Air Force Sustainment Center

AFSC Innovation Center Strategy Update



Lt Col Chris Blackwell AFSC/EN





Scene Setter:

- AF leadership emphasis on modernizing sustainment capabilities
- LCMC/AFRL making decisions that influence the sustainment trade space
- AFSC leadership guidance to influence/lead AFMC sustainment innovation





- Timeline
- AFSC IC strategy
- Tinker Way Ahead
- Robins Way Ahead
- Hill Way Ahead
- 448th SCMW Perspective
- Funding



UNCLASSIFIED

AFSC Innovation Timeline

- 2 Apr: ALC strategies briefed to CCs
- 4-6 Apr: TD working group to develop AFSC strat
- 20 Apr: Final ALC drafts
- 4 May: AFSC IC strategy to AFSC/CC
- May: LCMC/EZP site meetings at each ALC
- May: AFSC/CC approves strategy



Why AFSC Innovation Centers



Approximately 13,000 AFMC Scientists, Engineers and Technicians Nearly 50% resides at AFSC Locations (6,332)

Problem: Problem Solvers: Sustainment Solutions:

Aging W/S
No Tech Data
Redesign: 4.6 yrs
New Repair: 3.2 yrs
Test/Qual: 2.1 yrs
No part supply chain
Time critical need

Low quantity buys

REACT REARM RECLAIM



AFLCMC AFRL Academia Industry







Innovating at the point of need maximizes workforce collaboration and ensures the right solution at the right time to the right place



AFSC Innovation Ecosystem

5 elements executed across the ALCs maximize overall value and take advantage of unique opportunities

Robins **Tinker** Hill **AFSC Virtual IC Hub** Workforce access to existing infrastructure ECD: Aug 18 **Academic Partnerships UT Universities thru Intellectual capital** OU/OSU/UCO GT/Mercer **USTAR PIA External Partnerships Industrial Expertise** All Sites: OEMs CNI/EOCP GTMI **DoD Interfaces Exploit DoD efforts** ATTO All Sites: AFRL/DLA/AFLCMC **Expand organic** REACT V REARM RECLAIM capabilities

Solid color = 2017 approved strategy; faded color = updated strategy;

= successfully executed



AFSC Organic Innovation Center

Reverse Engineering and Critical Tooling



Reverse

Engineering

- Data Development
- Dimensional Inspection
- CAD Generation
- Recreating Requirements

<u>Advanced</u>

Manufacturing

- Metal & Polymer
 Additive
- · Rapid Prototyping
- Tooling & Fixture
- Non-Flight Critical Components

<u>Analysis</u>

- Tooling Validation
- Finite Element
- Root Cause
- Data validation
- Fit Check

Re-engineering, Additive Manufacturing, Advanced Manufacturing supporting Air Logistics Complexes, Supply Chains, and SPOs



Tinker Way Ahead

Organic Capability

REACT Lab

- 50k sq ft facility expansion
- Increase transformative capabilities
 - Metal Additive, Secondary Structures, Blade Repair
 - Establish Marketing Strategy

DoD Interfaces

Co-locate LCMC/EZP resources with REACT

Academic Partnerships

- Establish EPA with local Universities
 - OU Innovation Hub; Rose State AM 101 course, others

External Partnerships

- Pilot projects with NCMS to fund industry & academic projects
 - Block chain for AM digital thread

External Partnerships

Develop relationships with industry, local government, DoD

DoD Interfaces

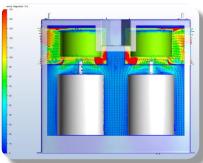
- CNI, EOCP, State
- GE, LMI, Boeing, NG, others
- DLA, AFRL, AFLCMC



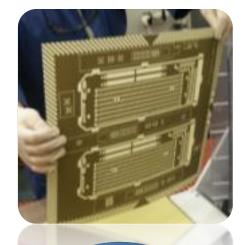
AFSC Organic Innovation Center

Reverse Engineering, Avionics Redesign, and Manufacturing













Reverse Engineering

- Technical Data Development
- Test and Requirements Generation
- CAD Generation



<u>Hybrid</u> Manufacturing

- Integrated Circuits
- Hybrid
 Microelectronics
- RF Components
- PWB, CCA



Avionics Redesign

- Form/Fit/Function Redesign
- New System Development
- LRU, SRU

Enable continued operation of aging aircraft systems Filling the gap between industry capability and USAF requirements



Robins Way Ahead

Organic Capability

- REARM Lab
 - 7200 sq ft Facility Expansion (ECD Jun 2020)
 - Expand/Modernize Electronics, Circuit Manufacturing Capability
 - Establish Marketing Strategy

Organic Capability

- Robotics
 - Corrosion control, manufacturing, Hazard Mitigation

Academic Partnerships

External Partnerships

- Expand / Establish agreements with academia/industry
 - MERC, GTRI, Mercer, Lockheed Martin, UGA...

External Partnerships

- Expand relationship with GTMI
 - Planned training workshop
 - Transition identified collaboration efforts to projects
 - Place AF engineers at GT facility

DoD Interfaces

 Guide AFLCMC Advanced Technologies & Training Center (ATTC) strategy to meet ALC needs



AFSC Organic Innovation Center

Rapid Engineering of Composites, Low Observables, And Innovative Materials



Enable continued operation of aging aircraft systems
Filling the gap between industry capability and USAF requirements



Hill Way Ahead

Organic Capability

- Identify transformative technology associated with RECLAIM
 - Low Observable Coatings, Composites, Additive Manufacturing and Repair, Directed Energy Applications
- Near & Long Term RECLAIM Capability Plan
 - Metal AM & Reverse Engineering -> LO & DE
- 60k sq ft Facility Expansion
 - Existing inside the fence, USTAR, Falcon Hill EUL

External Partnerships

- Establish Partnership Intermediary Agreement (PIA) with USTAR
 - Brick & Mortar location for Hill Innovation Partnerships
 - Locate AFSC/AFLCMC AM equipment at USTAR IC

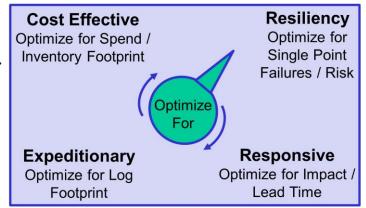
Academic Partnerships

Establish EPAs/CRADAs supporting advanced manufacturing and industrial process engineering



448 SCMW Perspective

- Proceeding to Invest in Concept by Placing Engineers in IC
 - Determine skill, number, location, sourcing method (FY18Q4)
- Improve Reactive Machine: Process by which SASPO/SEPO engage IC (complete FY18Q3)
 - Input: No Bid Lists; F3 Availability/Reliability Tasks
 - Output: Rapid / Successful Prototype and Executable TDP
 - Traditional mfg / repair tech; or Alt Mfg / Additive Mfg
- **Establish** Future Strategy for Innovation Requirements Methodology (complete FY19Q1)
 - Input: Existing 448 SCMWRequirements Optimized for
 - Output: 1-n parts families to eval for deeper eval for alternative mfg



Each Alt. Method or AM Machine is a new viable supply chain...

We're strengthening the industrial base for sustainment



Air Force Sustainment Center





Backup



AFSC Innovation Enterprise Vision

(___ = updated)

Centers where govt, industry, & academia can collaborate to innovatively solve problems

- Advance state-of-the-art in agile manufacturing technology
- Enable <u>partnerships</u> to generate rapid, innovative solutions
- Develop organic agile manufacturing capabilities
- Develop organic workforce that thinks <u>innovatively</u> and has skills to leverage agile manufacturing technology <u>for rapid solutions</u>

Solutions That Span Spectrum of Innovation

Innovating with Mature Technology

Pushing boundaries of S&T

Short Term

Spectrum of Innovation

Long Term

- Polymer Printers
- Metal Printers (Tooling)

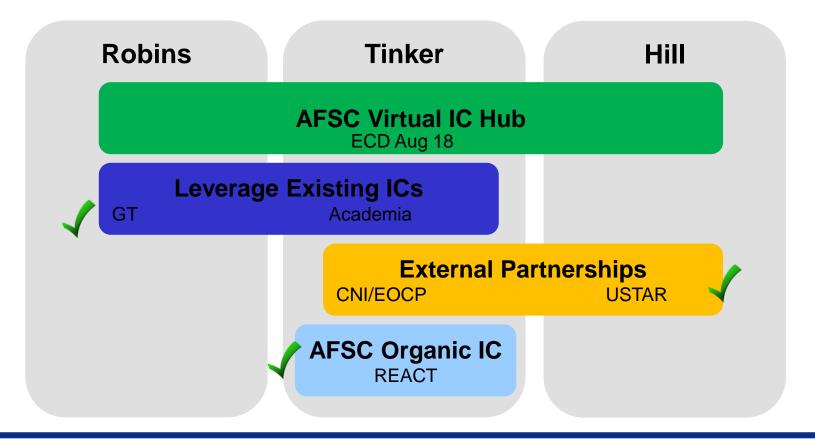
- · Sand Casting Printers
- Metal Printers for A/C worthy Parts
- Exotic materials and Processes

Creating an Innovation Minded Workforce



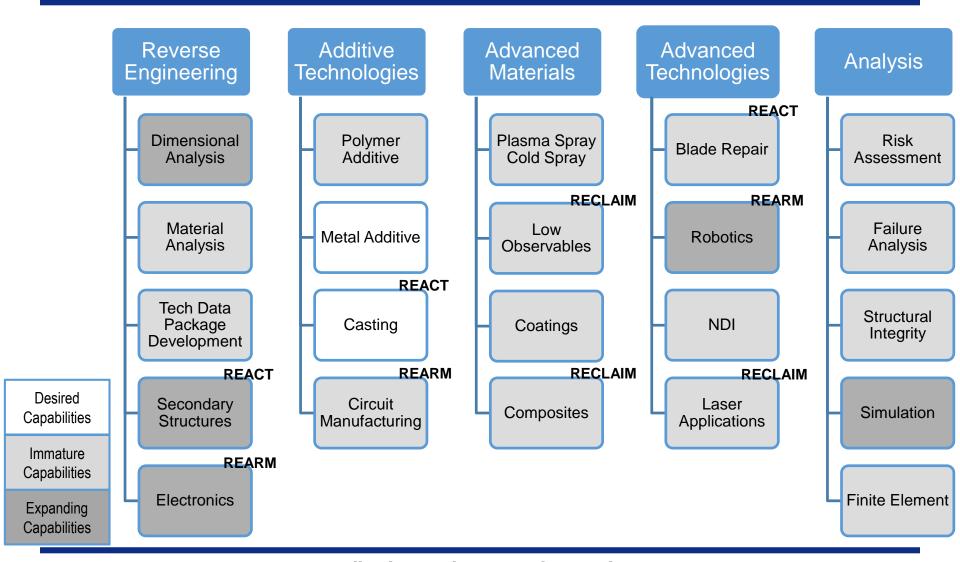
FY17 AFSC Innovation Strategy

4 Distinct levers executed across the ALCs maximize overall value and take advantage of unique opportunities





AFSC Innovation Ecosystem Capability Map





AFSC AM Journey

Metal Through AM, the workforce is New Part enabled to think innovatively Designs to solve difficult Approved sustainment Aircraft Parts Near problems Prototyping Future KC-135 Coax Aircraft Parts Cable Strain Relief Prototype E-3 Seat Repairs Shroud B-1 Cockpit Tooling **Panels** New applications for AM are continually B-1 Bathtub being discovered Fitting

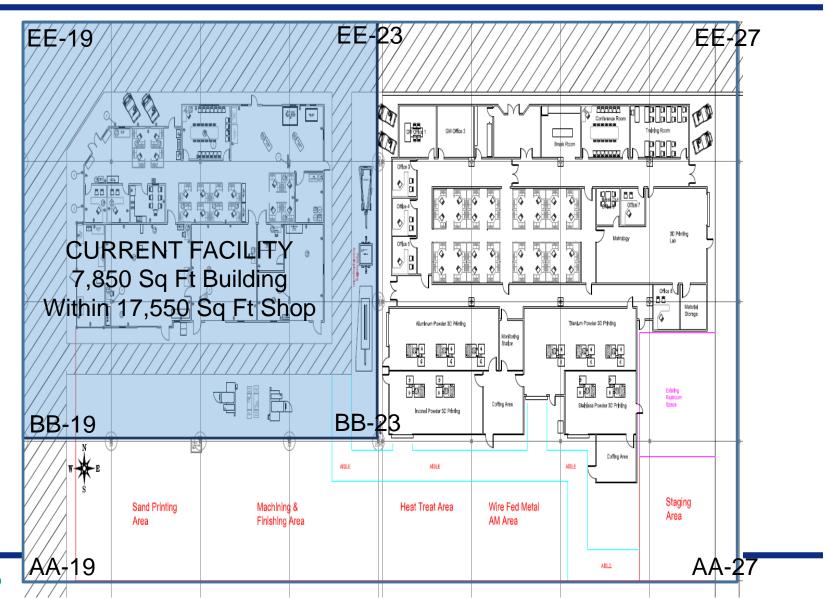
Weld Fixture



REACT Facility Phase 2

Additional 15,550 Sq Ft Building Within 32,350 Sq Ft Shop

Future Total 23,400 Sq Ft Buildings Within 49,900 Sq Ft Shop





Future REARM Facilities

■ New Reverse Engineering Lab

■ 7200 sq.ft

