

Phoenix Dialogue

On August 22, Stanford summer intern Anika Yadav hosted Phoenix Dialogue at the Eagle Institute, bringing together Air University students, faculty, and staff to explore how artificial intelligence may shape the future of professional military education.

Phoenix Dialogue welcomed a mix of Al advocates, skeptics, and the simply curious, creating a thoughtful space for open debate and shared discovery. In small group sessions, attendees explored how Al could enhance student learning, strengthen research and writing, and provide leaders with more effective decision-making tools. Just as importantly, they considered the ethical questions tied to Al in military contexts, weighing its potential benefits against the responsibilities that come with its use.

Hosted in partnership with Stanford University's Deliberative Democracy Lab, the event reinforced AU's reputation for leading higher education innovation. The success of the event exceeded expectations with nearly 85% of the 55 participants reporting greater awareness of AI after the event and an overall satisfaction rating of 4.71 out of 5.







Alpha Blue and Advancing Tech

ALPHA BLUE continues to stretch the boundaries of futures literacy, design, and strategy by pairing strategic foresight with hands-on experimentation. This month, the cohort worked closely with Dr. Mark Jacobsen on small unmanned aerial systems integrating practical flight training and tactical employment into a broader look at disruptive technologies and operational design.

Balancing the technology focus, students were offered an after-hours seminar on how to use large language models to enhance research, reading, and writing. The response was amazing with 21 of 22 students staying until 1800, a clear sign of both their curiosity and their appreciation for mastering emerging tools.



These experiences highlight ALPHA BLUE's twofold mission: helping future leaders innovate at the tactical edge while also building their skills to critically think, write, and lead with confidence in the cognitive domain.



On October 22, AUIX will host the next LEDx forum, Destruction and Creation. Taking inspiration from Colonel John Boyd's classic essay, this session looks at the fast-changing battlespace of cognitive warfare where influence, perception, and decision-making are all up for grabs.

AUIX is bringing together leaders from the Department of Defense, academia, and industry for a lively conversation about how adversaries try to shape mental models, push narratives, and disrupt the way choices get made. It's a chance to explore how these challenges affect us today and what it means to stay ahead in a world where the mind itself is contested ground.

With many keynotes, panels, and interactive sessions, attendees will have the opportunity to dig into themes like narrative disruption, information overload, memetic influence, and perception manipulation in the age of algorithmic warfare. These conversations will highlight why mental agility, institutional adaptability, and the constant reshaping of our architypes are so important for keeping a strategic edge in today's conflicts.





August was a busy month for AUiX, filled with events designed to connect, collaborate, and explore new technologies with partners across Air University and beyond. At the request of Lt Col Creed Napier from ACSC, the team returned for a follow-up, hands-on session with faculty and students eager to continue their learning journey. During the Al-Enhanced Study Skills Part 2 workshop, participants were shown the criticality of building strong and precise prompts while practicing creating them. They also experimented with custom GPTs tailored for academic use and engaged in thoughtful discussions on the challenges and opportunities of integrating AI into the classroom.

AUIX hosted a booth at DAFITC where its innovation story was on display and the team had the chance to connect with a wide range of attendees, including the Space Force S6. The Eagle Institute team stayed busy during DAFITC as well supporting events such as an AU leadership social, the MGM Tech Lab – Defense Accelerator Demo Day, and a mini-workshop on NIPR GPT for the DAF Digital Transformation Office. Overall, the month was a great reminder of the energy, curiosity, and teamwork that keeps AUIX "taking ideas one step beyond."

