. As a public and private partnership, this is an ecosystem poised to empower innovation with an incredibly diverse set of stakeholders.

Housed in the historic downtown Kress building, The Eagle Institute provides linkage, visibility, and interaction with the local Montgomery community. AUiX leverages this platform to bridge an existing divide between public and private sectors by fostering collaboration and networking opportunities among the DoD, industry, academia, and the community, to more effectively develop national security initiatives and innovation.

The supporting team organizes events and workshops like the Leadership Education Development eXperience (LEDx), Innovator Development Course (IDC), 3D-printing & laser engraving trainings, and an AI Sandbox, among many others. Featuring relevant topics, hands-on exploration, and keynote speakers, these gatherings are intentionally designed to cultivate ideas within the broader innovation ecosystem.

The Eagle Institute features multiple reservable spaces equipped with state-of-the-art technology and extensive modality. The 6000 sqft facility includes six primary areas, each with a specific function:

- Praxeum: A "classroom of the future" designed to host classes and employ innovative instructional techniques and technologies for the academic community.
- Chimaera: A suite capable of hosting smaller-scale wargames and strategy sessions, fully configurable to accommodate a variety of planning efforts and sophisticated simulations.
- Echo Lab: A makerspace providing access to 3D printers and fabrication equipment useful for ideation and prototyping as well as hosting STEM workshops.
- Pegasus & Raptor: Pitch-room and classrooms on the second floor, serving as spaces for idea presentations, innovation showcases, and instructional activities.
- Twin Sun Studios: A specialized breakout area that is useful for small-group brainstorming sessions or an integration of specialized technological capabilities that can support the production of various types of multimedia.
- Viper: Freely accessible to the public, allowing for spontaneous collaboration opportunities and walk-ins outside the gates of the base

EDUCATION LAB

Guided by a vision to reshape the learning landscape, the Education Lab's mission is to revolutionize educational practices and curriculum development through technological innovation through three main categories of effort:

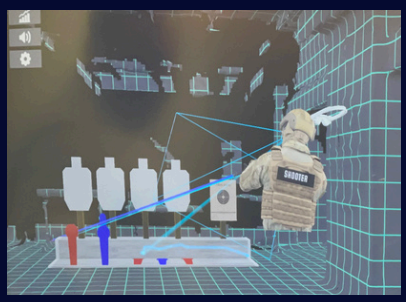
- Adaptive Learning Environments
  - Field and maintain a cutting-edge classroom environment, fully equipped to transform the learning experience. (i.e. Project Praxeum)
  - Develop innovative solutions to educational challenges and 21st century needs.
- Advanced Experimentation and Support Services
  - Prototype and test new educational approaches or technologies (i.e. AIED; fabrication tools of Echo Lab)
- Professional Learning Communities
  - Collaborate with teachers, students, administrators, and other stakeholders.
  - Provide innovative professional development for educators. (i.e. leveraging Chimeara space for novel wargaming techniques)

The Education Lab focuses on various aspects of educational technologies, learning theories, pedagogical strategies, student engagement, assessment, curriculum development, and more. Prototypes include pilot studies and controlled experimentation of novel tools that provide data and insights useful to inform the education community on what is worth further investment. Collaborative efforts aim to understand educators' needs, incorporating their feedback, and sharing the latest research findings with these strategic partners. The Education Lab also advocates for changes to educational policy, improving teaching and learning at the enterprise level.

By fostering innovative methods of teaching and learning, this lab has inspired critical thinkers to take ideas of merit "one step beyond", building a philosophical and tangible ecosystem that is producing positive impact across the entire education spectrum.





EVENTS/OUTREACH LAB

The Events and Outreach Innovation Lab is committed to building connections with innovation partners and driving engagement through creative events and outreach initiatives. With a mission to develop and implement advanced methods for engaging audiences and communities, the lab strategically positions itself as a leader in AU's innovation ecosystem.

The lab's strategy focuses on organizing high-value forums and building relationships with leaders and stakeholders from the DoD, industry, community, and academia. Its key goals include promoting AU's innovation, forging partnerships, and hosting events with cutting-edge content.

The Events Lab is responsible for creating, promoting, supporting, and marketing AUiX events, projects, and experiences. It develops marketing strategies and campaigns across various platforms, including social media, press releases, and the AUiX website, to highlight AU's programs, events, and initiatives. The lab works closely with AU Public Affairs and media outlets to ensure alignment with the AU Commander's priorities. Additionally, it analyzes the effectiveness of marketing campaigns and provides insights and recommendations for future improvements. The Events Lab also stays involved in AUiX projects, working on marketing programs and evaluating new tools and technologies to improve overall effectiveness. Lastly, it offers guidance and mentorship to AUiX Interns, helping to develop their skills and expertise.

The Outreach Lab's objectives include:

- Promoting AU's innovation.
- Connecting AU with innovation partners.
- Planning and executing events with forward-thinking content.

ADVANCED CAPABILITIES AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT LAB

The Advanced Capabilities and Program Management Lab at AUiX is a key driver of innovation across vital areas such as Operations and Materiel. The lab's mission is to integrate inventive solutions into military operations, enhancing capabilities to ensure mission success. By analyzing National Security Strategy objectives, the lab works closely with warfighters, connecting valuable ideas with stakeholders in the DoD, industry, academia, and the broader community.

The lab carefully examines warfighter needs, thoroughly investigating and researching ideas with potential. These ideas are then transformed into tangible models or technologies that align with operational requirements. Warfighters are actively engaged for feedback on materiel needs, and the lab remains alert to policy changes that might affect current methods and systems.

The lab's objectives include:

- Developing new strategies or principles to guide the use of innovations, and publicizing and incorporating these doctrines into future operations as they emerge.
- Exploring innovative ideas to enhance military operations and readiness, including the examination of emerging biotech, digital technologies, automation, equipment, and methodologies for possible military applications.
- Acquiring, assisting in developing, or testing new technologies or equipment to support innovation in operations.

PROJECTS OVERVIEW

AUiX drives diverse projects that align with AU's mission, tackling challenges across education, community engagement, military operations, and technology. Originating from student ideas at Air University, these initiatives bridge academic exploration with practical innovation

- LEDx: A social innovation conference that connects Air University with community leaders, fostering discussions and collaborations to drive impactful solutions to contemporary challenges.
- Praxeum: Dubbed the "Classroom of the Future," Praxeum integrates cutting-edge technologies such as auto-tracking cameras, VR/AR, and high-definition audio to transform learning experiences at AU.
- PELLA: A community outreach initiative that provides aviation opportunities, including free introductory flights, STEAM fairs, and private pilot training, to students in Alabama's River Region.
- Internship: Expands experiential learning for ROTC cadets and other students by offering AUiX internships at traditional and historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs).
- DRADIS: Uses AI and machine learning to streamline student feedback analysis, identifying trends and generating actionable insights to enhance Air University's instructional programs.
- Stratagem Dragon: Stratagem Dragon project, harnesses the transformative potential of artificial intelligence (AI), including Large Language Models (LLMs), smaller language models (SLMs), and specifically the Generative Pre-trained Transformer (GPT) technology, to significantly enhance decision-making processes in complex strategic contexts.
- CHUCK: Leverages AI, including Large Language Models (LLMs) and Generative Pre-trained Transformers (GPTs), to enhance strategic decision-making in complex military and operational contexts.
- Project SE-OA: a structured method for evaluating Air War College courses to ensure they enhance lethality and support Airpower and Joint Warfighting.
- BOLT: Promotes Air Force resilience and readiness by focusing on individual well-being, fostering a culture of wellness that supports mission success.
- HULK: Develops a Heavy Utility Lifting Kit designed to enhance the efficiency and capability of cargo transport on U.S. Air Force aircraft.
- KRAYT: Aims to revolutionize Agile Combat Employment (ACE) by designing a smart shipping container equipped with mobile C2 technologies for improved logistics.
- REFUEL: An AI-powered app that provides personalized coaching, analytics, and holistic support to enhance Total Force Fitness and resilience among service members and their families.

PROJECT LEDx

The Leadership Education Development eXperience (LEDx) is an innovative initiative designed to foster leadership, strategic thinking, and innovation. This two-day conference offers a high-caliber educational experience, bringing together diverse participants to engage with forward-thinking themes and explore real-world challenges. Each iteration of LEDx focuses on a unique topic, advancing leadership development across multiple sectors.

LEDx: Kobayashi takes inspiration from the legendary *Star Trek* "Kobayashi Maru" scenario, where participants were challenged with leadership under pressure, decision-making, and problem-solving in high-stakes, no-win situations. Hosted at the Eagle Institute in Montgomery, Alabama, the event featured strategic educational games designed to test participants' ability to navigate complex challenges. Thought leaders and experts from institutions such as Air University, MIT, University of Cambridge, and Stanford University led these immersive experiences, offering valuable insights into effective leadership under pressure.

LEDx: Praxeum shifted focus to the transformative role of Generative AI in education. In partnership with the Air Force Institute of Technology and the Global College of Professional Military Education, this event explored how AI can reshape curriculum design, assessment tools, and educational efficiency. Drawing inspiration from Star Wars' Jedi training academies, LEDx: Praxeum blended philosophical reflection with practical applications, empowering educators and leaders to harness AI in revolutionizing the future of learning.

LEDxtra (half-day, only) has also provided a forum to dive deeper into how AI is impacting industry and the ethics of decision-making.

Overall, LEDx exemplifies Air University's commitment to advancing leadership through innovative, interdisciplinary thinking. The initiative brings together experts from academia and the military to explore cutting-edge topics, including the intersection of technology, social innovation, and leadership, while encouraging forward-looking strategies to address the challenges of tomorrow.

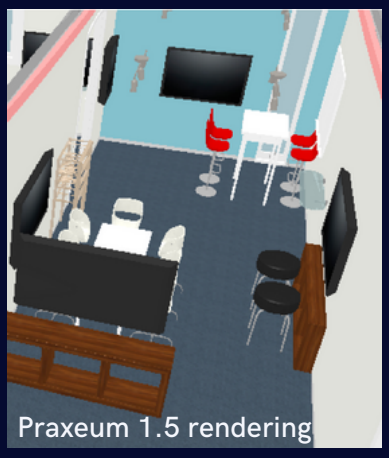
LEADERSHIP EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
EXPERIENCE

PROJECT PRAXEUM

Project Praxeum is a groundbreaking element of the AU "Campus of the Future" initiative, redefining traditional classroom design to shape the future of education. This innovative space not only supports AU's commitment to evolving learning methods but also drives the creation of new pedagogical approaches and course materials, fostering critical thinkers aligned with national security goals.

The Praxeum classroom integrates cutting-edge technologies, specialized software, and thoughtful design elements. Auto-tracking cameras allow instructors to move freely, engaging both in-person and remote students, while high-definition audio enhances virtual learning. Virtual and augmented reality platforms connect students worldwide, and diverse learning methods—such as podcasting, video production, and storyboarding—offer a well-rounded educational experience.

This year the project produced the *Learning Space Design Princples (LSDP)* which are five key components to consider when scaling innovative classroom environments. Based on 15 months of user data, the LSDP framework will be able to guide the integration of Praxeum technologies and concepts into various parts of the Air University campus. One of the inital contexts includes the AU CAO office which will feature "Praxeum 1.5", a mini-showcase of the various principles users can experience when visiting the AU HQ.



Praxeum 1.5 rendering

PROJECT PELLA

PELLA (Professional Educational Leadership Learning Activities) is a community outreach initiative focused on advancing STEM education for K-12 students in the Alabama River Region. Aligned with the National Security Strategy and the Department of the Air Force's goals, this project aims to cultivate a pipeline of skilled individuals who may become future military leaders. In collaboration with the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), Project PELLA offers three interconnected programs: PELLA: Fly, PELLA: Labs, and PELLA: Ambassadors.

PELLA: Fly provides students with transformative aviation experiences, introducing them to both manned and unmanned flight. The program includes PELLA: Fly Exposure, offering an introductory experience to aviation, and PELLA: Fly/PPL, a pathway for high school students to earn a Private Pilot License.

PELLA: Labs promotes hands-on learning in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) subjects through events such as STEAM Fairs and STEAM Saturdays. STEAM Fairs provide a variety of activities for all ages, while STEAM Saturdays focus on training instructors to enhance their teaching capabilities. In partnership with organizations like Ed Farm, Fearless, King's Canvas, and Another Reality Studios, PELLA: Labs delivers workshops in coding, AI, machine learning, adaptive manufacturing, and AR/VR. A mobile AR/VR lab, managed by Social Montgomery, offers an immersive experience for students in the region.

PELLA: Ambassadors is a "Train the Trainer" initiative designed to extend the reach of STEAM education by training community ambassadors. In collaboration with the CAP, this program provides STEM kits, coaching, and teacher support to engage over 1,000 students across the Alabama River Region.

Through these programs, PELLA is committed to advancing STEM education, supporting national security, and fostering community engagement.

PROJECT INTERNSHIP

The AUiX internship program offers students hands-on experience, professional skill development, and opportunities to contribute to innovation in national security and defense. In 24/25, the project enabled a total of five interns to collaborate with DoD, academic, and industry experts on impactful projects, gaining skills in problem-solving, strategy, communication, and project management.

Responsibilities include supporting innovation projects, organizing events, managing social media, conducting research, and analyzing data. Interns also receive training in tools like 3D printing, graphic design, and data analytics, with opportunities to attend workshops and conferences.

Each intern is paired with a mentor for guidance and feedback, ensuring a supportive experience. By the program's end, interns leave with practical skills, professional connections, and insights into defense career opportunities.

Meet some of the interns below:

Kevin Tran is a sophomore at Auburn University at Montgomery studying Computer Information Systems and a cadet with AFROTC Detachment 019. Originally from Vietnam, he is passionate about aviation and hopes to become a U.S. Air Force pilot. At AUiX, he has worked on integrating VR into the flight simulator, explored robotics and 3D printing, and supported the Eagle Institute's operations. In his free time, Kevin enjoys traveling, cooking, and playing sports.

Ryan Paoloni is a senior at William & Mary, majoring in International Relations and Economics. He focuses on the impact of emerging technologies like autonomous systems and AI on national and international security. With experience in wargaming, he has worked with the Air Force through the Innovation For Defense (I4D) program, where he researched sustainment challenges for units deploying to the Indo-Pacific under PRC threat. His work explored cost-effective solutions for intra-theater logistics movements.

Anika Yadav is a Stanford University student studying Management Science & Engineering with a focus on decision-making and national security. This summer, she is supporting AUiX as an Innovation and Strategy Intern, contributing research and project development at the intersection of defense technology, leadership education, and organizational innovation. Her work explores how emerging technologies like AI can strengthen the mission and operational effectiveness of Air University.

PROJECT DRADIS

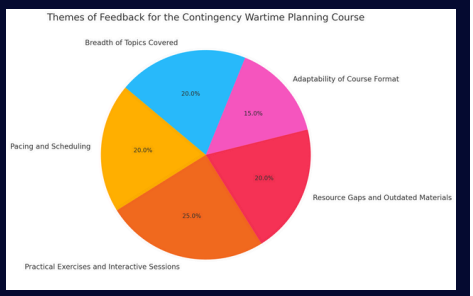
Project DRADIS (Data Review and Decision-making Instructional Support) aims to improve the efficiency of analyzing student feedback at Air University. By using AI and machine learning, DRADIS automates feedback analysis, identifies trends, and provides actionable suggestions to enhance course delivery.

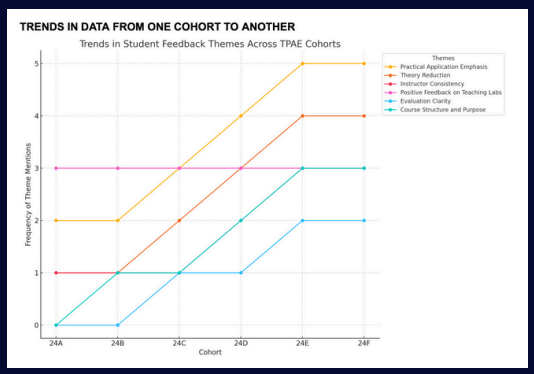
In fast-paced educational settings, timely and effective feedback analysis is crucial for continuous improvement. However, traditional methods of manually reviewing feedback are time-consuming and prone to oversight. DRADIS addresses this by streamlining the process and ensuring that instructors can act on key insights quickly and accurately.

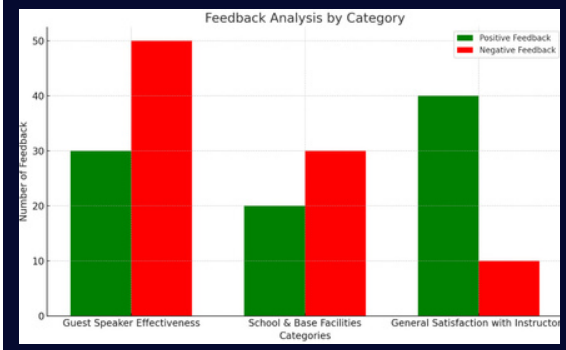
Capabilities:

- Automated Data Analysis: Processes large volumes of feedback, identifying trends and patterns across multiple courses.
- Visual Data Representation: Summarizes open-ended responses in easy-to-understand visuals for instructors.
- Actionable Insights: Offers specific recommendations for course improvements and tracks their impact.
- Multi-Course Comparison: Allows for cross-course feedback comparison, standardizing improvements.
- Customizable: Adaptable to various survey formats and focused on specific sections like open-ended comments, including hand-written data (i.e. OCR).

Future Application:
Currently being tested with Commander's Spouses Course at Eaker Center, DRADIS has the potential to revolutionize how student feedback is processed across Air University. It could expand to other DoD educational institutions, improving instructional quality across the board.







PROJECT STRATEGM DRAGON

In the evolving landscape of military strategy and leadership development, the Stratagem Dragon initiative emerges as a pioneering wargame effort designed to cultivate a new generation of leaders adept in critical/creative thinking, as well as proficient in advanced war planning.By harnessing the transformative potential of artificial intelligence (AI), the effort enhances decision-making processes in complex strategic contexts.

Objectives:
1) Implement AI-driven wargaming simulations that simulate real-world scenarios, providing participants with practical experience in devising and executing strategic plans.

2) Foster a culture of innovation and creativity among military personnel by encouraging the exploration of unconventional tactics and solutions to address evolving threats.

PROJECT CHUCK

The Comprehensive Hueristic Utility for Combat Knowledge (CHUCK) is an AI tool which offers strategic insights, real-time data analysis, and adaptive learning to support war planning and critical thinking.

CHUCK 1.0 - Built using ChatGPT, this self-contained GPT references specific documents related to doctrine, strategy, warfare theory, law, game rules, and other data sets that give users relevant responses based on their specific context.

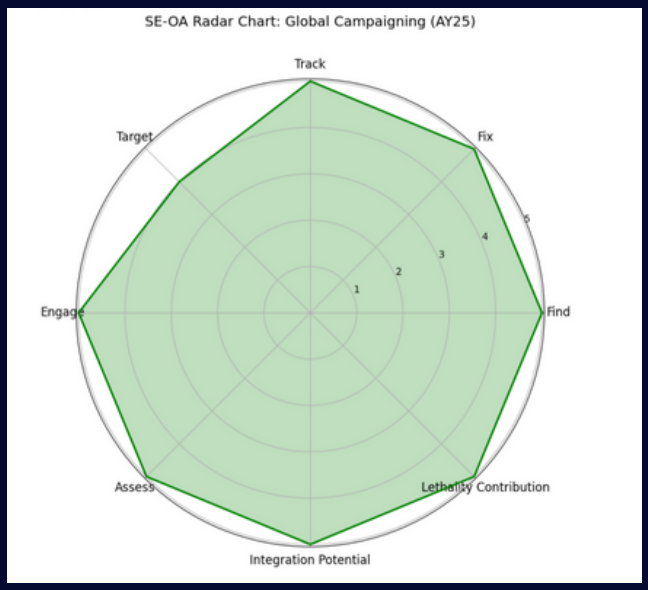
CHUCK 2.0 - Built on six LLMs and two custom GPTs, this platform delivers a range of responses from a single prompt, reducing bias and promoting divergent thinking by exposing users to multiple perspectives for comparison.

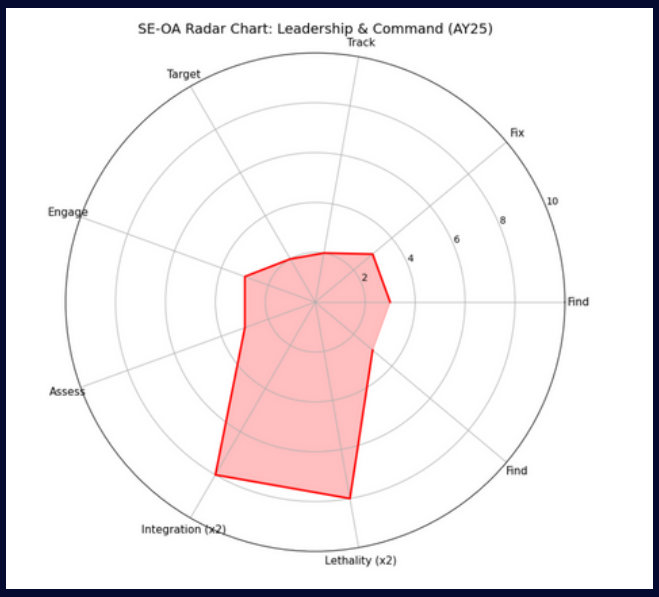
PROJECT SE-OA

The Strategic Education Operational Analysis (SE-OA) is a structured method for evaluating Air War College courses to ensure they enhance lethality and support Airpower and Joint Warfighting.

It adapts the military "kill chain" model—Find, Fix, Track, Target, Engage, Assess—to assess educational outcomes, such as identifying threats, refining strategic thinking, and preparing leaders for decision-making and operational execution. Additional metrics include alignment with doctrine and the contribution to warfighter advantage.

SE-OA has been used to analyze the AY25 curriculum of AWC, issuing scorecards, revising re-scoping of underperformers and highlighting effective courses for prioritized resource allocation, faculty development, and flagship showcasing.





PROJECT BOLT

AIR UNIVERSITY BOLT HUMAN PERFORMANCE

Air University recognizes the critical need for a comprehensive human performance program designed to enhance the well-being and effectiveness of its Airmen. This initiative focuses on equipping Airmen with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to maintain and improve their physical, mental, and emotional wellness during their time at AU and throughout their careers. By promoting resilience across all aspects of life, Airmen will be better prepared to contribute to mission success and carry these improvements to future assignments.

PROJECT HULK

AUiX, in collaboration with Auburn University's Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, sponsors the Heavy Utility Lift Kit (HULK) for Agile Combat Employment (ACE). HULK addresses challenges in cargo loading for C-130 and C-17 aircraft with a compact, self-sustaining design. It efficiently lifts up to 12,000 pounds. The prototype has passed operational tests and is now being integrated into live demonstrations at Dannelly Field with the 187th Fighter Wing.

PROJECT KRAYT

Project KRAYT, sponsored by AUiX, is a mobile, self-sustaining operational support solution for Agile Combat Employment (ACE). It integrates power generation, base security, and command capabilities in a compact, deployable unit. Currently testing with the 187th Fighter Wing, future prototypes will integrate with HULK for ACE operations.

PROJECT REFUEL

REFUEL is a web and mobile app designed to enhance Comprehensive Airman Fitness (CAF) using AI, sentiment analysis, and wearable biometric data. It provides real-time insights into physical, mental, and social well-being, offering personalized feedback, training programs, and actionable data. REFUEL supports service members' resilience and readiness, currently in Beta-Phase at ACSC.

PROGRAMMING

AUiX proudly hosts various classes and events in collaboration with a variety of organizations and partners in order to cultivate thought leadership across the spectrum of innovation and strategy. Below is a representation of these types of programming offerings.

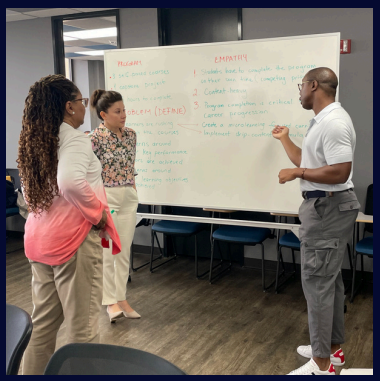
ALPHA BLUE (formerly known as the Innovation Research Task Force [iRTF])
This 10-month course challenges ACSC/AWC students to think critically, design creatively, and lead boldly in an era of disruptive technological change and Great Power Competition. It builds upon Air University and DoD priorities by directly enhancing lethality and advancing the art and science of Airpower and Joint Warfighting. All curriculum elements are assessed against the F2T2EA kill chain and designed to produce operationally relevant, future-savvy senior leaders.

INNOVATOR DEVELOPMENT COURSE (IDC)
This 4-day course is carried out with the Leadership & Innovation Institute (LII), applying various innovation tools, programs, and systems to problem sets participants bring from various Air Force contexts.

AIR UNIVERSITY ADVANCED RESEARCH (AUAR)
AUiX facilitated an "Innovating for the Future" elective within the SOS AUAR program during AY 24/25, enabling students to innovate on various topics including Family Readiness.

ECHO LAB WORKSHOPS
Led by AUiX and open to everyone, the Echo Lab hosts several workshops throughout the year that expose participants to various technologies and methodologies including:

- **3D Printing 101**
- **Laser Engraving 101**
- **AI Sandbox Experience**
- **LEGO Serious Play**
- **Faculty Development on AI use in Education (AIED)**



LOOKING AHEAD

As we look to the horizon, the Air University Innovation Accelerator (AUiX) remains steadfast in its commitment to leading innovation, strategic foresight, and educational transformation across the Department of the Air Force. The pace of global change demands more than adaptation—it requires anticipation, courage, and the deliberate design of what comes next.

This past year's accomplishments reflect a growing capacity to respond to survey the future and provide tangiable and intellectual tools needed to thrive in an era defined by Great Power Competition and modern warfare. But the array of projects and programming alongside the depth of a rich network of people have revealed an even deeper truth: our most powerful capabilities are the ones that sharpen human thinking, cultivate collaboration, and unleash creativity across every level of leadership.

In this new reality, the level of global instability can quickly undermine all of this progress if we become complacent in any aspect of the endeavor. While AUiX continues to invest in its mission, we recognize this is not just merely about innovation—it is about readiness. It is about designing an educational and operational ecosystem capable of confronting tomorrow's absolute uncertainty with confidence and creativity. The journey forward will not be linear. But with every prototype and partnership, AUiX is building a pathway for those it serves.

Questions?
Contact us.

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