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# Air Force Institute of Technology in Focus; the Historic “Empowered” Air Component Coordination Element; and a Farewell to Maj Darren Stanford

Capt Wm. Howard, Editor

**T**his quarter, *Air and Space Power Journal (ASPJ)* highlights the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT), at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. Although the Air Force has many educational and research organizations, only AFIT can boast a heritage going back to the second decade of powered flight. Predating the renowned Air Corps Tactical School by a year, AFIT has helped develop thousands of astute airpower leaders and innovators throughout its history, contributing to the Air Force's global dominance in air, space, and cyberspace.

As the Air Force's source of advanced technological degrees, AFIT has educated students whose future creations ranged from instrument navigation systems for nighttime operations during World War II to intercontinental ballistic missiles during the Cold War. Since the institute's founding in 1919 as the Air School of Application and its redesignation as the Air Service Engineering School a year later, one would be hard pressed to identify an Air Force mission that has not benefited either directly or indirectly from AFIT's graduates.

To give *ASPJ* readers a current snapshot of student and faculty research, AFIT staff members solicited papers from a variety of disciplines for publication. Granted, the development of papers is a routine task at the graduate level, but the resulting studies can often prove exceedingly technical. Consequently, the delicate job of making scientific writing suitable for a general audience fell into the capable hands of Lt Col Stephen P. Chambal, PhD, director of AFIT's Center for Operational Analysis. With Colonel Chambal's assistance, students

distilled complex research into accessible language, including actionable recommendations where appropriate. The *ASPJ* editorial board thanks him for facilitating publication of these scholarly papers.

Additionally, this issue of *ASPJ* features a second article detailing the successful transition to the “empowered” air component coordination element (ACCE). In the Winter 2010 edition, Lt Gen Mike Hostage, commander of United States Air Forces Central Command, discussed the rationale for vesting the ACCE with command authorities, thereby guaranteeing that airpower always had a “seat at the table” in joint operational planning. Complementing that article, Maj Gen Charles Lyon, ACCE-Afghanistan, writes about his historic command, further illuminating actual and anticipated improvements to the employment of airpower by joint force commanders supported by an empowered ACCE.

Finally, it is with deepest appreciation that *ASPJ* bids adieu to Maj Darren Stanford, deputy chief of professional journals, who is retiring from the Air Force. Major Stanford personally led *Journal* operations for three years, including one year as acting chief, maintaining the excellence of all six language versions of *ASPJ*. He superbly managed both the business operations and the rigorous editorial and peer review process, ensuring that vital air, space, and cyberspace power articles underwent proper scrutiny and refinement by editors and referees for worldwide publication. *ASPJ* thanks Major Stanford for his dedication to excellence—we are a better journal because of him. 🌟