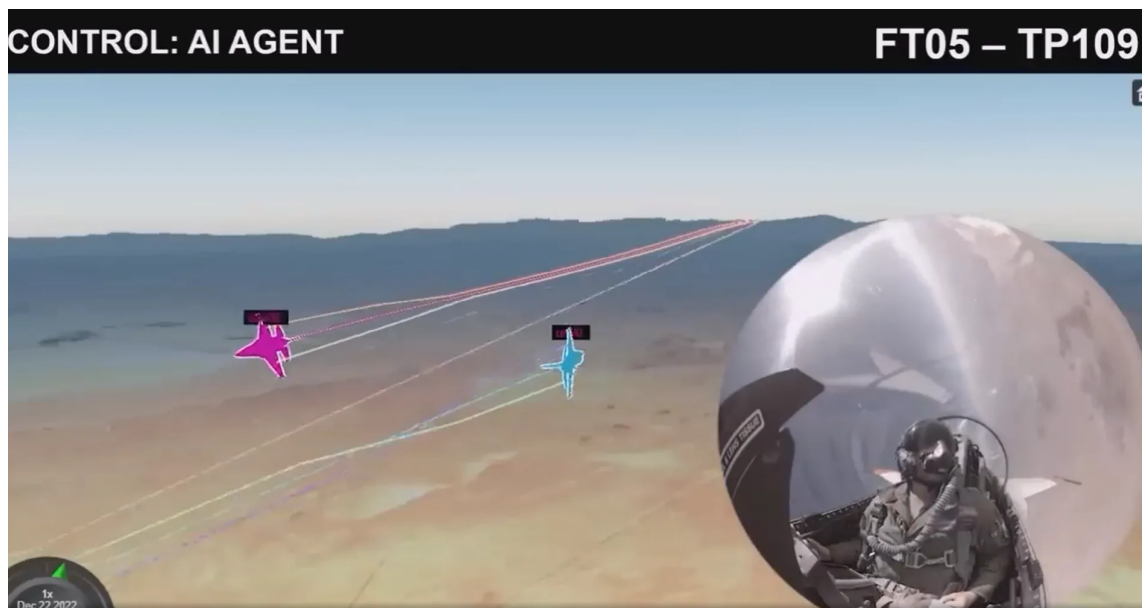




# Artificial Intelligence: The New Frontier of the US Air Force with the Center of Excellence

Published on 14/05/2025

On May 7, 2025, during [the AFCEA International TechNet Cyber conference](#) (Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association), the US Air Force announced the creation of a new **Center of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, an ambitious initiative aimed at enhancing the technological capabilities of the US Air Force through strengthened collaborations with prestigious institutions like **MIT, Stanford University, and Microsoft**. This center represents a crucial step in the modernization and innovation journey of the US Air Force, aiming to develop and apply artificial intelligence solutions to improve military operations and national security.



Artificial Intelligence: The New Frontier of the US Air Force with the Center of Excellence - brigatafolgore.net

## A New Center for Artificial Intelligence

The new **AI Center of Excellence** will be managed by the **Chief Data and AI Officer of the US Air Force, Susan Davenport**, and will aim to coordinate the development and implementation of advanced technologies in the field of artificial intelligence. In a speech during the conference, the outgoing **Chief Information Officer, Venice Goodwine**, emphasized how the center will leverage existing technological infrastructures, such as those of **Microsoft** and collaborations with **MIT** and **Stanford**, to accelerate the integration of AI into military operations. "AI has a broad continuum of applications," Goodwine explained, "from productivity to the creation of autonomous systems based on artificial intelligence. Our goal is to ensure that the technologies we develop align with the strategic objectives of the Air Force."



Artificial Intelligence: The New Frontier of the US Air Force with the Center of Excellence - brigatafolgore.net

## Strategic Collaborations for Innovation

The existing collaborations with **MIT** and **Stanford University** play a fundamental role in the success of this initiative. **MIT**, for example, hosts the [AI accelerator](#) of the US Air Force, while the [DAF-Stanford AI Studio](#) is a research center focused on artificial intelligence and emerging technologies, including those used for the design of autonomous aircraft and satellites. A recent project saw the realization of a ten-day intensive course at the **Air Force Test Pilot School** in Edwards, California, involving students in the experimentation of advanced AI technologies, preparing personnel for the adoption of autonomous aerial vehicles.



Artificial Intelligence: The New Frontier of the US Air Force with the Center of Excellence - brigatafolgore.net

These collaborations with leading research centers are essential to keep the US Air Force at the forefront in the field of artificial intelligence, an area of growing importance in all sectors, from defense to data analysis, from operations management to airspace protection.

## Extreme Teaming: A New Approach to Collaboration

Another crucial point raised by **Goodwine** concerns the adoption of an approach that the US Air Force defines as **“extreme teaming”**. This concept is based on the need for synergistic cooperation among the different branches of the Department of Defense (DoD), avoiding separate solutions for each service (Army, US Air Force, Space Force, Navy, etc.). “When the industry approaches the Department of Defense, it must think in integrated, not separate, terms,” Goodwine stated, urging industry partners to present solutions that can be applied across all operational sectors. The goal is to maximize efficiency and optimize resource use

through a unique and integrated vision of technologies.

With the “extreme teaming” approach, contracts and investments must be strategic and targeted, avoiding duplications and overlaps. “We cannot afford to have separate agreements for each branch of the armed forces,” Goodwine explained. The key to success lies in concentrating efforts to achieve the maximum impact from each investment, leveraging existing resources before making new financial commitments. In other words, “if you want me to do something new, you must help us with the investments already in place.”



Artificial Intelligence: The New Frontier of the US Air Force with the Center of Excellence - brigatafolgore.net

## **Artificial Intelligence as a Driver of Innovation in Defense**

Artificial intelligence is emerging as a fundamental driver for innovation in the defense sector, both for daily operations and for the development of new strategic capabilities. In the field of security and national defense, AI offers vast potential, from advanced data management to the creation of autonomous systems for surveillance and combat operations. Advances in AI not only improve the efficiency and speed of operations but also enhance the ability to make informed decisions in real-time, minimizing human intervention and improving the responsiveness of the armed forces.

The integration of artificial intelligence into the armed forces is not only about creating autonomous systems but also about improving decision-making processes and resource management. AI can be used for predictive analysis, strategic planning, risk management, and the creation of optimized operational scenarios, enhancing the ability to respond to crisis

situations and rapidly changing threats.

## Collaboration between Military and Academic Worlds: The Case of CASD and Politecnico di Milano

Parallel to the US Air Force initiative, collaborations between the military and academic worlds are also taking shape in Italy. The **Centro Alti Studi per la Difesa (CASD)** and the **Politecnico di Milano** have recently signed a three-year agreement to collaborate on training, research, and technological innovation projects, particularly in the field of artificial intelligence and digital technologies. This agreement, which also includes the project **“educational digital hub edvance”**, aims to develop advanced training in **digital literacy, AI, and sustainability**. The collaboration between CASD and Politecnico di Milano is another example of how technological innovation can be a bridge between the defense and academic worlds, with the goal of developing cutting-edge solutions for the future of security and defense.



Artificial Intelligence: The New Frontier of the US Air Force with the Center of Excellence - brigatafolgore.net

The launch of the new **Center of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence** of the US Air Force represents a decisive step towards the integration of advanced technologies in defense and national security. Thanks to collaborations with high-level research institutions like **MIT**, **Stanford**, and **Microsoft**, the center will play a crucial role in the evolution of the capabilities of the US Air Force and, more generally, the United States Department of Defense. The ability to leverage artificial intelligence to improve military operations and ensure strategic superiority will be essential to face future challenges in an increasingly digital and connected world.

---

**News link:** <https://www.airandspaceforces.com/air-force-launching-new-artificial-intelligence-center-of-excellence/>