

BULLET BACKGROUND PAPER

ON

REDEFINING STEALTH

PURPOSE

Generate resource responsibility and sustainability through the development of a realistic, efficient, effective, 21st Century air power strategy that reduces United States Air Force's (USAF) reliance on Low Observable (LO) technology as a sole means to stealth operations without compromising the National Military Objectives.

WHAT

- Redefine the Air Force Strategy in regards to stealth
 - Stealth is not defined in Air Force Doctrine
 - The current Air Force Strategy on stealth has a heavy emphasis on Low Observable technologies and platforms

WHY

- Stealth is the element of surprise/catching the enemy off guard
- Low observable technology is not a pillar that stands alone.
 - The future threat environment is causing low observable technologies to become less effective
 - The Air Force's concentration on low observable technologies is leaving gaps in the full range of military operations.
 - The current plan for the low observable fleet is fiscally unsustainable for both procurement and operations & support.
- When you take a more common sense, fiscally responsible approach to stealth, you can create a more effective fighting force in support of national military strategy

HOW

- Define stealth: "The art of concealing actions or operations by exploiting an enemies' weakness to cause misdirection, gain the element of surprise, and leverage a strategic advantage"
 - Using changes in doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel and facilities (DOTMLPF) the USAF could realize this fundamental shift.
 - OPSEC needs to be reinforced ensuring the Air Force can gain surprise in all operations
 - A culture change needs to occur inside the requirements functions that has a complete understanding of stealth
 - The Air Force needs to reevaluate the F-35 program of record for 1763 aircraft to achieve substantial cost savings

- Stealth is a concept that the Air Force needs to embrace at the core.
 - A stealth Air Force does not consist of 100% Low Observable platforms. It leverages flexibility, the element of surprise, and advanced technology to act as force multipliers.
 - The theory of constraints can be used to identify and eliminate/improve inhibitors to this concept.
 - The Air Force needs to become adaptable and flexible in its strategy
 - The Air Force needs to maximize its existing capabilities: Legacy Platforms, Cyber, and Space to gain the asymmetrical advantage

CONCLUSIONS

Low observable technology is not a pillar that stands alone. Use of existing and emerging LO capabilities as force multiplier for non-LO existing weapon systems is an efficient and effective process to maximize force projection while minimizing capital investment and risk. A paradigm shift in strategy is needed to bring these savings and efficiencies into fruition.