



AIR UNIVERSITY
Strategic Issues List
(AUSIL)

AY 2013

Air University

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As the intellectual and leadership center of the Air Force, the Air University (AU) is charged with developing leaders who are warrior-scholars: warriors prepared to apply the instruments of national power to meet joint and coalition objectives, and scholars infused with the desire to improve professionally and personally throughout their careers and lives. Each year the AU commander invites senior Department of Defense (DOD), Air Force, sister-service, and interagency leaders to propose research topics on issues important to the Air Force and national security for incoming professional military education classes at AU.

These topics will help shape the University's research agenda and are used internally by AU students to write research papers as part of their curriculum. As the organization charged with developing leaders who are warrior-scholars, AU strives to hone students' critical analysis, cross-cultural communications, and leadership skills through its research efforts. As such, the Air University continues to serve as the premier source of research excellence regarding air, space, and cyberspace domains. This Strategic Issues List provides a listing of this year's important issues not only internally for our students but externally to organizations throughout DOD.

These topics also help us develop conference and symposia agendas here at the Air University, resulting in research as part of AU's educational outreach. Additionally, the list has been divided into several broad topics that will allow researchers to identify areas of preferred interests and address those organizational research questions throughout DOD. Six primary areas drive our efforts for research topic selection: Communications Studies, International Security Studies, Leadership Studies, Military Studies, Profession of Arms, and Warfare Studies. At the completion of the research cycle, student research papers are published on these topics and can be found in our online collections at: <http://www.au.af.mil/au/aul/lane.htm>.

Furthermore, the Air University produces other research studies, monologues, essay compilations, anthologies, and research resources in the form of book reviews, journal articles, AU guidelines and numbered texts at: <http://afri.au.af.mil>.

If you have an interest in pursuing these subjects and would like to learn more about research opportunities, or helping the Air University conduct research, please send your ideas to us via our contact page at the AFRI website. <http://afri.au.af.mil/email.asp>.



Communications Studies

This core area in the curriculum focuses on instruction designed to develop an understanding and appreciation of effective speaking, listening, writing, research, and nonverbal communications. Interpersonal, small-group, and organizational dynamics and the attendant processes and networks for communication also comprise a significant portion of Communication Studies, as do cross-cultural communications. Communication Studies also involves relations with the media and the nuances of persuasion, rhetoric, and propaganda.

Topics cover: cloud-to-cloud computing, cyber integration, defeating attacks, offensive administration, acquisition, productivity and security and more.

International Security Studies

This is a rather broad category that includes the nature and causes of war and peace, patterns of change and major global and regional trends, contemporary problems and issues, etc. Special emphasis is accorded the non-military instruments of power—diplomatic, informational, economic—and how they relate to the military instrument of power and affect global, regional, and national security conditions, problems, and issues. It also includes the study of national security strategy and the national security decision-making process, civil-military relations, critical contemporary regional and functional problems/issues, and interagency processes.

Topics cover: building partnership capacity, security forces assistance, mobility, Deterrence, foreign development of nuclear weapons, Asia-Pacific basing, foreign economic, climate, critical utilities, domain awareness, remotely piloted aircraft and regional approaches.

Leadership Studies

The leadership curriculum area concerns the understanding and appreciation of the professional, organizational, and interpersonal dimensions of influencing and directing people and other resources to accomplish the mission. This area addresses topics related to developing and managing human resources at the supervisory, unit, and Air Force levels. Topics may include personal leadership styles, organizational leadership, functions of management, and command and supervisory responsibilities.

Topics cover: leadership, character development, learning, behavioral environments, perceptions, professional boundaries, and military quality of life.

Military Studies

This core area embraces the nature of war, general military history, history of the Air Force and air and space power, and military theory, doctrine, and strategy. It provides a solid foundation of the nature and theories of war and methods of warfare, yet draws these classic ideas into the present, as comparisons and contrasts are made with current operations.

Topics cover: assessing the Air Force's performance, implications of future conflicts, balanced reserve accessions, Component MAJCOMS's, consolidated personnel center, satellite architecture, base operating support, energy, munitions, shaping military strategy, ISR capabilities, air ground base defense support, robotics, precision munitions airdrop techniques, pervasive technologies, nuclear deterrence, small tankers, waste management, resource allocations, and the use of social media to support personnel operations/information.

Profession of Arms

This area focuses on the distinctive knowledge, culture, and heritage of the military profession. It addresses subject matter that uniquely characterizes and distinguishes the uniformed services from the society they serve. Examples of topics in this area are institutions peculiar to the military, the Airmen's role in society, military roles and responsibilities, accountability, core values, morals and ethics, security awareness, career structure, oath of office, professional standards, military justice, good order and discipline, customs and courtesies, drills and ceremonies, and civil-military relations.

Topics cover: using warrant officers/limited duty officers again in the AF, nutrition, total force integration and post deployment mobilization respite absence impact on armed forces.

Warfare Studies

The central focus here is on the art of employing military power across the spectrum of operations. Focus is on war fighting and knowing the strategies, tactics, and doctrinal underpinnings of how best to achieve victory over the enemy. Topics in this area would involve the force structure, organizational structure, planning processes, supporting doctrine, and operational concepts that enable the US military to engage as a joint team across the full range of military operations. Warfare Studies include national military strategy; roles and missions; force structure; joint planning and joint doctrine; joint, combined, and multinational operations; core competencies; tactics; and air, space, and cyberspace warfare among others.

Topics cover: coalition warfare, anti-access/area denial, START treaty, the mix of hybrid and cyber warfare, future technologies, future systems, the joint information enterprise (JIE) war reserve material, battlespace awareness, GPS, manned-unmanned teaming, precision strike, passive defense, nuclear security in fiscally restrained environments, wetland migration, energy and reusing boneyard aircraft for unmanned flight.

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