# EAGLE ENDEAVORS

JUNE/JULY 2026

## Montgomery Tech Lab

Montgomery TechLab invited AUiX back for the June 16th Defense Accelerator cohort to lead sessions helping businesses solve challenges within the defense sector. For the summer session, the team shared valuable insights on how to successfully navigate and innovate alongside the Air Force.

The open dialogue also allowed AUiX to expand its own understanding of key emerging capabilities. Discussions focused on key subjects such as critical mineral recovery, cybersecurity and compliance, safety-critical embedded systems, robotics, and force protection technologies.

## Laser Engraving

On June 12, The Eagle Institute's Echo Lab hosted a Laser Engraving 101 workshop with eight participants. The introductory session provided hands-on training in laser safety, design preparation, machine operation, and engraving techniques. Participants gained practical experience using the Xtool laser engraver while creating custom projects throughout the workshop. By the end of the session, each attendee successfully designed and engraved a personalized keychain and left with a foundational understanding of laser engraving processes and equipment operation. The Echo Lab team appreciated the participants' enthusiasm and creativity, and are planning to host more advanced workshops in the future.

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## AI For Educators

Held at The Eagle on June 15 and 16, VECTOR's Dr. Andy Clayton, Chief of Experiential Learning and AI Adoption, led the AI Educator Workshop, providing faculty and staff with research-informed approaches to modernizing curriculum and improving learner engagement.

The two-day workshop combined expert instruction with collaborative design activities, hands-on exercises, and practical applications with Jeremy Van Egmond leading two specific blocks on AI literacy, AI-enabled course design, and instructor-specific applications of AI across curriculum development and execution.

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## AI For Educators Continued

Participants explored how immersion and presence can be achieved through intentional instructional design rather than technology alone, learned to apply Learning Experience Design principles grounded in Flow Theory, Experiential Learning Theory, and Transactional Distance Theory. They developed immersive learning experiences using Digital Bloom's Taxonomy and emerging XR technologies.

Additionally, the attendees gained practical experience integrating artificial intelligence into curriculum development while maintaining ethical, human-centered educational practices. The faculty left with actionable tools and frameworks they could immediately apply within their own courses and programs.

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## Polaris Tech Support

The first week of June, Polaris Tech Bridge, in collaboration with the US Navy and the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, organized the Blue TIDE event to evaluate emerging maritime technologies. Teams from AUiX and The Eagle joined a panel of judges for four days of virtual qualifying demonstrations.

The teams assessed emerging autonomous maritime technologies ranging from underwater acoustical AI defense systems to high-speed surface craft, all designed for coastal defense, contested logistics, and/or C4ISR operations. In August, finalists will take part in live, in-water demonstrations for potential selection to strengthen civilian maritime protection, Joint All-Domain Operations and national security.

## SLOSS Tech

Members of The Eagle Institute attended this annual technology and leadership conference in Birmingham on June 25th to engage with Alabama's technology sector and gain broader awareness of entrepreneurial activity that could help address Air Force needs and challenges. The event provided opportunities to connect with points of contact in the UAS space, including Fort Rucker, as well as with AI and education initiatives that could positively impact professional military education. Following the conference, Tech Birmingham President Deon Gordon visited The Eagle Institute to discuss next steps for strengthening Alabama's statewide ecosystem of regional innovation and national security partnerships.

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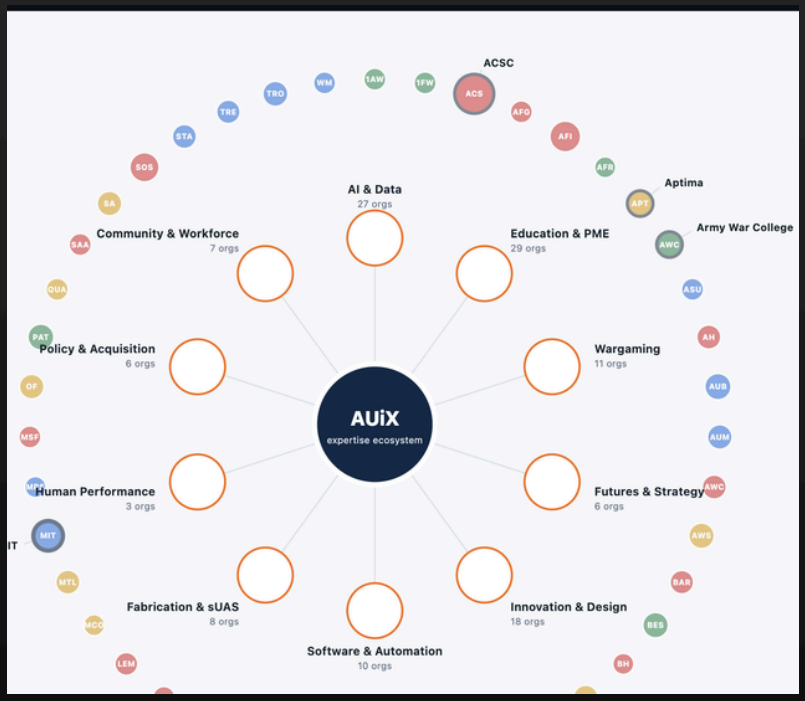
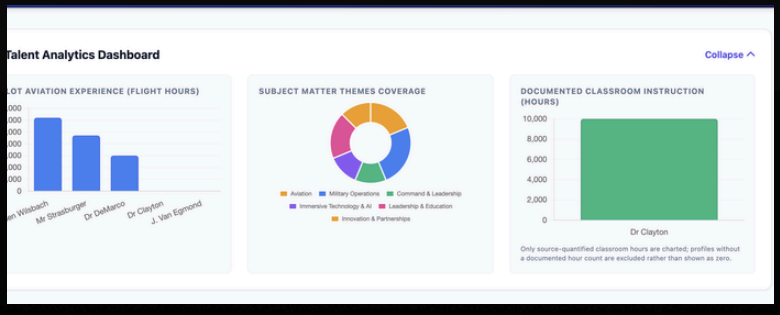
## AU SME Dashboard

In coordination with Dr. Willbeck and AUiX, a new dashboard that represents SME distribution across the AU enterprise is being prototyped using AI and non-CUI data sources (i.e. standard USAF biographies/academic profiles). The tool would structure information around categories such as education, assignments, joint experience, flight/combat history, research, publications, and awards, enabling users to connect the right people to emerging AU challenges and opportunities. This capability is part of the Project DRADIS portfolio and has potential to transfer to the ENVISION platform.




After a productive demo of the AU SME Dashboard prototype on 23 July, it was determined that next steps will include submitting a request for PII to HAF to allow for the curation of faculty professional records which will provide the proper database for the project MVP.

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## ACSC Faculty AI

The Eagle Institute facilitated a second dialogue with 12 newly appointed ACSC faculty members during the 2 July onboarding session. The discussion explored their recent experiences with artificial intelligence and examined how instructors can effectively leverage AI while supporting its thoughtful integration throughout AY27. Insights from the session are directly informing the development of future programming to ensure that resources, training, and support remain responsive to the needs of faculty and staff. This continued engagement will also help identify emerging opportunities, address implementation challenges, and strengthen faculty confidence in incorporating AI into teaching and learning.

## PRAXEUM Update

The Eagle Institute added Muse portable electroencephalogram (EEG) headbands to the Classroom of the Future, giving AU faculty, students, and mission partners hands-on access to real-time biofeedback on attention, focus, and relaxation. This low-cost, low-risk capability supports exploration of how emerging biometric tools can enhance learning design, self-regulation, mental endurance, and future human performance experimentation across the AU enterprise.

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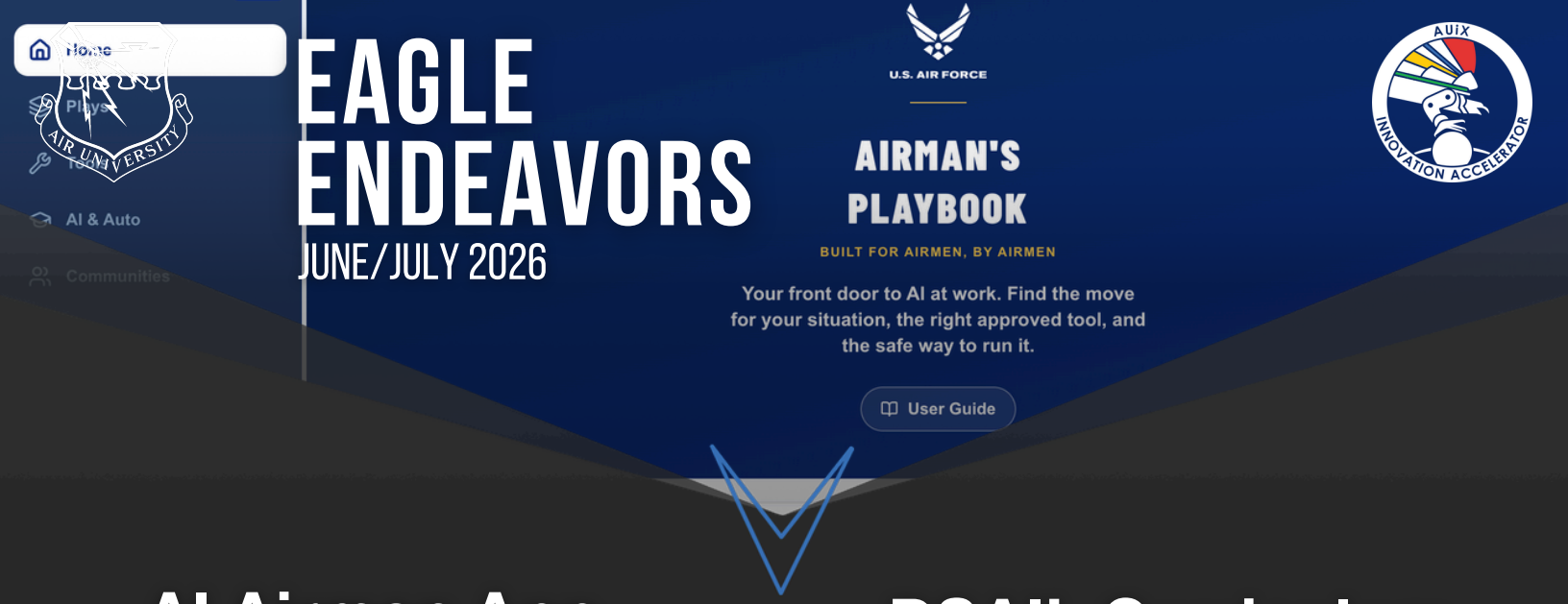


## AI Airmen App

In partnership with SSgt Michael Rosa, AUiX is positioned to support the development and curation of content for the Airman Playbook initiative under the CSAF AI Action Group. This collaboration will draw on existing resources and expertise to provide Airmen with practical, accessible guidance for understanding and applying artificial intelligence across the enterprise. Key contributions will include AI 101 educational materials previously developed in collaboration with Air University, as well as the collection, refinement, and organization of high-value prompts and use cases sourced from organizations and functional communities throughout the enterprise.

## DSAIL Curriculum

Collaboration continues with ACSC (Lt Col Creed Napier) to develop hands-on laboratories for the DSAIL elective curriculum. AUiX intern Alex Shaffer is supporting the effort by designing learning experiences in data analysis, computer vision (CNN), and reinforcement learning (RL). AUiX also continues to provide consultation on AI policy development, including ongoing support to SOS (A7/9).

Additionally, this partnership is working to establish scalable framework templates for future course iterations, ensuring the curriculum remains adaptable as emerging machine learning techniques evolve. This ongoing project strengthens student technical proficiency and furthers educational development with national defense modernization goals