

BROAD AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT (BAA)

1. Agency Name

United States Air Force Academy (USAFA)
Colorado Springs, CO

2. Funding Opportunity Number

USAFA-BAA-2015

3. Funding Opportunity Title

Research Interests of the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA)

4. Types of Instruments Awarded

Research and Development contracts, grants and cooperative agreements

5. Announcement Type

"Amendment 0002 to Initial Announcement"

6. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Numbers

12.800

7. Due Dates

This announcement remains open until superseded. White papers and proposals are reviewed and evaluated as they are received and may be submitted at any time; however, there is an initial preference for white papers over full applications/proposals. The white paper submission process is discussed in sections IV and V of this BAA. Proposals will be due according to specific instructions contained in a separate Request for Proposal (RFP) notice resulting from favorable white paper evaluations or calls issued against this BAA. Calls may be placed against this BAA and specific information related to due dates will be provided in each call. The calls may also include specific terms which apply to the call such as further technical details, cut-off date for white paper and/or proposal submission and any pertinent clauses, such as available Government Furnished Property (GFP) or specific Organizational Conflict of Interest (OCI) requirements. Proposals or white papers submitted in response to calls should be submitted according to directions contained within each individual call and in accordance with this BAA. Late bid and proposal provisions (in accordance with (IAW) Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) 52.215-1(c) (3)) will apply to this BAA.

8. Additional Overview

USAFA's Research Laboratory is announcing to business and academia the intent to solicit proposals for USAFA research efforts through this BAA. This strategy provides USAFA an acquisition tool with the flexibility to solicit proposals and make awards to develop technologies to meet present and future Air Force research needs as technology issues are identified. USAFA invites white papers and proposals for research in many broad areas. These areas are described in detail in Section I, Funding Opportunity Description. Additional information regarding USAFA Research Centers, Departments and Institutes may be found [here](#).

USAFA is seeking unclassified research white papers and proposals that do not contain proprietary information. Requests for white papers/proposals are also transmitted via calls which may be published separately from the BAA at various times during the open period of the BAA (note: the first call may be published with the BAA).

At this time, it is anticipated awards will be made in the form of grants, cooperative agreements or contracts. USAFA reserves the right to select and fund for award all, some, or none of the white papers and/or proposals in response to this announcement. All awards are contingent upon funds availability for the program areas identified. Unless specifically indicated in a RFP or a call, cost sharing is permitted and encouraged, but not required. This announcement will remain open until replaced by a successor BAA or until it is cancelled. White papers and proposals may be submitted at any time.

Awards based on responses to this BAA are considered to be the result of full and open competition. Small businesses are encouraged to submit white papers against any Research Center's Areas of Interest described within this BAA. The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code, unless otherwise stated in the BAA amendments shall be: 541711, Research and Development in Biotechnology and 541712, Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering and Life Sciences (except Biotechnology). The size standard for both NAICS codes is 500 employees. White papers and proposals submitted in response to this BAA shall be in accordance with the requirements of this BAA and its appropriate amendment(s).

Interested offerors should be alert for any BAA amendments, calls, or other changes to the requirements of this BAA or its subsequent amendments. Amendments to and/or calls on this BAA will be posted to the [FedBizOpps.gov](https://www.fedbizopps.gov) and/or [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) website and published when they occur. Interested parties are encouraged to periodically check these websites for updates and amendments.

USAFA will not issue paper copies of this announcement. The costs of white papers and/or complete proposals in response to this BAA are not considered an allowable direct charge to any award resulting from this BAA or any other award. Technical and cost proposals, or any other material, submitted in response to this BAA will not be returned.

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I. Funding Opportunity Description

The USAFA invests in an active research program for three main reasons. First and foremost, research significantly enhances the cadet learning experience. Our research is done by, for and with cadets who work alongside fellow cadets and faculty mentors. Research provides cadets with rich independent learning opportunities as they tackle ill-defined problems and are challenged to apply their knowledge and abilities.

Second, our research program provides opportunities essential for faculty development. Research broadens and deepens the experience base of the faculty. This infuses current, relevant, state-of-the-art and cutting-edge applications and examples into the curriculum. This also helps our faculty remain current in their respective fields.

Third, at USAFA we strive to conduct research to enhance the ability of the Air Force to perform its mission. There are ongoing research projects spanning topics as diverse as super hypersonics, cyber security, spatial disorientation, athletic performance and homeland defense.

This BAA is located at the [FedBizOpps.gov](https://www.fedbizopps.gov) and [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) website(s). Research areas of interest to the USAFA's Research Center Directors are described in detail in the sub-sections below.

a. Research Centers

1. Aeronautics (Aeronautics Research Center)

The Aeronautics Research Center (ARC) performs a range of aeronautical research tasks in support of Air Force (AF), Department of Defense (DoD), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and other government and commercial sponsors. Making use of the highly diverse and advanced experimental facilities housed in the USAFA Department of Aeronautics, the ARC pursues a range of aeronautic and propulsion research efforts. The research program in this center is geared toward providing all undergraduates with a rich, relevant research experience while answering critical research needs of our highly varied customer base. Researchers may expect extensive access to premier facilities, tremendous latitude of pursuits and single-minded focus on research tasks, but must seek to incorporate student participation in their projects, typically two to four students per semester. Substantial effort in this center is directed toward the solution of multi-disciplinary problems which may require skills beyond classical aeronautics disciplines, including plasma and laser physics, optics, automatic controls and applied mathematics. The ARC, in partnership with the USAFA Modeling and Simulation Center, is a leader in the complementary employment of experiment and simulation to solve complex fluid, aerodynamic and control problems.

Current research strengths include several complementary thrusts. Closed loop flow control efforts focus on aero-optic control and control of flexible structures under aerodynamic

loading. There is extensive effort in the development of automatic control algorithms and techniques, experimental flow control methodologies, fluid-structure interactions and computational fluid dynamics (CFD) simulations. Well-developed and modern force and moment measurement capabilities in low speed ($M < 0.1$) and subsonic (up to Mach 0.6) wind tunnels are employed in the investigation of numerous air vehicle modifications as well as development of new aircraft and Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) designs. Flight test of small air vehicles can be arranged using USAFA facilities. A Mach-6 Ludwig tube is now available, complementing an existing Mach 4.4 blow down facility for supersonic and hypersonic investigations, emphasizing shock wave-boundary layer interactions. Operating engines, including an F-109 turbo fan and several internal combustion engines, are used for fuels and flow quality investigations, with a current emphasis in ejectors, ducted fans, and propellers for small air vehicles. Researchers are encouraged to propose topics in these areas and other allied aeronautics subjects.

A list of current and available research facilities can be found [here](#).

Thomas E. McLaughlin, Ph.D.
Director, Aeronautics Research Center
Department of Aeronautics
PH (719) 333-2613
E-mail: Tom.Mclaughlin@usafa.edu

2. Aeronautics (High Performance Computing Research Center)

The High Performance Computing Research Center (HPCRC) is a multi-disciplinary center which shares a dual mission of providing high performance computing resources to USAFA cadets and research/teaching personnel, as well as conducting physics-based modeling and simulation research tasks in support of AF, DoD, NASA and other government and commercial sponsors. Making use of distributed/shared memory computing systems and a dedicated research network, the Center pursues a range of computational research efforts. The research program in this center is geared toward providing undergraduates with scientific computing experience supported by the DoD High Performance Computing Modernization Program and projects which answer critical research needs of our highly varied customer base. Researchers may expect extensive access to premier facilities, tremendous latitude of pursuits and single-minded focus on research tasks, but must seek to incorporate cadet participation in their projects, typically two to four cadets per semester.

The HPCRC, in partnership with the USAFA Aeronautics Research Center, is a leader in the complementary employment of experiment and simulation to solve complex fluid, aerodynamic and control problems. Current fluid/aerodynamic research interests include:

- a. Massively-separated flow aerodynamics, including turbulence modeling,
- b. Chemical, oxygen, iodine laser operation optimization,
- c. Reduced-order modeling for aircraft stability and control characterization,
- d. Fluid-structure interaction as applied to aero-elasticity,

- e. Non-equilibrium gas dynamics typical of high-altitude, rarefied flows as well as high-speed atmospheric re-entry,
- f. Gas turbine propulsion devices (including inlets, compressors, turbines and nozzles), high-speed propulsion devices such as ramjets and scramjets,
- g. Other topics of interest involving the use of high performance computing resources for the solution of complex scientific and engineering problems.

The HPCRC also works in partnership with other USAFA academic departments and research centers to develop computational simulation capabilities using high performance computing (HPC) resources. Current research interests in this area include:

- a. Development of tools and techniques to ease the delivery of HPC services to users and researchers without a significant computational background (including undergraduate students),
- b. Development of software methods, processes, tools and utilities to solve complex science and engineering problems using HPC resources (including General Purpose Graphical Processing Units or GPGPUs), and
- c. Development of parallel software processes and tools to improve maintainability, efficiency and scalability.

Andrew Lofthouse, Lt Col
 Director, High Performance Computing Research Center
 Department of Aeronautics
 PH (719) 333-9526
 E-mail: Andrew.Lofthouse@usafa.edu

3. Astronautics (Space Systems Research Center)

The Space Systems Research Center performs a wide range of activities involving the design, assembly, integration, test, launch and flight of small satellites and sounding rockets to conduct research for the AF and the DoD. This unique program blends science, technology and organizational skills like none other at the USAFA. The Center is currently operating FalconSAT-3 (launched 2007) and developing FalconSAT-6 (to launch 2017) and FalconSAT-8 (to launch in 2019), which host DoD Space Experiments Review Board-approved experiments. Other research areas are educational nanosatellites of the CubeSat form factor. Designing a satellite is a complex, multi-disciplinary undertaking requiring expertise across a number of technical disciplines. The Department of Astronautics, in partnership with the Space System Research Center, aims to extend this expertise through researching and applying design experiences and examples to support the AF and DoD.

Currently available facilities, instrumentation and research efforts can be found [here](#).

Todd Nathaniel, Lt Col, Ph.D.
 Director, Space Systems Research Center
 Department of Astronautics
 PH (719) 333-3315

4. Biosystems: Energy Transformation Mechanisms involving Microbial Fuel Cells, Extremophiles, and Metabolic Regulation (Life Sciences Research Center)

The Life Sciences Research Center's (LSRC) primary mission is to support the Air Force's research programs at the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) and Air Force Research Laboratories (AFRL) through faculty and cadet research efforts. USAFA has a long-term vision to establish a multi-year alternative energy program of planning, research and infrastructure investment. The vision involves a basic research approach towards renewable energy alternatives such as solar electric, fuel cells, waste-to-methane and other multiple conservation efforts. Currently very little data exist regarding the full elucidation of energy transformation within biosystems. Heretofore, an elegant model has not existed which could be further examined at the cellular/molecular level in terms of augmenting energy production in microorganisms. A deeper comprehensive investigation of the means by which photosynthetic organisms can be harnessed while capturing solar energy for conversion to chemical energy would be of value in emerging technologies such as bioelectrochemical systems. Such systems involve further investigation of microbial fuel cells (MFCs), extremophiles, and metabolic regulation mechanisms. This research would be in direct support of the Air Force research objectives which include the "exploration of natural and synthetic processes, mechanisms and/or pathways for understanding energy production in biosystems." To this end, our center is seeking potential research partnerships in advancing the aforementioned areas in terms of performance and sustainability.

Given the recent high interest in the use of microbial fuel cells (MFC) in alternative energy production, the Life Sciences Research Center within the Department of Biology has developed a growing MFC research program. Primarily, we are interested developing the growth and metabolic properties of certain microbial organisms for the purposes of optimizing MFC energy production. Ultimately, the center's goal is to have these MFCs function on a sustainable basis through the use of photosynthetic organisms. These types of fuels cells are known as Microbial Solar Cells (MSCs) which run in combination with varying photosynthetic organisms such as algae or cyanobacteria. Research efforts will focus on strain selection, cultivation and characterization to improve the overall metabolism of robust photosynthetic microbial cultures to increase renewable energy capability.

Additionally, the center is also interested in the extremophiles area (thermophilic, acidophilic, desert crust microbiota, etc.) and focused on discovering and understanding basic natural mechanisms used by organisms that could provide energy to small bio-sensing devices. This will enable the U.S. Air Force to employ biological systems with optimum performance and extended lifetimes. As protein and nucleic acid molecules are increasingly used as catalysts, sensors, and as materials, it will be necessary to understand how one can utilize these molecules in extreme environments, with the ability to regulate the desired function as conditions change, and to store devices for prolonged periods of time. Recently AFOSR has revealed a deepening interest in better understanding and elucidating select

protein mechanisms in desert crust enzyme regulation and preservation. Enzymes are able to lower activation barriers in a broad diversity of chemical transformations, and are capable of unrivaled reaction specificity and substrate affinity. Each of these assets can be uniquely leveraged in distinct biotechnological areas. Further, key aspects of cellular substrate concentrations and perturbations in metabolic flow via electron transfer mechanisms are largely unknown. Emerging evidence indicates a critical, yet underappreciated, role for investigation within these cellular response mechanisms. Areas of interest include; the mechanisms for survival and protein stability in extremophilic desert crust microbiota, and enzymatic engineering for faster catalysis in materials identification or degradation.

Lastly, there is growing interest in establishing fundamental mechanisms of metabolic regulation by redox sensors in model systems. One such approach could involve using bacterial, yeast and mammalian cell systems in parallel, to probe how cells respond to physiological changes brought about by varying O₂ (for example, “Crabtree Effects” within yeast) and nutrient levels. Specifically, interrogate the control mechanisms used by cells to regulate energy transformation when faced with dynamic redox conditions (e.g., fluctuating levels of energy carriers and/or O₂), which despite extensive efforts remain largely uncharacterized. Cognizant of the overall complexity of the regulation of central metabolism, efforts will be focused on a group of experiments that are primarily designed to reveal a subset of redox regulatory mechanisms at the level of the thiolome (-SH residues on cellular proteins) that appears to play significant roles in controlling metabolism as a function of cellular energetics. Our primary goal within this area involves capturing new insights regarding regulatory mechanisms that are used to control metabolic enzyme activity as the levels of electron donors/acceptors are altered from select boundary conditions.

A proposed solution would include a commercial or academic partner with experience in conducting and participating in R&D relating to the previously mentioned areas along with placing an exceptional research scientist at USAFA with an extensive background in associated fundamental microbial mechanisms across the biotic-abiotic interface. As on-site research is preferred, a PhD in biochemistry, microbiology, molecular biology, cell biology, bioengineering, or a related field for such research is highly desired. A recipient with prior experience with biological fuel cells (microbial and/or photosynthetic), extremophiles, or metabolic regulation would be ideal. Collaboration is encouraged to include leadership and guidance on the research areas proposed for laboratory technicians/students, partner scientists, chemists and engineers on experimental work at the intersection of chemistry, biology, and biochemistry.

Because of the USAFA mission to prepare young men and women for leadership positions within the Air Force, cadet participation with researchers is expected as part of our independent study projects (499s) and cadet summer research program (visiting partner labs). Additionally, there is potential for cross disciplinary involvement from a number of academic departments aside from Biology such as Chemistry (biochemistry), Engineering (model production), and Management (project analysis). Development of this research thrust may also result in potential collaboration opportunities with other academia, private companies and other Air Force research agencies.

Donald V. Veverka, Ph.D.
Director, Life Sciences Research Center
Department of Biology
PH (719) 333-9670
E-mail: Don.Veverka@usafa.edu

5. Chemistry (Chemistry Research Center)

The opportunity to participate in research by faculty, staff, and cadets is important to the overall mission of the USAFA. The Chemistry Research Center (CRC) provides for professional development of faculty members and resident researchers in addition to enhanced education of cadets through research programs in support of the AF as well as DoD Research and Development directives. In order to accomplish a portion of this, the CRC has had proven success by external partnering with academia, industry, and national laboratories in order to leverage an expanding technology base.

Current topics of interest in the CRC are renewable materials, light harvesting organic electronics, fluoropolymer coatings, synthetic spice metabolites, green fluorescent protein-based sensors, energetic materials, carbon aerogels, and omniphobic composites. Research may take place on-site using the laboratories and analytical instrumentation located in the Department of Chemistry at USAFA.

A short description of the CRC research and capabilities is available [here](#).

Dr. Scott T. Iacono
Associate Professor
Director, Chemistry Research Center
Department of Chemistry
PH (719) 333-6005
E-mail: Scott.Iacono@usafa.edu

6. Computer Science (Academy Center for Cyberspace Research)

The Academy Center for Cyberspace Research (ACCR) conducts research in a wide range of research areas within the field of Computer Science in support of the AF, DoD and other government and commercial sponsors. The center seeks to develop cadets as cyber innovators by participation in and exposure to research projects in the domain of cyberspace. All cadets in the Computer Science major receive research experience through independent studies, course projects and summer research opportunities. Current research focus areas for ACCR include cyberspace education and training, cyber-warfare topics and information assurance. State of the art computing facilities are available to students and researchers for conducting studies in an isolated network environment running virtual machine software for rapid reconfiguration and testing. Parallel architectures are also available for studies using neural networks and parallel algorithms. ACCR is especially interested in research with

proposed student projects. Current topics of interest include the Internet of Things, securing command and control of remotely piloted aircraft and satellite systems, cyber techniques for countering hostile unmanned aerial vehicles, automated characterization/decoding of radio frequency signals, Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition systems, jam resistance without shared secrets, vulnerabilities and defenses, identifying and categorizing malware, finding application and web vulnerabilities and cyber situational awareness. Researchers are encouraged to propose topics in these areas as well as other cyberspace topics.

Currently available facilities, publications and research efforts can be found [here](#).

Martin C. Carlisle, PhD
Director, Academy Center for Cyberspace Research
Department of Computer Science
PH (719) 333-7623
E-mail: Martin.Carlisle@usafa.edu

7. Engineering Mechanics (Center for Aircraft Structural Life Extension)

The Center for Aircraft Structural Life Extension (CAStLE) has a two-fold mission in support of aging structures and material degradation. First, to perform a wide range of research and technology development projects focused on delivering critical science and technology (S&T) advancements required to understand material degradation in structures and systems to various government, academic and commercial sponsors. Second, but no less important, to educate, train, inspire, and otherwise prepare future generations that might become the core of the S&T community within the government and the general professional population.

Making use of the expertise and extensive experimental and computational facilities housed in the USAFA Department of Engineering Mechanics and elsewhere, CAStLE pursues a range of research efforts in a wide variety of structural material degradation research fields. These fields include engineering mechanics, mechanical engineering, aerospace engineering, corrosion engineering, and material science. CAStLE places more emphasis on applied research and that part of development not related to the development of a specific system or hardware procurement. CAStLE is a leader in the complementary employment of experiment and simulation to solve complex static stability, static strength, fatigue and fracture mechanics problems. Current research strengths include advanced barrier coatings; static strength and static stability design and analysis; fatigue analysis; corrosion modeling, prevention and control; validation testing; analysis and methods development; computational structural and fracture mechanics; root-cause (failure) analysis; flight data acquisition system development, installation, maintenance and data analysis; educational curriculum and methodology research and development; structural risk analysis; and research tied to the USAF Aircraft Structural Integrity Program. The interaction between corrosion, cracking, and other material degradation/damage mechanisms and their effect on structural integrity has been a long-standing interest of CAStLE. There is keen interest at the DoD-level in material degradation in structures—to include corrosion, cracking and other

service-related damage mechanisms. In addition, there is DoD-level interest in educationally preparing and inspiring future generations to pursue technical careers which could address our nation's S&T challenges.

Examples of some past and current research efforts as well as cadet projects can be found [here](#).

Gregory A. Shoales, Ph.D., P.E.,
Director, Center for Aircraft Structural Life Extension (CAStLE)
Professor of Engineering Mechanics
Department of Engineering Mechanics
PH (719) 333-6213
E-Mail: Gregory.Shoales@us.af.mil

8. Laser and Optical Physics (Laser & Optics Research Center)

The Laser and Optics Research Center (LORC) performs a range of research tasks in support of the AF, DoD, DOE, National Science Foundation and other government and commercial sponsors. Making use of the extensive experimental facilities housed in the USAFA Department of Physics, the Center pursues a range of research efforts. The research programs in this center are geared toward providing all undergraduates with a rich, relevant research experience while answering critical research needs of our highly varied customer base. Researchers may expect extensive access to premier facilities, tremendous latitude of pursuits and single-minded focus on research tasks, but must seek to incorporate student participation in their projects, typically two to four students per semester.

Current research areas of emphasis comprise five broad areas. In the atomic physics area, precision measurements of atomic properties are a primary focus of investigation. These include measurements of atomic state lifetimes and branching ratios in alkalis such as cesium, sodium, potassium and rubidium along with alkaline-earth elements such as strontium which have atomic clock applications. Also the interaction of alkali atoms with inert gases is being studied for their collisional excitation transfer properties which are important to the operation of alkali lasers. This area is closely related to our second area of emphasis: the study of diode-pumped alkali lasers (DPAL). Key objectives of the DPAL research program are investigating their potential for scaling to high average power, investigating various amplifier and resonator configurations and improving the spectral and spatial output characteristics of high power semiconductor diode pump sources. Applications such as second harmonic generation and sum frequency generation are also part of this effort. Other gas lasers such as carbon monoxide lasers operating infrared wavelengths are also investigated.

Fiber laser research involves novel fiber designs including photonic crystal fibers and acoustically-engineered fibers for the suppression of non-linear effects in high-power fiber lasers, fiber components necessary for coherent beam combining, fiber laser and amplifier characterization, novel fiber manufacturing and processing methods, high-brightness,

efficient, wavelength-stabilized pump sources, modeling and simulation of fiber lasers and amplifiers and fiber laser applications including but not limited to remote sensing, tracking, directed energy weapons and communications.

High-performance imaging research is focused on novel wavefront measurement and manipulation techniques including holographic wavefront sensing and correction and photon sieve telescopes. Key objectives include developing and demonstrating imaging technology suitable for integration into rugged compact devices and aerospace platforms.

Nanomaterials research includes the application of novel materials structures for the manipulation of light including negative index materials, phonon-photon superlattices, tunable dielectrics, ferro-electric and ferro-magnetic oxides, surface plasmonics and black silicon for photo-detector and solar cell applications.

Researchers are encouraged to propose topics in these areas and other related subjects.

Martin D. Johnson
Deputy Director, Laser & Optics Research Center
Department of Physics (USAFA/DFP)
PH (719) 333-2579
E-mail: Martin.Johnson@usafa.edu

9. Physics (Space Physics & Atmospheric Research Center)

The Space Physics and Atmospheric Research Center (SPARC) studies the natural environment from the troposphere to the sun in support of AF, DoD, NASA, NSF and other government and commercial sponsors. Making use of the extensive experimental facilities housed in the USAFA Department of Physics, the SPARC pursues a range of efforts. The research program in this center is geared toward providing all undergraduates with a rich, relevant research experience while answering critical research needs of our highly varied customer base. Researchers may expect extensive access to premier facilities, tremendous latitude of pursuits and single-minded focus on research tasks, but must seek to incorporate student participation in their projects, typically two to four students per semester. Substantial effort in this center is directed toward the solution of multi-disciplinary problems which may require skills beyond classical physics disciplines, including plasma and laser physics, advanced miniaturization techniques, use of Micro-Electro-Mechanical-Systems, development of miniaturized automated satellite constellations and advanced data mining techniques for large data systems. The SPARC is a leader in the development of miniaturized payloads for small satellites, and the application of data provided by these payloads to relevant Department of Defense problems. SPARC research interests vary depending on the sponsoring agencies interests.

Current research strengths include several complementary thrusts. Space physics and space weather study the relationship of the space environment and the effects this environment have on mankind. Topics in space weather can range from experimental, such as developing

new instrumentation to measure the space environment, to theoretical, such as developing assimilative models which can be used to predict the space environment into the future. Linked with space physics and space weather, the micro- and nano-satellite thrust develops aggressively miniaturized spacecraft for use in small inexpensive constellations devoted to exploiting the entire range of space activities of interest to sponsors. The applied physics thrust considers all applications of physics to the practical applications of technology of interest to sponsors. In the past has included studies of plasma actuators, high speed spectroscopy in support of brief duration phenomena in the troposphere, mesosphere and the ionosphere, studies of the aurora and applications of weather modeling to highly dynamic small scale areas such as the USAFA. Finally, the Department supports a wide range of basic research in astronomy and astrophysics in support of the USAFA observatory.

Matthew G. McHarg, Ph.D.

Director, Space Physics and Atmospheric Research Center

Department of Physics

PH (719) 333-2460 (Desk), PH (719) 333-3510 (Front Office)

E-mail: Matthew.Mcharg@usafa.edu

10. Center for Physics Education Research (CPER)

The Center for Physics Education Research (CPER) was founded in 1994 to build a USAFA center of gravity providing impetus, opportunities and tools for physics faculty at USAFA and nationwide, as well as engage in and apply Scholarship of Teaching and Learning-like (SoTL) research activities within the Department of Physics. The CPER maintains extensive ties and collaborations with similar research programs nationwide.

The primary goals of the CPER are to:

- Engage in research initiatives that quantify gains in student understanding and appreciation of physics. Efforts in this category leverage the random assignment of students within Core Physics sections to categorize and assess gains in performance of students within a single semester and across multiple semesters. In addition to analyzing performance on standardized assessments, there is considerable interest in analyzing student response patterns, developing assessment rubrics and understanding prior student knowledge and correlating learning gains with other metrics such as instruction techniques and student engagement.
- Develop and share tools for enhancing teaching and student learning in physics. Of particular interest is the research and development related to pedagogical techniques and supporting tools for the Just-in-Time Teaching (JiTT) initiative, the signature CPER effort. This effort includes the extension of JiTT to develop student Self-Explanations under a Worked Example model of instruction. Additional efforts include development of tutorials (to include computer simulations) for both beginning and intermediate physics students.
- Maintain a connection between course and curriculum development (content, assessment methods, pedagogical approach) and physics education research. CPER

is actively and intimately involved with several national level efforts to engage in collaborative education research and bring the research results into the classrooms, both nationally and at USAFA, as soon as warranted by the assessment results.

Current research in this area includes

- Do-It-Yourself Modeling, examination of concept visualization techniques in eight disciplines ranging from Astronomy to Sociology, development of classroom lessons based on the group's prior work and developing and testing mobile technology techniques for monitoring student engagement. These topics (and supporting grants) are in the NSF IUES (Improving Undergraduate Education in Science) category.
- Proliferate lessons learned on a national level by disseminating research results through conference presentations, workshops and publications.
- In addition to disseminating results and lessons learned on CPER goals on a national level, CPER personnel are also developing research tutorials and annotating JiTT content for national distribution. The CPER is also interested in improving meteorology education. Evaluating the utility of textbooks on Physics of Space Weather and designing/testing an assessment of student learning gains in general meteorology courses are of particular interest.

Researchers are encouraged to propose research topics in these areas and other related subjects.

Kimberly de La Harpe, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Physics Education Research
Department of Physics (USAFA/DFP)
PH (719) 333-9719
E-mail: kimberly.deLaHarpe@usafa.edu

11. Academy Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Research (UAS)

The USAFA Center for UAS Research educates cadets as they prepare to become AF Officers, develops premiere UAS research capabilities and faculty and provides world-class UAS research facilities, supporting a real-world experience for our cadets and producing needed research solutions for our military partners and sponsors. The research in support of this Center focuses on providing autonomous, decentralized solutions for systems of UAS that may also incorporate the use of land and water assets. Researchers may expect access to premier facilities, including lightweight UAS vehicles with supporting command and control infrastructure and test and development equipment.

Current research areas support the Center's goals. These include control system algorithms to direct autonomous vehicles; robotic control and navigation; robust communication systems that meet the challenges of dynamic and unpredictable network topology changes; inexpensive sensor network designs that incorporate fusion techniques for target

identification, localization and tracking; and event-driven, multithreaded software architectures. The center is also interested in research related to Sense and Avoid, GPS-denied navigation, and Counter-UAS. Researchers are encouraged to propose topics in these areas or in areas they feel will complement the Center's work.

George York, Ph.D.
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
PH (719) 333-4210
E-mail: George.York@usafa.edu

12. Center of Innovation (COI)

The USAFA COI performs a wide range of cadet focused research and innovation tasks, projects and programs in support of departments such as Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology, Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), DoD, and Intelligence Agencies. The COI also focuses on cadet research and innovations that support a Title III Section 313 DHS S&T program called "Technology Clearinghouse to Encourage and Support Innovative Solutions to Enhance Homeland Security." The COI pursues a variety of research efforts as well as modeling and field testing novel technologies for use by warfighters and first responders. The COI focuses on creating novel linkages between old and new technologies that can lead to game changing process innovations. The COI research program is geared toward providing all undergraduates with a rich, relevant research and innovation experience while answering critical needs of our highly varied customer base. Researchers may expect extensive access to premier facilities, tremendous latitude of pursuits and single-minded focus on research and innovation tasks, but must incorporate student participation in their projects, typically two to four students per semester. Specifically, the COI is interested in championing innovations in the cyber and information technology (IT) realm with the state-of-the art networks, computational nodes, trusted enclaves, delayed tolerant networks, and disruptive software applications. Lastly, COI is interested in Accelerator Research, its processes and models that can accelerate USG innovations.

The COI is also interested in research related to homeland security of Cyber Systems; and Industrial Control Systems (ICS) (SCADA systems) used in vertical markets defined as part of the critical infrastructure industries, vital to the welfare of the United States. This research also includes Cyber Physical Security (CPS) protecting Industrial Control Systems. SCADA research interests include Distributed ICS security; Control Center security (protecting the ICS Control Centers managing enterprises from cyber-attacks); Access Control of SCADA systems; Detection of ICS anomalies that may attack ICS systems.

Current research strengths include several complementary thrusts. Virtual SCIFs capability; Silicon Photonics; Silicon Energy Storage; Core Routing & Switching; ad hoc encrypted mobility; IP and digital communications; virtualization; media and content and network management. Augmented Smartphone Applications Through Cloud Execution; Distributed Applications with Adaptable Security; Router Bricks: Enabling General-Purpose Network

Infrastructure; Cloud Computing - near term platform approaches, security federation, enterprise collaboration and scalable data storage; internet-scale general-purpose information exchange service facilitates, controls and monitors the secure borderless delivery of messages among a wide range of internet-connected devices and enterprise applications; Collaborative Data Management - Automatic assignment of semantics to data; Software Routers; SCADA and Cyber Physical Security Research. Researchers are encouraged to propose research topics in these areas and other allied COI subjects.

Terry Pierce, Ph.D.

Director, USAFA Center of Innovation

Special Advisor for Disruptive Innovation DHS S&T

PH (719) 333-3974

E-mail: Terry.Pierce@usafa.edu

13. Civil and Environmental Engineering Research

The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering performs research to help cadets learn how to solve complex problems within the fields of civil and environmental engineering. Our interests include interdisciplinary topics, and reflect the interests of individual faculty members. White papers that demonstrate a link to DoD civil and environmental engineering needs will be considered. Cadet involvement is highly prioritized.

Current topics of faculty research interest are:

- Engineering education
- Subsurface contamination by a variety of contaminants with a focus on modeling
- (e.g., chlorinated solvents, radionuclides, firefighting foam fluorosurfactants)
- Indoor air quality
- Microbiome of built environment
- Sustainable design and construction
- Design and construction in developing countries
- Building energy modeling
- Near-surface geothermal energy topics
- Soil classification techniques and refinements
- Laboratory pavement testing
- Critical infrastructure protection
- Static testing of structural components
- Discrete element modeling of granular material
- Dynamic testing of building and pedestrian structures
- Vibration serviceability

On-site research is desired. USAFA has a large field site with heavy construction equipment that may be used to construct experimental earth structures and test beds. USAFA also has a fully functional soils laboratory. The department has a 30-ft by 60-ft bay with a 19-ft clear

height beneath a 5-ton crane and multiple universal testing machines, including one with a capacity up to 300 kips. A structural component static testing capability is provided by a 25-ft-long, 8-ft gage width, reaction floor with an MTS hydraulic system and multiple 55-kip actuators. We have access to DoD's High-Performance Computing Center, which can be used to solve a computationally intensive problem in several civil and environmental engineering disciplines (e.g., discrete element modeling of airfield pavements, flow and transport modeling of contaminants in the subsurface, etc.).

Karen S. Henry, Ph.D., PE Professor of Civil Engineering
Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering
PH (719) 333-7726
E-mail: Karen.Henry@usafa.edu

14. Electrical and Computer Engineering Research

The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (DFEC) conducts research to produce needed solutions for our military partners and sponsors while providing real-world engineering experience for our cadets and aiding in the professional development of our faculty. Research in the areas of energy security and smart grid technology are sought to include concepts associated with effective demand management, integration of multiple generation sources and communication of energy events.

The DFEC research program currently includes investigations in the following areas:

- RF measurement and systems development
- Circuit development
- Robotics
- Renewable energy

Examples of existing research include improvised explosive device (IED) detection, radar cross section (RCS) analysis, antenna design, portable wind power generation and autonomous robot algorithms. Researchers are encouraged to propose topics in these areas or in areas they feel will complement the department's work.

Virginia Trimble, Maj
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
PH (719) 333-3842
Email: Virginia.Trimble@usafa.edu

15. K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Research & Outreach

The USAFA's research centers and AF research institutes are described [here](#). Most serve the USAFA's STEM research mission directly, which in turn addresses the nation's impending shortfall in the STEM workforce. USAFA faculty members have individually performed a wide variety of STEM research and outreach tasks at both local and national levels as part of their professional commitments to the community for many years. In 2010, the USAFA

created the K-12 STEM Outreach & Research Center to sustain and expand STEM outreach. The Center's goal is to address Air Force and DoD goals to enhance the quality of K-12 STEM education and encourage greater numbers of US citizen high school graduates to pursue college degrees and careers in STEM.

The Center brings the extensive facilities at the USAFA, the business and technical talents of its faculty and its leadership role in the community and nation to partnerships with universities, K-12 school systems, nonprofit foundations, professional and industry societies and other agencies in southern Colorado (loosely defined as south of the Palmer Divide). Those partnerships provide K-12 teachers and students in southern Colorado with rich and wide experiences in STEM, including:

- Training of K-12 educators, with emphasis on improved methods of organizing and providing coherent curriculum packages from national providers (e.g., NASA, American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics, American Chemical Society, Civil Air Patrol).
- “Kindle the fire of curiosity” experiences for younger K-12 students and teachers and “sustainment of interest” experiences for older K-12 students and teachers.

Researchers may expect seasonal (i.e., summer) access to premier classroom and laboratory facilities, tremendous latitude in defining pursuits and single-minded focus on STEM education, but they must seek to incorporate K-12 faculty and student participation in all their projects. Researchers are encouraged to submit science-based proposals in these and associated STEM outreach areas which develop and implement coordinated programs that lend themselves to longitudinal studies of their efficacy.

Currently available facilities, instrumentation and research efforts can be found at [here](#).

James Solti, Ph.D.
USAFA Chief Scientist and Director of Research
PH (719) 333-2853
E-mail: James.Solti.1@us.af.mil

16. Center for Space Situational Awareness Research (Department of Physics)

The Center for Space Situational Awareness Research (CSSAR) in the Department of Physics (DFP) conducts research across a variety of areas in support of the AF, DoD, NASA and other government and commercial sponsors. Making use of USAFA's extensive experimental facilities housed in several academic departments, DFP pursues a range of research efforts. The Space Situational Awareness (SSA) relevant research programs are geared toward providing all undergraduates with a rich, relevant research experience while answering critical research needs of our highly varied customer base. Researchers may expect extensive access to premier facilities, tremendous latitude of pursuits and single-

minded focus on research tasks, but must seek to incorporate cadet participation in their projects, typically one to two cadets per semester.

With more nations building and launching satellites, space has become increasingly congested, contested and competitive. SSA is thus a vital component of U.S. national security due to the role space and cyberspace play in our military operations. CSSAR is developing world-class SSA capabilities and facilities at USAFA to include a 2-meter Fast-Tracking Telescope (FTT), the Falcon Telescope Network (FTN), and the Cadet Space Operations Center (CSOC). The FTN is a global network of small aperture robotic optical telescopes focused on satellite characterization through simultaneous observations from multiple illumination geometries. It will also be used for testing handoff and cueing techniques as well as smart network and resource management. The CSOC will be the hub in which all of USAFA sensors are operated and controlled. The CSOC will be a test bed for new SSA algorithms that allow for improved capability in maintaining SSA leading to predictive analysis and assessment.

Current research areas of emphasis include space object characterization via resolvable and non-resolvable imaging using optical observations, improvements to satellite orbit determination and prediction, fusion of disparate data sources to maximize the situational awareness, and development of FTN and CSOC capability. Researchers are encouraged to propose topics in these areas and other related subjects.

Francis K. Chun, Ph.D.
Professor of Physics
PH (719) 333-2601 (Desk), PH (719) 333-3510 (Front Office)
E-mail: Francis.Chun@usafa.edu

b. Research Institute

1. Institute for Information Technology Applications

The Institute for Information Technology Applications (IITA) (<http://www.usafa.edu/df/iita/>) is an Air Force research institute directed by General James P. McCarthy, USAF, Retired. According to General McCarthy, "the driving concept of the institute formed in 1998 was to provide opportunities for multidisciplinary research that would be of value to the Air Force and the Department of Defense." IITA's vision is to serve as a renowned Air Force research center for operational and educational information technology application. IITA personnel include representatives from A2 Office of Innovations and AFRL, Rome Research Site. We invite any proposals that apply information technology to improve the mission at the USAF Academy, or more broadly to the USAF or DoD. In addition, IITA has several ongoing programs that it is interested in advancing to include:

The Warfighter's Edge (WEde) Software Innovation Lab is a rapid development team creating or modifying GOTS and COTS software in response to the needs of unit-level

warfighters. WEDGE leverages plug-in technologies that extend software through thick-client applications such as the WEDGE Viewer (converts conventional mission planning data from 2D to 3D in Google Earth) or the Mission Planning Route Translator (converts between various formats). Development projects range from interface development using plug in technologies to direct database calls to web service requests. WEDGE also produces web-based solutions such as the Mission Planning Translation Service (MPXS) which converts PFPS files to .KMZ formats for download. WEDGE has engaged with USAF programs such as Android Tactical Assault Kit (ATAK), Portable Flight Planning System (PFPS), Execution Planner (X-Plan), Joint Mission Planning System (JMPS), FalconView, Patriot Excalibur, TaskView, Theater Battle Management Core System (TBMCS), AFICS (Air Force Incident Command System), TBONE (Theater Battle Operations Net-Centric Environment) — programs at the unit- and force-levels.

Coding is produced on the Defense Research and Engineering Network (DREN) as well as in cloud-based and partner development and test environments, is compliant with DoD regulations including Standard Technical Implementation Guides (STIGs) and the Air Force Network Integration Center (AFNIC), meets Application Software Assurance Center of Excellence (ASACoE) standards, and is suitable for use in Enterprise Information Technology Repository (EITDR) environments. Software is used in classified and unclassified network environments.

- Command and Control of sUAS Operations in an AOC environment to include data fusion technologies or situational awareness technologies, and the study of how humans perform in such an environment while attempting to direct numbers of small unmanned aerial systems in novel ways on the battlefield.
- Counter sUAS technologies, to include the detection, tracking, identification, and disruption of small unmanned aerial systems, especially as it pertains to utilizing "Blue Force" UAS systems (such as the RQ-111 Raven) to counter potential threats.
- Creating or modifying GOTS and COTS software in response to the needs of unit-level to include integration with mobile devices.

Research agreements with outside agencies are common. An overview of some WEDGE products is found [here](#). Researchers are encouraged to propose topics in these areas and other related subjects.

James P. McCarthy
Director, Institute for Information Technology Applications
PH (719) 333-2746
E-mail: James.McCarthy.14@us.af.mil

2. Institute for National Security Studies

The United States Air Force Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) is a strategic policy research institute located within the faculty at the US Air Force Academy. It is primarily sponsored by HQ USAF/A10S (Strategic Stability and Countering WMD Policy),

but it also partners with other members of the Department of Defense strategic community. INSS serves as a locus for research related to strategic studies, emphasizing enduring and emerging strategic issues, global and regional strategic challenges, nuclear deterrence and arms control, strategic stability, and sustaining particularly the human infrastructure necessary to ensure long-term strategic security. In addition to its research efforts, the Institute conducts a broad range of other activities, including workshop planning and organization, curricula development and delivery, and scholarly publications. This announcement specifically addresses additional research and analysis that INSS is initiating in conjunction with the USAF Deterrence Research Program that is being stood up with the HQ USAF/A10 (Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration). INSS research and analysis will be directed at discovering, disseminating, and applying new or expanded traditional and multi-disciplinary knowledge relevant to 21st century deterrence. INSS will focus its current efforts on the following areas:

- Regional/limited strategic conflicts involving at least one nuclear actor
- Escalation control, stability, and deterrence in regional/limited strategic conflicts involving at least one nuclear actor
- Extended deterrence and assurance today and into the future
- Adversary and ally perceptions of United States extended deterrence and assurance

Research proposals are sought that address these areas. An overview of INSS research is available [here](#).

James M. Smith, PhD
Director, USAF Institute for National Security Studies
PH (719) 333-2717
E-mail: james.smith@usafa.edu

3. Eisenhower Center for Space and Defense Studies

The Eisenhower Center for Space and Defense Studies is the research center of the Air Force Academy's Department of Political Science. The Eisenhower Center supports research and professional development programs for both cadets and faculty on national security and defense policy issues. In particular, the Eisenhower Center has established a reputation for innovative thinking on space security and deterrence. The Eisenhower Center's first project was the creation of its *Space and Defense Policy* textbook in 2009 used at the Academy and by Air Force Space Command's professional education programs. This project built upon the Department's tradition of applying the expertise of its faculty to the study of defense policy as evidenced by eight editions of its textbook, *American Defense Policy*. A ninth edition is currently being considered.

The Eisenhower Center publishes a new edition of its journal *Space and Defense* each year, and invites contributions from writers representing both the academic and policy communities. There is no standard length for articles, but 7,500 to 10,000 words, including notes and references, is a useful target for research articles. Viewpoint essays are normally

in the range of 2,500 to 5,000 words. Past editions of the journal can be found in the EbscoHost database and on the web [here](#).

The Eisenhower Center has also been asked from time to time to conduct studies in support the office of the Secretary of Defense and others on topics such as space deterrence, verification, and governance. The Eisenhower Center's Space Deterrence Study developed the "layered deterrence" model adopted in the 2011 National Security Space Strategy and is currently working on a cross-domain deterrence study.

Lt Col Joe Foster
Core Division Chief
PH (719) 333-8066
Joseph.Foster@usafa.edu

c. Other

1. Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership

The Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership is involved in multiple research efforts that span the domains of human behavior. Specifically, the Department has expertise in areas such as human factors, leadership, sociology, social psychology, clinical psychology, social work, general psychology, organizational psychology, biopsychology and cognition. Research programs in the department are designed to build upon what is learned in the classroom and provide undergraduates with relevant, applied experience in research. Cadets may participate in independent study projects, summer research programs and/or ongoing faculty research projects, leveraging the expertise of our diverse faculty as well as numerous DoD agencies, academic institutions and private business collaborators.

Current topics of interest range across the behavioral sciences and include:

- The examination of leaders' decision making and performance in complex socio-cultural and technological contexts. The research goal is to enhance flexible and adaptive decision making and consequent behavior, which may include some or all of the following: civilian, military, interagency individuals and teams. Teams may cross the spectrum of civilian teams to current and potential military and civil-military (interagency and coalition) operations.
- Psychosocial resiliency. Research scenarios may range from civilians and first responders affected by 9/11 or the Boston Marathon bombing to soldiers who have deployed during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.
- Research DoD policies, including changes therein, and their impact on civilian and military personnel (e.g.: Don't Ask, Don't Tell).
- Researching and accessing "Respect for human dignity."
- Reframing the discussion and researching and analyzing new methods or best practices surrounding suicide prevention in military, industry, civilian, and government environments.

Douglas R. Lindsay, Lt Col, Ph.D.
Director of Research
Department of Behavioral Sciences & Leadership
PH (719) 333-4348
E-mail: Douglas.Lindsay@usafa.edu

2. Department of Foreign Languages and the Office of International Programs

Our ever-expanding global AF mission demands increasing foreign language capability and intercultural competence in our officer corps to support national security strategies. Foreign language programs at USAFA seek to expand the opportunities for USAFA cadets to enhance their foreign language skills and their understanding of world cultures in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian, Portuguese or Spanish. Beyond the classroom, language acquisition and cultural understanding is enhanced through study abroad opportunities for cadets such as the Cadet Summer Foreign Language Immersion Program, the Cadet Cultural Immersion Program, the Semester Exchange Abroad Program, the Semester Study Abroad Program and the Cadet International Academy Visits Program. Research and assessment tools within these programs and in-classroom curricula are essential to produce officers with some level of foreign language proficiency and intercultural competence. Research interests in foreign language and international programs include but are not limited to the following areas:

- Methods to assess foreign language proficiency of students in different levels,
- Methods to assess foreign language proficiency in various modalities,
- The impact of language and/or cultural immersions on language and intercultural competence development of students,
- The use and effectiveness of various technologies in teaching and assessing foreign languages.

Leann Derby, Lt Col
Director of Assessment
Department of Foreign Languages
PH (719) 333-2376
E-Mail: LeAnn.Derby@usafa.edu

3. Interdepartmental Program of Operations Research and Analytics

This interdepartmental program leverages the talents of faculty members across multiple departments in the disciplines of operations research, systems engineering, management and others. These individuals provide exceptional educational opportunities for cadets primarily supporting capstone projects in operations research. In addition, the program supports cadet projects such as new venture analyses, systems engineering process improvements, as well as a number of independent study projects and summer research programs. This is accomplished through numerous collaborations with other governmental and nonprofit

agencies. The program supports local organizations as our students work with real clients in real agencies addressing real issues. While local organizations provide USAFA cadets an opportunity to experience organizational dynamics, the program also supports defense and homeland security agencies worldwide.

Each year cadets enrolled in Mathematical Sciences, Operations Research, Management and Systems Engineering Management Capstone courses develop projects that solve real world problems for client organizations with tools they have learned at the USAFA. Faculty and staff directly support these initiatives through both mentorship and research. While mathematics and management are well known fields, the operations research and analytics disciplines have developed within the advent of computer technology. Operations research and analytics methods focus on analyses that combine mathematical, econometric, computer systems and managerial concepts to improve operations and processes. Current topics of interest range across operations research and the management sciences and include, but are not limited to:

- Scheduling, routing, assignment and resource allocation issues,
- Modeling and simulation of organizational operations and processes,
- Statistical analysis of organizational processes and business functions,
- Decision models supporting both strategic and tactical decisions

Joseph H. Wilck, Ph.D., P.E.
Assistant Professor of Operations Research
USAFA Department of Management
PH (719) 333-3122
Email: Joseph.Wilck@usafa.edu

II. Award Information

- a. The Government anticipates the award of grants, cooperative agreements and/or contracts under this BAA. It is anticipated that the cumulative amount for awards issued under this BAA will not exceed \$99 million dollars.
- b. The amount of resources made available to this BAA will depend on the quality of the proposals received and the funds availability.
- c. Awards may be proposed for up to five years. Awards may start any time during the fiscal year.
- d. Historically, USAFA has supported a robust BAA process under the predecessor USAFA BAA 2009-01, awarding 127 grants, cooperative agreements and contracts to 79 different academic institutions, nonprofit organizations and industrial firms, totaling \$89 million (as of Nov 2014). The table below depicts the historical data in support of the previous research centers. This is provided for historical reference only and is not indicative of any future business plans for the USAFA.

USAFA-BAA-2001-9-1 AWARD STATISTICS AS OF Nov 14			
Section	Research Center, Institute, Department	Number of Awards	Average Award Value
I.a.1.	Aeronautics - Aeronautics Research	20	\$ 361,730.39
I.a.2.	Aeronautics - Modeling & Simulation Research	4	\$ 377,407.00
I.a.3.	Astronautics - Space Systems Research	7	\$ 475,081.05
I.a.4.	Bioenergy & Biomimetics	3	\$ 43,491.67
I.a.5.	Chemistry	4	\$ 236,092.28
I.a.6.	Computer Science	4	\$ 296,875.23
I.a.7.	Engineering Mechanics	32	\$ 1,478,740.29
I.a.8.	Laser & Optical Physics	26	\$ 424,971.78
I.a.9.	Physics	12	\$ 241,651.59
I.a.10.	Center for Physics Education Research	1	\$ 225,750.00
I.a.11.	Academy Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems	4	\$ 554,764.74
I.a.12.	Center of Innovation	8	\$ 585,070.20
I.a.13.	Civil and Environmental Engineering Research	0	\$ -
I.a.14.	Electrical & Computer Engineering Research	2	\$ 182,664.07
I.a.15.	Science, Technology, Engineering & Math Outreach	3	\$ 1,269,846.66
I.a.16.	Center for Space Situational Awareness Research	6	\$ 495,176.03
I.a.17.	Human Performance Lab	0	\$ -
I.b.1.	Institute for Information Technology Applications	1	\$ 40,000.00
I.b.2.	Institute for National Security Studies	0	\$ -
I.c.1.	Behavioral Sciences & Leadership	1	\$ 140,000.00
I.c.2.	Foreign Languages and International Programs	0	\$ -
I.c.3.	Operations Research and Analytics	0	\$ -

III. Eligibility Information

All responsible, potential applicants from academia and industry are eligible to submit proposals. USAFA particularly encourages proposals from small businesses, historically black colleges and universities, minority institutions and minority researchers. However, no portion of this BAA is set aside for a specific group.

Proposals from Federal Agencies, including subcontracting/sub-recipient efforts will not be evaluated under this BAA. Federal agencies should contact the Department of Research associated with the given technical area listed in Section I of the BAA to discuss funding through the internal Government procedures. Cost sharing is encouraged but not required. IAW 31 U.S.C. 1342, the Government may not accept volunteer services, or employ personal services not authorized by law, except in cases of emergency involving the safety of human life or the protection of property. As such, if potential recipients propose time or effort to support a particular project under this BAA, all contributions and costs incurred must be quantified as either costs to be charged to the Government, or costs incurred by the recipient (recipient cost share).

IV. Application and Submission Information

- a. **Internet Address to Request Announcement Package** – This announcement may be accessed from the Internet at the Grants.gov web site (<http://www.grants.gov>). See ‘For Electronic Submission’ below. A copy of this BAA is also posted on FedBizOpps.gov site (<https://www.fbo.gov/>).
- b. **Marking of White Papers and Proposals** – As previously stated, **USAFA is seeking white papers which do not contain proprietary information.** If proprietary information is submitted, USAFA will make every effort to protect the confidentiality of the proposal and any evaluations. However, under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requirements, such information (or portions thereof) may potentially be subject to release. If protection is desired for proprietary or confidential information, the proposer must mark the white paper and/or proposal with a protective legend found in FAR 52.215-1(e), Instructions to Offerors – Competitive Acquisition, (modified to permit release to outside non-government evaluators and support contractors retained by USAFA. See section V). **It is the offeror’s responsibility to notify USAFA of proposals containing proprietary information and to identify the relevant portions of their proposals that require protection. The entire proposal (or portions thereof) without protective markings or otherwise identified as requiring protection will be considered to be furnished voluntarily to USAFA without restriction and will be treated as such for all purposes.** Since the Government anticipates the award of grants, cooperative agreements, and/or contracts, this statement is applicable to proposals for all three of these potential instruments.
- c. **Content and Form of Application Submission (White Paper or Proposal)**
 1. **White Papers** – Before submitting a research white paper/proposal, you may wish to further discuss technical areas. You can do this by contacting the appropriate USAFA Department/Center/Institute/Director who can provide greater detail about a particular center or opportunity. However, in your conversations with a Government official, be aware only warranted Contracting and Grants Officers are authorized to commit the Government. The initial preference is for white papers over full applications/proposals.

White papers must briefly describe the proposed research:

- objective,
- length of effort,
- general/technical approach,
- rough-order of magnitude cost,
- anticipated outcome,
- impact of specific research,
- government/cadet involvement,
- public purpose

The white paper may also contain any unique capabilities or experience you have (e.g., collaborative research activities involving AF, DoD, or other Federal laboratory). For additional information regarding white papers and for your ease and consistency, please see the AFRL BAA Guide for Industry [here](#).

White Paper Format –

- Paper Size – 8.5 x 11 inch paper
- Margins – 1 inch
- Spacing – single or double spaced
- Font – Times New Roman, 10 or 12 point
- Page Limitation – None; although 3-5 pages is normal. Unnecessarily elaborate white Papers are not desirable
- Content – as described above
- Center – identify which of the USAFA Research Centers the submission is to be sent to for evaluation
- Contact Information – include an email address, phone number and physical address of submitting company

White papers must be submitted to 10MSG.LGCC@us.af.mil; they should NOT be submitted directly to the Department/Center/Institute/Director or to Grants.gov. Based on this review, the Government will determine which white papers have the potential to best meet the AF's needs. Those offerors submitting white papers assessed as best meeting AF needs will be asked to submit a technical and cost proposal, contingent upon funds availability.

2. **Full Proposals** – All proposals should be submitted electronically and must include the SF 424 Research and Related Form (R & R) form as the cover page. Proposals must also include all other forms listed in Grants.gov as “mandatory forms.” Unnecessarily elaborate brochures, reprints or presentations beyond those sufficient to present a complete and effective proposal are not desired. To convert attachments into PDF format, Grants.gov provides a list of PDF file converters [here](#).

Full Proposal Format –

- Paper Size – 8.5 x 11 inch paper
- Margins – 1 inch
- Spacing – single or double spaced
- Font – Times New Roman, 10 or 12 point
- Page Limitation – None, although unnecessarily elaborate proposals are not desirable
- Attachments – submit in **PDF** format (Adobe Portable Document Format)
- Content – as described below

Required Advance Preparation: Proposals For Electronic Submission – Proposals must be submitted through Grants.gov. There are several one-time actions your organization must have completed before it will be able to submit applications through

Grants.gov. Well before the submission deadline, you should verify the persons authorized to submit proposals for your organization have completed those actions. If not, it may take them up to 21 days to complete the actions before they will be able to submit applications.

The process your organization must complete includes obtaining a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number, registering with the [System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#) (previously Central Contract Registry or CCR), registering with the credential provider and registering with Grants.gov.

Designating an E-Business Point of Contact (EBiz POC) and obtaining a special password called MPIN are important steps in the SAM registration process. Go [here](#). Use the [Grants.gov Organization Registration Checklist](#) to guide you through the process. To submit a proposal through Grants.gov, applicants will need to download Adobe Reader. To download a free version of the software, visit the following web site: http://www.grants.gov/help/download_software.jsp. Consult Grants.gov to ensure you have the required version of Adobe Reader installed.

Should you have questions relating to the registration process, system requirements, how an application form works, the submittal process or Adobe Reader forms, call Grants.gov at 1-800-518-4726 or email support@grants.gov for updated information. Grants.gov utilizes a self-service web portal with FAQs and updates available [here](#).

d. Submitting the Application (Steps to Formally Submit a Proposal) –

- 1. Submission – Application forms and instructions are available** at Grants.gov. To access these materials, go to [grants.gov](#), select “Apply for Grants.” In the “Download a Grant application Package” section, enter the funding opportunity number for this announcement (USAFA-BAA-2015). You can also search for the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number 12.800, for Research Interests of the U.S. Air Force Academy. On the Selected Grant Applications for Download page, click on 'download' under the heading 'Instructions and Applications' to download the application package.

All required forms to be submitted as part of the proposal will be listed as a “mandatory form” in the ‘Instructions and Applications’ section on Grants.gov. Individual calls may have additional requirements; these requirements will be specified in the applicable call.

- 2. SF 424 Research and Related Form (R & R) –** The SF 424 (R&R) form can be downloaded from [here](#) and must be used as the cover page for all electronic proposals. Complete all the required fields in accordance with the “pop-up” instructions on the form and the following instructions for the specified fields. To see the instructions, roll your mouse over the field to be filled out. You will see additional information about that field. Mandatory fields will have an asterisk marking the field and will appear yellow on most computers. In Grants.gov, some fields will self-populate based on the BAA

selected. Please fill out the SF 424 first, as some fields on the SF 424 are used to auto populate fields in other forms. The completion of most fields is self-explanatory except for the following special instructions:

- **Field 1:** The Applicant Identifier may be left blank.
- **Field 3:** The Date Received by State and the State Application Identified are not applicable to research.
- **Field 7:** Complete as indicated. If Small Business is selected, please note if the organization is Woman-owned and/or Socially and Economically Disadvantaged. If the organization is a Minority Institution, select "Other" and under "Other Specify") note you are a Minority Institution (MI).
- **Field 9:** List USAFA as the reviewing agency. This field is pre-populated in Grants.gov.
- **Field 16:** Choose 'No' and check 'Program is Not Covered By Executive Order 12372'.
- **Attachments:** All attachments to all Grants.gov forms must be submitted in PDF format (Adobe Portable Document Format).

3. Assurances (Non-Construction Programs) – All awards require some form of certification of compliance with national policy requirements, for that reason an SF 424B needs to be completed and submitted with the application package via grants.gov. For assistance awards, i.e., grants and cooperative agreements, proposers using the SF 424 (R&R) are providing the certification by completing block 17 of the form for all applicable national policy requirements, to include:

(1) Prohibiting discrimination:

- (i) On the basis of race, color, or national origin, in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d, et seq.), as implemented by DoD regulations at 32 CFR part 195;
- (ii) On the basis of age, in the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6101, et seq.) as implemented by Department of Health and Human Services regulations at 45 CFR part 90;
- (iii) On the basis of handicap, in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), as implemented by Department of Justice regulations at 28 CFR part 41 and DoD regulations at 32 CFR part 56;
- (iv) On the basis of sex or blindness, in Title IX of the Education Agreements of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §1681, et seq.), as implemented by DoD regulations at 32 CFR part 196.

(2) The Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401, et seq.) and Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251, et seq.), as implemented by Executive Order 11738 (3 CFR, 1971-1975 Comp., p. 799) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules at Subpart J of 40 CFR part 32.

(3) For human subjects, the Common Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects, codified by the Department of Health and Human Services at 45 CFR part 46 and implemented by the Department of Defense at 32 CFR part 219.

(4) For animals, rules on animal acquisition, transport, care, handling, and use in 9 CFR parts 1-4, Department of Agriculture rules implementing the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (7 U.S.C. 2131-2156), and guidelines in the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) "Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals" (1996), including the Public Health Service Policy and Government Principles Regarding the Care and Use of Animals in Appendix D to the guide.

(5) The quality of the human environment, and provide help the agency may need to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, at 42 U.S.C. 4321, et. seq.) and to prepare Environmental Impact Statements or other required environmental documentation. In such cases, the recipient agrees to take no action that will have an adverse environmental impact (e.g., physical disturbance of a site such as breaking of ground) until the agency provides written notification of compliance with the environmental impact analysis process.

(6) Drug-Free Workplace: The recipient agrees to comply with the requirements regarding drug-free workplace requirements in Subpart B (or Subpart C, if the recipient is an individual) of 32 CFR part 26, which implements sec. 5151-5160 of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100- 690, Title V, Subtitle D; 41 U.S.C. 701, et seq.).

(7) Officials Not to Benefit: No member of or delegate to Congress, or resident commissioner, shall be admitted to any share or part of this agreement, or to any benefit arising from it, in accordance with 41 U.S.C. 22.

(8) Debarment and Suspension: The recipient agrees to comply with the requirements regarding debarment and suspension in Subpart C of 32 CFR part 25, which implements E.O. 12549 [3 CFR, 1986 Comp., p. 189]; E.O. 12689 [3 CFR, 1989 Comp., p. 235]; and Sec. 2455 of Federal Acquisition and Streamlining Act of 1994 (Pub. L. 103-355). The recipient also agrees to communicate the requirement to comply with Subpart C to persons at the next lower tier with whom the recipient enters into transactions that are "covered transactions" under Subpart B of 32 CFR part 25.

(9) Contracts, Grants, Loans and Cooperative Agreements: The recipient agrees to comply with the requirements regarding Contracts, Grants, Loans and Cooperative Agreements. The recipient confirms that it certified in the grants.gov application to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(i) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation,

renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(ii) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, ``Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

(iii) The recipient shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

(10) Requirements Regarding Representations: Representation by Corporations Regarding an Unpaid Delinquent Tax Liability or a Felony Conviction under any Federal Law—Fiscal Year 2015 Appropriations.

(i) In accordance with sections 744 and 745 of Division E, Title VII, of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Pub. L. 113-235), none of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to enter into a contract with any corporation that—

(a) Has any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability, where the awarding agency is aware of the unpaid tax liability, unless the agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government; or

(b) Was convicted of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law within the preceding 24 months, where the awarding agency is aware of the conviction, unless the agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and made a determination that this action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

(ii) By signing this award, the Offeror represents that—

(a) It is not a corporation that has any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability.

(b) It is not a corporation that was convicted of a criminal violation under any Federal law within the preceding 24 months.

If it is determined a contract is the appropriate vehicle, USAFA will request representations and certifications in accordance with the FAR from prospective awardees.

4. **R&R Other Forms** – The following other forms must be used for all electronic proposals: R&R Senior/Key Person Profile form, R&R Project/Performance Site Locations form, R&R Other Project Information form, the R&R Budget form and any other forms listed in the “Mandatory Forms” portion of Grants.gov. The R&R Subaward Budget Attachment Form is required when sub-awardees are involved in the effort. Primes should ensure that subrecipients’ cost information reflects the same level of detail as the primes’ cost information. The format should follow the Prime’s submission as well. See section IV.d.(10) R&R Budget Form for detail on submission of the Prime’s budget information. The SF-LLL form is required when applicants have lobbying activities to disclose. PDF copies of all forms may be obtained at the Grants.gov website.
5. **R&R Senior/Key Person Profile Form** – Complete the R&R Senior/Key Person Profile Form for those key persons who will be performing the research. The principal purpose and routine use of the requested information are for evaluation of the qualifications of those persons who will perform the proposed research. For the principal investigator and each of the senior staff, provide a short biographical sketch and a list of significant publications (vitae) and attach it to the R&R Senior/Key Person Profile Form.
6. **R&R Project/Performance Site Locations Form** – Complete all information as requested.
7. **R&R Other Project Information Form: Human Subject/Animal Use and Environmental Compliance** –

Human Subject Use. Each proposal must address human subject involvement in the research by addressing Field 1 and 1a of the R&R Other Project Information Form. If Field 1 indicates “Yes”, the U.S. Air Force must receive a completed OMB No. 0990-0263 form before a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement may be awarded to support research involving the use of human subjects. Attach the document to the R&R Other Project Information Form. If using Grants.gov, a completed OMB No. 0990-0263 form shall be attached in field 12 of the R&R Other Project Information Form.

Refer any questions regarding human subjects to Laura Neal of the Plans and Programs Directorate, Institutional Review Board (IRB) at: (719) 333-6593 or via email at: Laura.Neal@usafa.edu or irb.administrator@usafa.edu.

Animal Use. Each proposal must address animal use protocols by addressing Field 2 and 2a of the R&R Other Project Information Form. If selected for award, additional documentation in accordance with Air Force standards will be required. Refer any questions regarding animal subjects to Dr. George Mastroianni, Chair of the USAFA Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) at: (719) 333-4218 or via e-mail at: George.Mastroianni@usafa.edu.

Environmental Compliance. Federal agencies making contract, grant or cooperative agreement awards and recipients of such awards must comply with various environmental requirements. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. Sections 4321-4370 (a), requires agencies consider the environmental impact of “major Federal actions” prior to any final agency decision. With respect to those awards which constitute “major Federal actions,” as defined in 40 CFR 1508.18, federal agencies may be required to comply with NEPA and prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) even if the agency does no more than provide grant funds to the recipient. Questions regarding NEPA compliance should be referred to the applicable USAFA Department/Center/Institute/Director. Most research efforts funded by USAFA will qualify for a categorical exclusion from the need to prepare an EIS. U.S. Air Force instructions/regulations provide for a categorical exclusion for basic and applied scientific research usually confined to the laboratory, if the research complies with all other applicable safety, environmental and natural resource conservation laws. Each proposal shall address environmental impact by filling in fields 4a through 4d of the R&R Other Project Information Form. This information will be used by USAFA to make a determination if the proposed research effort qualifies for categorical exclusion.

Abstract – Include a concise (not to exceed 300 words) abstract that describes the research objective, technical approaches, anticipated outcome and impact of the specific research. In the header of the abstract, include the Department/Center/Institute/Director’s name and Department who should receive the proposal for consideration and evaluation. Attach the Abstract to the R & R Other Project Information form in field 7.

8. R&R Other Project Information Form: Project Narrative Instructions –

Project Narrative. Describe clearly the research including the objective and approach to be performed, keeping in mind the evaluation criteria listed in Section V of this announcement. This section may describe the anticipated involvement by the Government including USAFA Cadets, as well as the potential public benefit(s) which may result from the research. Also briefly indicate whether the intended research will result in environmental impacts outside the laboratory and how the proposer will ensure compliance with environmental statutes and regulations. Attach the proposal narrative to R&R Other Project Information form in field 8.

Project Narrative – Statement of Objectives. This narrative should not contain proprietary information. Describe the actual research to be completed, including goals

and objectives, on one-page titled Statement of Objectives. This statement of objectives may be incorporated into the award instead of incorporating the entire technical proposal. Active verbs should be used in this statement (for example, “conduct” research into a topic, “investigate” a problem, “determine” to test a hypothesis).

Project Narrative – Research Effort. Describe in detail the research to be performed. State the objectives and approach and their relationship and comparable objectives in progress elsewhere. Additionally, state knowledge in the field and include a bibliography and a list of literature citations. Discuss the nature of the expected results. The adequacy of this information will influence the overall evaluation. Proposals for renewal of existing support must include a description of progress if the proposed objectives are related.

Project Narrative – Principal Investigator (PI) Time. PI time is required. List the estimate of time the principal investigator and other senior professional personnel will devote to the research. This shall include information pertaining to other commitments of time, such as sabbatical or extended leave; and proportion of time to be devoted to this research and to other research. Awards may be terminated when the principal investigator severs connections with the organization or is unable to continue active participation in the research. State the number of graduate students for whom each senior staff member is responsible. If the principal investigator or other key personnel are currently engaged in research under other auspices, or expect to receive support from other agencies for research during the time proposed for USAFA support, state the title of the other research, the proportion of time to be devoted to it, the amount of support, name of agency, dates, etc. Send any changes in this information as soon as they become known. Submit a short abstract (including title, objectives and approach) of research and a copy of the budget for both present and pending research projects.

Project Narrative – Facilities. When applicable, describe facilities available for performing the proposed research and any additional facilities or equipment the organization proposes to acquire at its own expense. If applicable, indicate how and when government-owned facilities or equipment already possessed will be used. Reference the facilities contract number or, in the absence of a facilities contract, the specific facilities or equipment and the number of the award under which they are accountable.

Project Narrative – Special Test Equipment. List special test equipment or other property required to perform the proposed research. Segregate items to be acquired with award funds from those to be furnished by the Government. When possible and practicable, give a description or title and estimated cost of each item. When information on individual items is unknown or not available, group the items by class and estimate the values. In addition, state why it is necessary to acquire the property with award funds.

Project Narrative – Equipment. Justify the need for each equipment item. Additional facilities and equipment will not be provided unless the research cannot be completed by any other practical means. Include the proposed life expectancy of the equipment and whether it will be integrated with a larger assemblage or apparatus. If so, state who owns the existing apparatus.

Project Narrative – High Performance Computing Availability. Researchers are supported under a USAFA grant, contract or cooperative agreement and meet certain restrictions, are eligible to apply for special accounts and participation in a full-spectrum of activities within the DoD high performance computing modernization program. This program provides, at no cost to the user, access to a range of state-of-the-art high performance computing assets and training opportunities that will allow the user to fully exploit these assets. Details of the capabilities of the program can be found at [HPCMO](#). Researchers needing high performance cycles should address the utilization of this program to meet their required needs. USAFA Department/Center/Institute/Directors will facilitate the establishment of accounts awarded.

- 9. R&R Budget Form** – Estimate the total research project cost. Categorize funds by year and provide annualized budgets for projects lasting more than one year. Each budget year cannot exceed 12 months (For Example, a 3 year project would consist of 3 separate 12 month budgets). In addition to the Research and Related (R&R) Budget forms available on Grants.gov, the budget proposal should include a budget justification for each year, clearly explaining the need for each item. The following cost element categories listed below must be included in the budget form (when the category is a component of the budget):
- i.** Direct Labor: Direct labor should be detailed by number of labor hours to be worked by proposed person within each budget year by the hourly rate of that person.
 - ii.** Labor and Overhead/Fringe Rates: Direct labor hours, with their applicable rates must be broken out by each budget year and the bases used clearly identified. The source of labor, overhead and fringe rates and all pricing factors should be identified. For instance if a Forward Pricing Rate Agreement (FPRA) is in existence, it should be noted along with the Administrative Contracting Officer's (ACO's) name and telephone number. If the rates are based on current experience in your organization, provide the history base used and clearly identify all escalation, by year, applied to derive the proposed rates. If computer usage is determined by a rate, identify the basis used and rationale used to derive the rate.
 - iii.** Material/Equipment: List all material/equipment items by type and kind with associated costs and advise if the costs are based on vendor quotes, data and/or engineering estimates; provide copies of vendor quotes and/or catalog pricing data.
 - iv.** Subcontractor Costs: Submit all subcontractor proposals and analysis with your cost proposal (See FAR 15.404-3(b)). If the subcontractor will not submit cost and pricing information to the offeror, the subcontractor must submit this information directly to the Government for analysis. On all subcontracts and interdivisional transfers, provide the method of selection used to determine the subcontractor and the proposed contract type of each subcontract. An explanation shall be provided if

the offeror proposes a different amount than that quoted by the subcontractor. The offeror's proposal must also:

- Identify principal items/services to be subcontracted. Identify prospective subcontractors and the basis on which they were selected. If non-competitive, provide selected source justification.
 - Identify the type of contractual business arrangement contemplated for the subcontract and provide a rationale for same.
 - Identify the basis for the subcontract costs (e.g., firm quote or engineering estimate, etc).
 - Identify the cost or pricing data or information other than cost or pricing data submitted by the subcontractor.
 - Provide an analysis of the proposed subcontract in accordance with FAR 15.404-3(b). Provide an analysis concerning the reasonableness, realism and completeness of each subcontractor's proposal. If the analysis is based on comparison with prior prices, identify the basis on which the prior prices were determined to be reasonable. The analysis should include, but not be limited to, an analysis of: materials, labor, travel, other direct costs and proposed profit or fee rates.
- v. **Special Tooling or Test Equipment:** When special tooling and/or test equipment is proposed, attach a brief description of said items and indicate if they are solely for the performance of this particular contract or project and if they are or are not already available in the offeror's existing facilities. Indicate quantities, unit prices, whether items are to be purchased or fabricated, whether items are of a severable nature and the basis of the price. These items may be included under Direct Material in the summary format.
- vi. **Consultants:** When consultants are proposed in the performance of the grant, cooperative agreement or contract, indicate the specific project or area in which such services are to be used. Identify each consultant, number of hours or days proposed and the consultant's rate per hour or day. State the basis of said rate and provide an analysis of the acceptability of the consultant's rate based upon the scope of work/research to be accomplished.
- vii. **Travel:** Travel costs must be justified and related to the needs of the project. Identify the number of trips, location/destination and purpose. Travel costs should be broken out by trip, to include the number of travelers, airfare, per diem, lodging, etc.
- viii. **Conferences and Workshops:**
- a) USAFA understands it is essential for the scientific community to maintain clear lines of communication for thorough and well-reasoned research to be accomplished. Support for conferences and workshops are an extremely valuable tool. It allows our technical managers the opportunity to receive current information in their respective disciplines. It also allows for the opportunity to inform the research community of the current thrust of USAFA's programs. Conferences and workshops constitute a key forum for research and technology interchange. USAFA accepts proposals from all recognized scientific, technical or professional organizations who qualify for federal tax-exempt status. USAFA's

financial support through appropriate financing vehicles for conferences and workshops is dependent on funds availability, Department/Center/Institute/Director's discretion and certain other restrictions including:

- USAFA support for a workshop or conference is not to be considered as an endorsement of any co-sponsoring organization, profit or nonprofit.
 - The subject matter of the conference or workshop is scientific, technical, or involves professional issues that are relevant to USAFAs mission of managing the AF's Research Programs.
 - The purpose of our support is to transfer federally developed technology to the private sector or to stimulate wider interest and inquiry into the relevant scientific, technical, or professional issues relevant to USAFAs mission of managing the AF's Research Programs.
 - Proposals for conference or workshop support should be submitted with the original proposal; in some instances, a minimum of six months prior to the date of the conference is necessary. Proposals should include the following:
 - (A) Summary indicating the objective(s) of the conference/workshop,
 - (B) Topic(s) to be covered and how they are relevant to USAFA's mission of managing the USAFA's Research Programs,
 - (C) Title, location and date(s) of the conference/workshop,
 - (D) Explanation of how the conference/workshop will relate to the research interests of USAFA,
 - (E) Chairperson or principal investigator and his/her biographical information,
 - (F) List of proposed participants and method (or copies) of announcement or invitation,
 - (G) A note whether foreign nationals will be present.
- b) Evaluation Criteria for Conference Support:** Anticipated use of funds requested from USAFA proposals for conferences and workshops will be evaluated using the following criteria. All factors are of equal importance:
- Technical merits of the proposed research and development,
 - Potential relationship of the proposed research and development to the Department of Defense,
 - The qualifications of the principal investigator(s) or conference chair(s),
 - The realism and reasonableness of cost including proposed cost sharing and funds availability. Cost Information (in addition to information required on SF 424 Research and Related (R & R) Budget forms):
 - (A) Total project costs by major cost elements,
 - (B) Anticipated sources of conference/workshop income and amount from each source,
- ix. Profit and Fee:** Profit and fee are unallowable on financial assistance awards; therefore, applicants shall not enter a value on Part J of the budget when applying for a grant or cooperative agreement.
- x. Attachment:** Educational and nonprofit organizations should submit a spending profile which aligns itself with DoDGARs 32.22 and/or 2 CFR 200.305, as an

attachment to the cost proposal. Attach the budget justification and/or spending profile to Section K of the R&R Budget form.

e. Grants.gov Application Receipt Notices –

Submission – The applicant’s approved account holder for Grants.gov will receive a confirmation page upon completing the submission to Grants.gov. This confirmation page is a record of the time and date stamp that is used to determine whether the proposal was submitted by the deadline. After an institution submits an application, Grants.gov generates a submission receipt via email and also sets the application status to “Received.” This receipt verifies the application has been successfully delivered to the Grants.gov system. Next, Grants.gov verifies the submission is valid by ensuring it does not contain viruses, the opportunity is still open and the applicant login and applicant DUNS number match. If the submission is valid, Grants.gov generates a submission validation receipt via email and sets the application status to “Validated.” If the application is not validated the application status is set to "Rejected." The system sends a rejection email notification to the institution and the institution must resubmit the application package. Applicants can track the status of their application by logging in to Grants.gov.

f. Submission Due Dates and Times – This announcement remains open until superseded or cancelled. White papers and proposals may be submitted at any time. Again, there is an initial preference for white papers over full applications/proposals. For additional information regarding the BAA process and for ease of offerors and consistency, USAFA has adopted the procedures used in the [ARFL BAA Guide for Industry](http://www.wpafb.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=6790) <http://www.wpafb.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=6790>.

V. Application Review Information

Proposals submitted under this BAA are evaluated through a peer or scientific review process. If selected for contract award, evaluation will be on a competitive basis according to Public Law 98-369, Competition in Contracting Act of 1984, 10 USC 2361, and 10 USC 2374. If selected for grant/assistance instrument award, evaluation will use merit-based competitive procedures according to DoDGARS citation of 32 C.F.R Sec 22.315.

Additionally, in accordance with 2 CFR 200.205, an evaluation of risk posed by applicants is required before they receive Federal awards. This evaluation may incorporate results of the evaluation of the applicant’s eligibility or the quality of its application. If the Federal awarding agency determines that a Federal award will be made, special conditions that correspond to the degree of risk assessed may be applied to the Federal award. In evaluating risks posed by applicants, the Federal awarding agency may use a risk-based approach and may consider any items such as the following:

1. Financial stability;
2. Quality of management systems and ability to meet the management standards prescribed in this part;

3. History of performance. The applicant's record in managing Federal awards, if it is a prior recipient of Federal awards, including timeliness of compliance with applicable reporting requirements, conformance to the terms and conditions of previous Federal awards, and if applicable, the extent to which any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards;
4. Reports and findings from audits performed under Subpart F—Audit Requirements of this part or the reports and findings of any other available audits; and
5. The applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-Federal entities.

Proposals may be evaluated by the appropriate USAFA Research Directors and USAFA Staff, other military services, DoD agencies, civilian agencies and non-Government sources. Non-Government sources can include academia, nonprofit institutions, and support contractor personnel. Non-Government evaluators are authorized access only to those portions of the proposal data and discussions that are necessary to enable them to perform their respective duties. Non-Government evaluators are also required to sign non-disclosure agreements which prohibit them from disclosing proprietary information submitted by contractors. **However, as previously stated in this BAA, USAFA is seeking white papers and proposals that do not contain proprietary information. If proprietary information is submitted, it is the offerors responsibility to mark the relevant portions of their proposal.** Employees of commercial firms under contract to the Government may be used to administratively process proposals and may gain access to proprietary information contained in proposals and/or post award documentation. These support contracts include non-disclosure agreements prohibiting their contractor employees from disclosing any information submitted by other contractors.

- a. **White Papers** – White papers submitted under this BAA are evaluated through a peer or scientific review process. White papers will be evaluated by the appropriate USAFA Technological Program Manager. Additionally, white papers may be evaluated by outside evaluators retained by USAFA which may include other Government personnel with subject matter expertise or support contractor personnel. Employees of commercial firms under contract to the Government may be used to administratively process white papers. These support contracts include non-disclosure agreements prohibiting their contractor employees from disclosing any information submitted by other contractors. White papers submitted for a particular research area listed in Section I shall be evaluated under criteria as specified in their description in addition to the following four primary criteria. Subject to funding availability, all other white papers will be evaluated under the following four primary criteria, of equal importance, as follows:
 1. Technical merits of the proposed research,
 2. Potential relationship of the proposed research to the Department of Defense and/or USAFA,
 3. Potential for cadet/government involvement in the proposed research (cadet/government involvement is preferred however each recipient should identify and recommend a level of involvement that best fits their technical approach),

4. The proposer's/ principal investigator's/ team leader's/ key personnel's qualifications, capabilities, related experience, facilities, or techniques or a combination of these factors are integral to achieving USAF objectives.

Upon completion of the review, white papers will be placed in one of three categories. Category I papers will be funded as possible, Category II papers would only be funded following those in Category I and papers considered to be Category III will not receive funding. A breakdown of the criteria for each category follows:

Category I

- White Paper is well conceived
- Scientifically & technically sound
- Pertinent to program goals and objective
- Offered by a responsible offeror
- Competent staff
- Supporting resources

Category II

- Scientifically or technically sound but requires further development

Category III

- Not scientifically or technically sound or does not meet agency needs

White Papers may be submitted for one or more topics or for a specific portion of one topic. A proposer may submit separate white papers on different topics or different proposals on the same topic. The U.S. Government does not guarantee an award in each topic area.

Further, be advised as funds are limited, otherwise meritorious white papers may not be funded. Therefore, it is important that white papers show strength in as many of the evaluation areas as practicable for maximum competitiveness.

White papers must be submitted to 10MSG.LGCC@us.af.mil; they should NOT be submitted directly to the Department/Center/Institute/Director. Unless otherwise stated in a call, all white papers will be evaluated as stated above and if selected for funding, a formal Request for Proposal will be sent to the recipient.

- b. Proposals** – Proposals submitted under this BAA are evaluated through a peer or scientific review process. If selected for contract award, the requirements of the Federal Acquisition Regulation will apply. Proposals will be evaluated by the appropriate USAFA Technical Program Manager. Additionally, proposals may be evaluated by outside evaluators retained by USAFA which may include support contractor personnel. Employees of commercial firms under contract to the Government may be used to administratively process proposals. These support contracts include non-disclosure agreements prohibiting their contractor employees from disclosing any information

submitted by other contractors. Proposals submitted for a particular research area listed in Section I shall be evaluated under criteria as specified in their description in addition to the following six primary criteria and the realism and reasonableness of proposed costs. Subject to funding availability, all other proposals will be evaluated under the following six primary criteria, of equal importance, as follows:

1. Technical merits of the proposed research,
2. Potential relationship of the proposed research to the DoD and/or USAFA,
3. Potential for cadet/government involvement in the proposed research (cadet/government involvement is preferred however each recipient should identify and recommend a level of involvement that best fits their technical approach),
4. The proposer's, principal investigator's, team leader's, or key personnel's qualifications, capabilities, related experience, facilities, or techniques or a combination of these factors are integral to achieving USAF objectives,
5. The likelihood of the proposed effort to develop new research capabilities and broaden the research base in support of U.S. national defense,
6. The proposer's and associated personnel's record of past performance.

Following the evaluation, proposals will be placed in one of three categories. Category I proposals will be funded as possible, Category II proposals would only be funded following those in Category I and proposals considered to be Category III will not receive funding.

Category I

- Proposal is well conceived
- Scientifically & technically sound
- Pertinent to program goals and objective
- Offered by a responsible offeror
- Competent staff
- Supporting resources

Category II

- Scientifically or technically sound but requires further development

Category III

- Not scientifically or technically sound or does not meet agency needs

Offerors must indicate in their proposal, unless a match is required, if they are “not willing or able to cost share” or “able to cost share and/or offer these facilities/equipment/etc.”

Further, be advised as funds are limited, otherwise meritorious proposals may not be funded. Therefore, it is important that proposals show strength in as many of the evaluation areas as practicable for maximum competitiveness.

Additional administrative information regarding submission of applications is contained in Section VIII. The technical and cost information will be analyzed simultaneously during the evaluation process. The AF reserves the right to select for award any, all, part or none of the proposal received.

VI. Award Administration Information

- a. Award Notices** – Should your proposal be selected for award, the Contracting or Grants Officer will receive correspondence from the Department/Center /Institute/Director stating this information. At that point, your business office will be contacted by the Grants or Contracting Officer to negotiate the terms of your award.
- b. Reporting Requirements** – Grants and cooperative agreements typically require quarterly and/or annual and final technical reports, financial reports, final patent reports and closeout activities/documents. Contracts typically require annual and final technical and patent reports. Additional deliverables may be required based on the research being conducted. Additional reporting requirements associated with certain awards will be based on the nature and source of funding. Failure to comply with terms and conditions of any federal awards, to include delinquent reports and close out information may deem an offeror ineligible for current and future awards.

VII. Agency Contacts

As stated earlier, you may wish to contact a Department/Center/Institute/Director listed for the research topic area listed in Section I prior to white paper/proposal submission. However, all questions, both technical and regarding the BAA procedures, following white paper or proposal submission shall be routed through the Contracting office at email address 10MSG.LGCC@us.af.mil.

VIII. Additional Information

- a.** The cost of white paper and proposal preparation in response to this announcement is not considered an allowable direct charge to any resulting award. Such cost is an allowable expense to the normal bid and proposal indirect cost specified in FAR 31.205-18 and 2 CFR 200 Subpart E.
- b.** Every effort will be made to protect the confidentiality of white papers and proposals and any evaluations. The proposer must mark the proposal with a protective legend in accordance with FAR 52.215-1, Instructions to Offerors – Competitive Acquisition, if protection is desired for proprietary or confidential information. Offerors are reminded that this BAA is seeking unclassified research white papers and proposals that do not contain proprietary information.

- c. Offerors are advised employees of commercial firms under contract to the Government may be used to administratively process white papers and proposals. These support contracts include non-disclosure agreements prohibiting their contractor employees from disclosing any information submitted by other contractors.
- d. Only contracting or grants officers are legally authorized to bind the government.
- e. Responses should reference Broad Agency Announcement USAFA-BAA-2015.
- f. USAFA expects the performance of research funded by this announcement to be predominantly fundamental IAW DoD Instructions [5230.24](#) and [5230.27](#).

FAR Part 35 restricts the use of BAAs, such as this, to the acquisition of basic and applied research and that portion of advanced technology development not related to the development of a specific system or hardware procurement. Contracts and grants and other assistance agreements made under BAAs are for scientific study and experimentation directed towards advancing the state of the art and increasing knowledge or understanding.

*Note: See the DoDGARS definitions for basic, applied, and advanced research.

- g. **Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)** – There is a Government-wide policy on the use of the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS) in the award of contracts and grants that may affect the agencies' processes for judging proposed recipients to be qualified to receive contracts and financial assistance awards. The policy implements requirements of section 872 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2009 (Public law 110-417). See the FAPIIS website at <https://www.fapiis.gov/fapiis/policy.action> for further policy information.
- h. **SAM Registration** – Prospective awardee shall be registered in the SAM database prior to award, during performance, and through final payment of any award resulting from this announcement. Offerors may obtain information on registration and annual confirmation requirements via the Internet at <https://www.sam.gov> or AskSAM@gsa.gov.

Awardees must:

1. Be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) prior to submitting an application or proposal,
2. Maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or proposal under consideration by an agency, and
3. Provide its DUNS number in each application or proposal it submits to the agency.

i. Ombudsman –

1. An ombudsman has been appointed to hear and facilitate the resolution of concerns from offerors, potential offerors and others for this acquisition. When requested, the ombudsman will maintain strict confidentiality as to the source of the concern. The existence of the ombudsman does not affect the authority of the Program Officer or Contracting Officer. The ombudsman may refer the party to another official who can resolve the concern.
2. Before consulting with an ombudsman, interested parties must first address their concerns, issues, disagreements, and/or recommendations to the Grants or Contracting Officer for resolution. Consulting an ombudsman does not alter or postpone the timelines for any other processes.
3. If resolution cannot be made by the Grants/Contracting Officer, concerned parties may contact the USAFA Ombudsman: Mr. James Anderson, Director of Business Operations 10th Contracting Squadron, USAFA. Telephone: (719) 333-2074. Email: James.Anderson.72@us.af.mil. Concerns, issues, disagreements and recommendations that cannot be resolved at the USAFA level may be brought by the concerned party for further consideration to the U.S. Air Force Pentagon, Washington DC 20330-1060, phone number (703) 588-7004.
4. The ombudsman has no authority to render a decision that binds the agency.
5. Do not contact the ombudsman to request copies of the solicitation, verify offer due date, or clarify technical requirements. Such inquiries shall be directed to the Grants/Contracting Officer.

j. Reporting Subawards and Executive Compensation – Any grant or agreement award resulting from this announcement may contain the award term set forth in [2 CFR Part 25](#) and [2 CFR Part 170](#).

k. Additional Subcontract /Subaward Reporting Requirements –

The Federal Funding and Transparency Act and 22 September 2010 DDR&E memo, “New Reporting required Under DoD Grant and Cooperative Agreements” require that as of 1 October 2010 awardees of contracts and recipients of grants have been required to report Executive Compensation and First-Tier Subcontract/Subrecipient Awards for any contract or grant valued at \$30,000 or more excluding classified contracts or contracts/grants with individuals.

l. Grant Payment Process –

The USAFA does not set up automatic payments for Grants to educational and nonprofit recipients. Therefore, all recipients must access Wide Area Workflow (WAWF) and complete WAWF’s Standard Form (SF) 270, Request for Advance or Reimbursement, for payment. Each recipient must register with WAWF at <https://wawf.eb.mil>.

*** End of BAA Announcement ***