





U.S. Air Force "Technology Horizons"

U.S. AIR FORCE

SecAF / CSAF Tasking Letter


THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
 CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
 WASHINGTON, DC
 

JUN 18 2009



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SUBJECT: Technology Horizons Study

Air Force warfighting capabilities have a proud heritage of being born from the very best science and technology our Nation can create; indeed, the very history of the United States Air Force is closely intertwined with the development of advances in science and technology. Yet today, "flattening" of the world is making it increasingly challenging for the U.S. to maintain technology superiority over potential adversaries. A growing number of nations will soon have the ability to transform science and technology advances into militarily significant capabilities. Over the next decades, we will increasingly face potential adversaries having peer or near-peer capabilities. To remain the world's most capable Air Force, we must correctly anticipate the emerging science and technology advances that have the greatest military potential.

The Air Force Chief Scientist will conduct a study across the air, space, and cyberspace domains to develop a forward-looking assessment on a 20-year horizon of potential offensive and defensive capabilities and counter-capabilities of the Air Force and its future adversaries. This study will bring together scientists, engineers and operators from inside and outside the Air Force to develop a 10-year technology forecast, followed by a further 10-year forecast of new militarily significant capabilities that can be derived from those technologies. Using this "10+10 technology-to-capability" forecasting process, the study will seek to identify potential "leapfrog" and "game-changing" capabilities that could substantially alter future warfighting environments and affect future U.S. Joint capability dominance.


We believe this study can provide important insights in this pivotal time and we encourage support of its objectives. We expect that Air Force leaders at all levels may find the results useful in today's decision making as we work to ensure that our Air Force remains the world's most capable in 2030 and beyond.


 Michael B. Donley
 Secretary of the Air Force
 
 Norman A. Schwartz
 General, USAF
 Chief of Staff

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Cleared for Public Release

United States Air Force
Chief Scientist (AF/ST)



Report on
Technology Horizons
A Vision for Air Force Science & Technology
During 2010-2030

Key science and technology focus areas for the U.S. Air Force over the next two decades that will provide technologically achievable capabilities enabling the Air Force to gain the greatest U.S. Joint force effectiveness in 2030 and beyond.

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