

Historical Background:

Air Force Revolutionary Planning Process

BACKGROUND: At the 1994 Mission Area Plans (MAP) Review--a fiscally constrained 25-year look into the future of Air Force investment--the Air Force Chief of Staff (CSAF) tasked the Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Operations (HQ AF/XO) to develop a process to inject revolutionary thinking into modernization planning. HQ AF/XO developed and presented the Air Force Revolutionary Planning Process to the CSAF who approved the process and tasked the AF/XO to prototype a proof of concept.

DISCUSSION: The Revolutionary Planning Process had three phases--Generation, Investigation, and Integration--intended to inject innovative ideas into Air Force institutions, concepts of operations, and technology development programs. Each phase concluded with four-star approval. HQ AF/XO established an Air Staff office to institutionalize this three-phase process.

The Generation Phase - used multiple sources to generate and evaluate ideas that could have a revolutionary impact on the Air Force. Four-stars reviewed the ideas and selected the most promising for detailed investigation at the October '96 CORONA Conference.

The Investigation Phase - will use analyses, simulations, wargames, and exercises to evaluate and test the merit of each selected idea. Four-stars will review investigation results, determine which ideas have the greatest potential impact on the Air Force, and decide how to proceed with implementation for the Integration Phase.

Integration Phase - four-stars will determine which ideas to fund for basic research, to program in the Program Objective Memorandum (POM), or provide to the Mission Area Teams for the MAP process. HQ AF/XPX will track the status of selected ideas.

Institutionalizing the process--a major effort to generate ideas to occur every five years; expert panels will review previous ideas and offer new options to maintain focus in intervening years.

The first major effort--Air Force 2025--began in August 1995 with Air University leading the generation phase. The best ideas from this product were briefed to a four-star summit in October 1996.

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