

AIR FORCE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



MISSION

The Air Force Institute of Technology offers resident programs leading to the baccalaureate, master, and doctorate degrees in management and engineering. In addition, the institute administers a program of education at civilian institutions, including colleges and industry.

The Air Force Institute of Technology supports the Air Force and national defense through responsive degree-granting graduate and professional continuing education (PCE), research, and consulting services to AF and DoD agencies. AFIT is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association. In addition to institutional accreditation, the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology accredits selected programs within the Graduate School of Engineering and Management.

AFIT provides graduate education programs through the Graduate School of Engineering and Management. The School of Systems and Logistics and The Civil Engineer School provide a wide array of PCE short courses and workshops to assist AF and DoD military and civilian members in becoming more proficient in their technical and supporting tasks. The Civilian Institution Programs office manages specialized graduate school assignments required by a variety of AF needs, including medical and instructional assignments.

The Graduate School of Engineering and Management offers advanced scientific, engineering, and management education. The school is comprised of the Departments of Mathematics and Statistics, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Engineering Physics, Systems and Engineering Management, Operational Sciences, and Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering. The school also houses centers of excellence in Directed Energy, Measurement and Signature Intelligence, Operational Analysis, Advanced Navigation Technology, and Cyberspace Research.

The School of Systems and Logistics is the Air Force's PCE school for technical management disciplines, satisfying technical management educational needs through more than 85 courses in the areas of logistics, software and systems management, finance, contracting, and acquisition.

Through AFITOnLine, the school offers a broad selection of over 40 web-based management courses for students worldwide. In addition to teaching formal courses, the school presents tailored workshops in response to immediate requirements, provides consulting services in its area of expertise, and conducts relevant research activities.

The Civil Engineer School provides civil engineering and environmental PCE courses in residence and via satellite and web delivery. The technical offerings update and broaden the professional and technical knowledge of architects and civil, electrical, mechanical, industrial, and general engineers.

The Civilian Institution Programs office manages AF officers pursuing advanced education through civilian universities, research centers, hospitals, industrial and business organizations, and governmental agencies. This education covers a broad spectrum of medical clinical training programs and academic disciplines at all degree levels, including post-graduate programs, continuing education programs, and programs jointly sponsored by the Air Force.

AFIT is home to two Air Force designated Centers. The AF Center for Systems Engineering develops new concepts and provides processes, practices, tools and resources to the SE workforce through research, education, and consultation for air, space and cyberspace dominance. The Cyberspace Technical Center of Excellence is chartered to be a unifying and synergistic body for promoting cyberspace education, training, research, and technology development.

LINEAGE

Army Air Forces Institute of Technology established, 15 Dec 1945

Redesignated Air Force Institute of Technology, 26 Sep 1947

United States Air Force Institute of Technology, 16 Jun 1948

Discontinued, 28 Aug 1948

United States Air Force Institute of Technology designated and organized, 28 Aug 1948

Redesignated Headquarters, United States Air Force Institute of Technology, 1 Apr 1950

Redesignated Headquarters, Institute of Technology, United States Air Force, 1 Sep 1955

Redesignated Headquarters, Air Force Institute of Technology, 16 Apr 1956

Redesignated Institute of Technology, 1 Jul 1959

Redesignated Air Force Institute of Technology, 1 Jan 1962

United States Air Force Institute of Technology and Air Force Institute of Technology consolidated, 28 Feb 1979. Consolidated unit designated Air Force Institute of Technology

Redesignated Headquarters, Air Force Institute of Technology, 18 Feb 1997

STATIONS

Wright Field (later, Wright-Patterson AFB), OH, 15 Dec 1945-28 Aug 1948
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, 28 Aug 1948

ASSIGNMENTS

Air Technical Service (later, Air Materiel) Command, 15 Dec 1945-28 Aug 1948
Air Materiel Command, 28 Aug 1948
Air University, 1 Apr 1950

COMMANDERS

Maj Lawrence D. Ely, 15 Dec 1945 (acting)
Col Donald J. Keirn, 1 Feb 1946 (acting)
Brig Gen Mervin E. Gross, 1 May 1946
Maj Gen Benjamin W. Chidlaw, 18 Oct 1946 (acting)
Brig Gen Edgar P. Sorenson, 3 Jan 1947 (acting), 7 Feb 1947-28 Aug 1948
Brig Gen Edgar P. Sorenson, 28 Aug 1948
Maj Gen Laurence C. Craigie, 3 Sep 1948
Maj Gen Grandison Gardner, 19 Jan 1950
Brig Gen Leighton I. Davis, 20 Jan 1951
Maj Gen Ralph P. Swofford Jr., 1 Oct 1951
Maj Gen Julius K. Lacey, 1 Nov 1955
Col John Tyler, c. 13 Aug 1957 (acting)
Maj Gen Cecil E. Combs, by 23 Sep 1957
Col John A McCann, 21 Apr 1964 (acting)
Maj Gen Cecil E. Combs, 26 Nov 1964
Maj Gen Victor R. Haugen, 1 Sep 1965
Maj Gen Ernest A. Pinson, 1 Nov 1967
Maj Gen Frank J. Simokaitis, 20 Feb 1973
Maj Gen Gerald E. Cooke, 27 Apr 1978
Maj Gen Stuart H. Sherman Jr., 1 Sep 1980
Maj Gen Herbert L. Emanuel, 13 Sep 1982
Maj Gen James T. Callaghan, 1 Jun 1983
Brig Gen Richard J. Toner, 1 Aug 1986
Brig Gen Stuart R. Boyd, 24 Jul 1987
Col Frederick C. Bauer, 1 May 1991
Col David C. Whitlock, Mar 1992
Col Joseph P. Koz, Feb 1993
Col Bennie J. Wilson, Dec 1994
Col Ronald D. Townsend, 1 Jan 1995
Col John H. Russell, 27 Mar 1997
Col George K. Haritos, 29 Apr 1999
Col Thomas Sikelso, 28 Jun 2001
Col Michael L. Heil, 20 Jul 2001
Brig Gen David W. Eidsaune, 11 Feb 2003
Brig Gen Mark T. Matthews, 5 Jul 2005

Brig Gen Paula G. Thornhill, 3 Oct 2006
Col Barry S. Mines, 31 Jul 2009 (acting)
Brig Gen Walter D. Givhan, 6 Oct 2009

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jan 1963-31 Dec 1964

1 Jan 1971-31 Dec 1972

1 Jan 1975-31 Dec 1976

27 Apr 1978-17 Nov 1979

Air Force Organizational Excellence Awards

1 Jun 1986-31 May 1988

1 Jul 1992-30 Jun 1994

1 Jul 1996-31 May 1998

1 Jul 2000-30 Jun 2002

1 Jul 2004-30 Jun 2006

EMBLEM



SIGNIFICANCE: The shield is blue, the principal color of the United States Air Force; the atomic symbol for oxygen representing the atomic age and scientific progress as well as the element which

furnished life to both personnel and power plants of aircraft; the gear wheel representing engineering and the inception of the Institute within the aegis of the Air Materiel Command; the lightning rays representing the striking force, above and below, of science and engineering. The lower third of the field, broken by stylized cloud forms is representative of the element which science is conquering and is therefore shown subordinate to the oxygen atom. The crest indicates the torch of knowledge borne aloft upon the powerful wings of the Air Force. The motto is indicative of the mission of the United States Air Force Institute of Technology, "Prepared in Mind". (Approved, 22 Nov 1949)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

A miscellaneous unit, the institute was in the process of being organizationally formed, manned, and equipped for technical education operations from 15 Dec 1945-2 Sep 1946. It provided university level education in specific technological disciplines in support of Army Air Forces (later, USAF) and War Department (later, Department of Defense) requirements, Sep 1946-Aug 1948. In Aug 1948, a new institute replaced the original. The new institute absorbed the resources of the original institute and continued the mission of providing university level education in specific technological disciplines until 1 Apr 1950. From 1 Apr 1950, and continuing through Jun 1959, the institute's headquarters component provided administrative duties and logistical support while the establishment continued the technical education programs. When the headquarters component's existence ended on 1 Jul 1959, the institute continued the technical education programs and administered and directed both resident graduate and continuing education programs at Wright-Patterson AFB. It also administered and directed programs in more standard disciplines at civilian universities, colleges, industrial firms and medical centers throughout the nation. On 28 Feb 1979, the Air Force officially consolidated the original Air Force Institute of Technology, which discontinued on 28 Aug 1948, and the newer Air Force Institute of Technology, organized on 28 Aug 1948, combining the history and lineage of the two organizations.

On October 1, 1976, the Air Force Institute of Technology asked for 7,390 sq ft of space in Building 288, Area A, to accommodate the newly established Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management (DISAM). DISAM was an element of the Defense Security Assistant Management Education (DSAME) program which was scheduled to become fully operational at Wright-Patterson in June 1977. (DSAME was programmed originally to operate as a department of the AFIT School of Systems and Logistics.) The DSAME program was subsequently elevated to the status of a "separate school with an expanded mission within AFIT." DISAM held its first classes in Building 288 on January 18, 1977, and later relocated to the second floor of the west center section of Building 125 in Area B.

General Cooke assigned members of his staff to develop reasonable alternatives by which AFIT could help alleviate the shortfall. By late summer, AFIT had proposals for near, middle, and long-term solutions.

A near-term solution was implemented in the spring of 1979 in the form of a pilot program known

as Crossflow. The goal of the program was to bring officers with quantitative backgrounds to the School of Systems and Logistics and, with School of Engineering support, cross-educate them for positions in systems acquisition management. The first Crossflow class graduated in June 1979.

The middle and long-term solutions, developed in 1978 and 1979, attacked the problem from three directions. One plan was to attract young engineers into the Air Force by offering them graduate education as an incentive: they could go to Officer Training School, then come to AFIT immediately after commissioning. A second approach was to re-establish a program analogous to the former undergraduate program for officers. This time, however, the concept was to select people who already had a bachelor's degree in a scientific field and provide them the education required for a second baccalaureate, in electrical engineering. A third approach was to establish a resident Airman Education and Commissioning Program, to produce graduates with bachelor's degrees in computer systems, mechanics, and aeronautics and astronautics.

Another major AFIT initiative in the 1970s addressed the educational problems of Air Force civilians. The Air Force Logistics Command (AFLC) was especially concerned with the educational needs of its civilian force. In August 1978, AFIT presented several proposals to AFLC, two of which were chosen for implementation: graduate education in the Logistics school for some AFLC civilians, and a special arrangement to provide education through local universities, Minuteman Education style, to civilians at its Air Logistics Centers (ALCs). Twenty-eight people from AFLC and six more from the Defense Logistics Agency entered the Logistics school in 1979, and a program for providing both bachelors and master's degrees at the San Antonio ALC was arranged through the University of Texas. These programs became part of an ongoing effort to provide continuing education for Air Force civilians.

In the closing years of the 1970s, AFIT made a concerted effort to publicize the benefits of its Strategic and Tactical Sciences program to potential students in Strategic Air Command, Tactical Air Command, and Military Airlift Command. In addition, AFIT developed new programs to meet the specific educational needs of these operational commands. Toward this end, a Maintenance Management option within the masters program in Logistics Management was approved in the summer of 1979.

At the same time, the Institute increased its effort to reach out: to the local community; to the vast, hitherto unreachable pool of Department of Defense people who needed the education AFIT could provide; and to the Air Force of the future.

AFIT had always had close ties with the people of Dayton and surrounding communities. Now it sought to strengthen those ties. In cooperation with the University of Dayton's Student Science Training program, high school students were brought to the Institute for special lectures on topics like computers, to introduce them to the technical disciplines. Through a Community Outreach program, Institute representatives participated in high school Career Days and job fairs, provided talks on the Engineering and Logistics programs to high schools, offered guidance and counseling to minority students, operated a worker opportunity program through which it hired students part-time, and supported a cooperative education program which went to graduate level.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.