



AIR FORCE DOCTRINE 2035 AFD35 WARGAME

21-23 April 2026
Maxwell AFB, Alabama



The Air Force of 2035 will likely face widely deployed autonomous collaborative robotic platforms, AI-enabled decision making and battle management, human-machine augmentation, bioengineered threats, quantum-enabled discovery, new advanced materials, and distributed adaptive manufacturing. If fielded, these new technologies will significantly disrupt Air Force operational doctrine in the coming decade.

The Curtis E. LeMay Center for Doctrine Development and Education will conduct a three-day operational wargame to evaluate how emerging technologies may disrupt Air Force Doctrine for Counterair Operations, Strategic Attack, Sustainment, Cyberspace Operations, Command and Control, Planning, Air Mobility, Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and others. The wargame will be unclassified to maximize expert perspectives from across government, academia, and industry as we test the operational employment of artificial intelligence & autonomy, advanced materials & production, biotechnology & neuroscience, quantum sciences, and robotics & miniaturization in a conflict set in the Indo-Pacific theater in 2035.

Players will determine tech investments and shape force design and capability development in scenarios for homeland defense, long-range strike, air superiority operations, contested logistics, and information operations. The wargame will tackle fundamental challenges to airpower doctrine:

- Confronting increased mass and maneuver at speed
- Airspace control for autonomous platforms across service boundaries
- Policy for delegating mission command to machines
- Tension between centralized and decentralized control
- Designing new command relationship paradigms
- Escalation management and deterrence with AI-enabled decision making
- Authorities for automated target selection, deconfliction, and strike approval
- Base defense for advanced threats
- Replacing human-centric planning processes with agentic workflows
- Integrating AI-enabled logistics, autonomous airlift, and forward advanced manufacturing

HELP US SHAPE FUTURE AIR FORCE DOCTRINE

If you would like to participate and share your industry perspective, operational experience, technology expertise, or unique insights, please contact Mr. Greg Sharpe, LeMay Center Doctrine Outreach office at donald.sharpe.2@us.af.mil. For additional details visit our website at <https://www.doctrine.af.mil/home/AFD35>.



"At the Intersection of Technology and Doctrine"