### Headquarters U.S. Air Force

Integrity - Service - Excellence

# AF Science, Technology, and Engineering Overview



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- AF S&T Organization
- AF S&T Vision
- SAF/AQR
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- S&T Program Priorities
- Strategy Development
- Summary



## **AF S&T Organization**





### AF S&T Vision



Create compelling air, space, and cyber capabilities for precise and reliable Global Vigilance, Reach and Power for our Nation









### SAF/AQR Portfolio





# **S&T Program Tenets**

- Prepare for an Uncertain Future and Investigate Game-Changers to Shape the Artof-the Possible into Military Capabilities
- Create Technology Options that Address Urgent Warfighter Needs and Provide New AF Service Core Function Capabilities in Support of the Joint Mission
- Maintain In-House Expertise to Support the Acquisition and Operational Communities and Modernize and Improve the Sustainability of Unique Research Facilities and Infrastructure
- Develop Future Air Force Leaders with an Appreciation for the Value of Technology as a Force-Multiplier
- Remain Vigilant Over and Leverage Global S&T Developments and Emerging Capabilities



- Priority 1: Support the current fight while advancing breakthrough S&T for tomorrow's dominant warfighting capabilities
  - Enable the AF to operate effectively and achieve desired effects in all domains and all operations
  - Improve the agility, mobility, affordability and survivability of AF assets

#### The Right Balance - 6.1/6.2/6.3, All Domains, Performance vs. Affordability

# Support the Current Fight While Advancing Breakthrough Capabilities







#### Support the Current Fight.... Advancing Tomorrow's Capabilities

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# **S&T Program Priorities**

- Priority 2: Execute a balanced, integrated S&T Program that is responsive to AF Service Core Functions; Increase emphasis in S&T that will:
  - Improve the sustainment, affordability and availability of legacy systems
  - Reduce cyber vulnerabilities while emphasizing mission assurance
  - Support the needs of the nuclear enterprise
  - Deliver autonomous systems and human performance augmentation technologies envisioned in Technology Horizons
  - Provide robust situation awareness to enhance decision-makers' understanding and knowledge by improving ISR capabilities and data PED
  - Enable long-range precision strike
  - Reduce energy dependency

Where Do We Invest the Next Dollar

# **Delivering Human Performance Augmentation and Autonomy**







## **Reduce Energy Dependence**



Change the Culture

Make Energy A Consideration In All We Do



# **S&T Program Priorities**

- Priority 3: Retain and shape the critical competencies needed to address the full range of S&T product and support capabilities
  - Increase level of in-house basic research
  - Enhance critical competencies of the organic cyber workforce
  - Support AF STEM initiatives to develop and optimally manage the future S&E workforce

#### Shaping the Current and Future Workforce

### Retain and Shape Critical Competencies Internal to AFRL







Provide Organic Basic Research and Advanced Development Opportunities in Critical Areas





- Greater consideration given to non-domestic sources
- Greater need for acquisition and sustainment decision makers to be provided with usable, current IB information
- Greater need for the AF to provide clear guidance in terms of shaping the IB
  - Critical domestic capabilities technologies and skill sets
  - Sufficient competition supply chain management
  - Risk mitigation tools
- S&T community has an important role to play here



# **S&T Program Priorities**

- Priority 4: Ensure the AF S&T program is integrated into the AF Corporate requirements and programming processes
  - Be a trusted partner of the acquisition/sustainment community assess tech maturity/enhance and accelerate tech transition
  - Leverage R&D efforts within industry including small businesses
  - Develop and demonstrate technology solutions that decrease manufacturing risks

#### Bridge the Valley of Death



# Flagship Capability Concept

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- Definition: An integrated technology project collaboratively developed by MAJCOM(s), Center(s), and AFRL that:
  - Addresses a documented and prioritized MAJCOM capability need
  - Is commissioned via AF S&T Governance structure
  - Is traced to a CRRA Gap, linked to a Service Core Function Master Plan

#### Attributes:

- Initial systems engineering and development planning (DP) initiated
- Somewhere between a leading DP concept and a prototype
- Assigned to lead Center for transition
- MAJCOM transition manager identified
  - Transition funding (6.4) committed two years prior to S&T completion
- Defined S&T baseline/exit criteria
- S&T project ideally completed during current FYDP



# **Initial Set of Flagships**

- 1. High Velocity Penetrating Weapon (HVPW)
- 2. Responsive Reusable Boost for Space Access (RBS)
- 3. Selective Cyber Operations Tech Integration (SCOTI)







#### Flagships Helping Bridge the Valley of Death





Energy

- Cyber
- Hypersonics

#### Space Situational Awareness

Sustainment



### X-51A Program Objective

Flight test the AF Hypersonic Technology (HyTech) scramjet engine, using endothermic hydrocarbon fuel, by accelerating a vehicle from boost (~M=4.5) to Mach 6+



- Acquire ground and flight data on an actively cooled, self-controlled operating scramjet engine (rules and tools development)
- Demonstrate viability of an endothermically fueled scramjet in flight
- Prove viability of a free-flying, scramjet powered, vehicle (Thrust > Drag)



#### Survivable, High Speed Weapon Enabling Capabilities

#### Hypersonic Air Vehicle and Propulsion Technologies Enable Long Range at High Speed with Effective Payload

**Precision Strike** 

Variable Warhead Effects



Aircraft Systems Internal bombers External fighters

Net Enabled In-Flight Targetable

Long Range

**High Speed** 

Rapid, Responsive Strike in Anti-Access/Access Denied (A2/AD) Environments



High Speed Aircraft

**Capabilities and Attributes** 

#### **Operation in A2/AD Environments**

#### Penetrate Denied Areas (Survivable)

High utility in space-Large ground coverage denied areas area Mach 4+ Cruise **Runway Takeoff and** Landing **Reusable**, Long-Life **Turbine Based** 

**Combined Cycle** 

Airframe

**On-Demand Flight in A2/AD Environments** 

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- Air Force Depends on the S&T Program to discover, develop, and demonstrate high-payoff technologies across all domains – *Tech Push*
- S&T Program Priorities, Program Tenets, and Processes aligned to turn science and knowledge into militarily relevant capabilities *Tech Pull*
- Flagships linking S&T, Development Planning, and MAJCOM transition funding into HAF-commissioned AF Capabilities – The <u>Bridge</u> Over The Valley of Death
- Industrial Base, Engineering, and Technical Management Improving Acquisition Outcomes



### BACKUPS

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### High Speed Weapon Roadmap

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#### **TECHNOLOGY GAPS**

- High Speed Multimode Seekers
- Anti Jam GPS
- Alternative high speed guidance (GPS denied environment)
- Compact energetic booster
- Aeroconfiguration, structures and materials, control surfaces, TPS
- Compatibility with current and emerging fighters and bombers
- Compatibility with Navy/VLS



### High Speed Aircraft Roadmap

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## Revitalizing Development Planning (DP)

Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act (WSARA) of 2009 requires:

Director, Systems Engineering to "Review the organizations & capabilities of the military departments with respect to...*development planning* ...and identify needed changes or improvements"

SAE to "develop & implement plans to ensure the military dept has provided appropriate resources for: Development planning and systems engineering organizations with adequate numbers of trained personnel"





- Acquisition contribution to AF-level capability planning
- Early analyses of technical issues, risks, and resources
  - Inform sponsors and decision makers on realm of the possible
  - Greatest leverage prior to Materiel Development Decision
- Systems engineering efforts define the trade space of concepts
- DP activities foundation for new system development
- Results in high-confidence estimates of cost, schedule, and technical performance