



AFWERX

TECHNOLOGY | TALENT | TRANSITION

SPARK 101

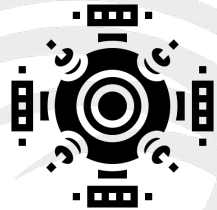
Presented by: Capt Garrett Custons

Spark Overview

MISSION: We relentlessly inspire and enable Airmen and Guardians to unleash their potential and to drive capability development that increases the efficiency, effectiveness and quality of life of the warfighter.

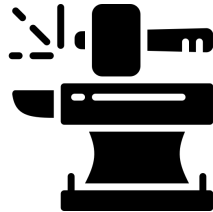
TAG LINE: Empowering Innovators, Accelerating Results

We do this by **Connecting**, **Developing**, and **Supporting** Airmen and Guardian Innovators



Network Branch (RGSC)

Build, empower and mobilize innovation networks



Development Branch (RGST)

Develop DAF innovators through curriculum and experience



Catalyst Branch (RGSi)

Support DAF innovators through facilitation and advocacy

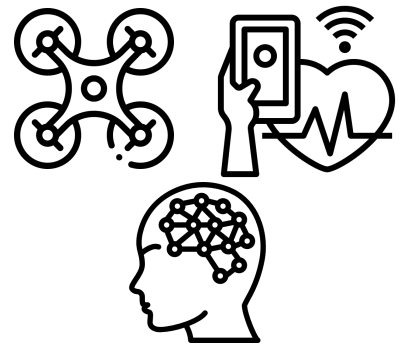
Build, Empower, and Mobilize Innovation NETWORKS



105 Spark Cells
TACTICAL
 Wing, Base



15 Innovation Scaling Cells
OPERATIONAL
 MAJCOM, COCOM, Center



NEW Communities of Practice
CROSS-FUNCTIONAL
 Tech and Mission Verticals



1,884 Govt. Augmentees
 Multi-domain Subject Matter Experts that crowdsource solutions to hard problems (e.g. 1,000+ SBIR/STTR evals in 2 weeks!)

VISION Joint Innovation and Collaboration Platform
1,100+ Projects, 2,100+ Users

Spark Programs (Now)

CONNECT

Spark Cells - 105 base-level, Commander-owned, AFWERX-supported innovation cells

Operational Innovation Cells - 15 Commander-owned, AFWERX-supported innovation cells at MAJCOMs and Centers

Communities of Practice - mission-and technology- aligned communities of government innovators

Augmentee Opportunities - large-scale efforts to empower decentralized government talent to solve hard DAF problems

DEVELOP

Fellowships - full-time experiential and curriculum-based innovation training:

- **Defense Ventures Fellowship** - 8-week, intensive immersion with startups and venture firms (~10/yr)
- **AFWERX Fellowship** - 4-month immersion with AFWERX (3/yr)

Internships - semester-aligned, experiential training that pairs AFROTC & USAFA cadets w/DAF innov. efforts (3/yr)

Innovation Training - virtual and in-person training for innovators:

- **Design Warfare** - 4-week, intensive design thinking training
- **Spartan-V** - 1-week version of D.W.

Project ARC - embedding S&Es with operational units to build operational empathy and solve problems.

SUPPORT

Spark Tank - annual competition for Airmen/Guardian-generated efforts; elevates, celebrates & supports winners

Products & Tools - advocates for and develops best-in-class innovation tools

- **VISION** - DAF Innovation PM Platform and Connectivity Layer

Refinery - DAF innovators with high-potential projects embed with AFWERX as they pursue their innovations (supported by AFWERX)

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- **Defense Ventures Fellowship** - 8-week, intensive immersion with startups and venture firms (~10/yr)
- **Govt 2 Govt Fellowships** - 4-month immersion with AFWERX & Joint Partners (3/yr)
- **D Fellows** - Decentralized Fellowship program at bases/units not belonging to AFWERX

Internships - semester-aligned, experiential training that pairs AFROTC & USAFA cadets w/DAF innov. efforts (3/yr)

Innovation Training - virtual and in-person training for innovators (DW & Spartan-V)

Project ARC - embedding S&Es with operational units to build operational empathy and solve problems.

SUPPORT

Spark Tank - annual competition for Airmen/Guardian-generated efforts; elevates, celebrates & supports winners

VISION - Joint Innovation PM and Collaboration platform

Refinery - DAF innovators with high-potential projects embed with AFWERX as they pursue their innovations (supported by AFWERX)

Colliders - convening events to bring together customers, end-users, and solution providers

Strike Team - multi-functional team of experts that helps transition emerging technologies and concepts

Incubator - Fencing off the best DAF Innovators for a longer term TDY to give them time to work on their projects, as well as connections/expertise/resources

Spark Cells

Common Characteristics:

- Commander owned
- Direct Report to Wg/CC
- MAJCOM aligned (objective)
- AFWERX supported
- Manage SIF for instillation
- Leverage SBIR/STTR
- FOC:
 - 1 lead (FGO/CIV/SEL)
 - 1 deputy (CGO/CIV/NCO)
 - 1-2 team (AMN/NCO)

AFWERX Role

- Connect the ecosystem
- Host training events
- Empower (versus own)
- Create common products
- Proliferate best-practices
- Support creation of new cells
- Advocate for grassroots innovation
- Support development of innovation tools



Hickam – 1st tactical level software factory: TRON

- ▼ AFSOC
- ▼ USSF
- ▼ AFCENT
- ▼ ANG
- ▼ AETC
- ▼ USAFE
- ▼ AFGSC
- ▼ AMC
- ▼ ACC
- ▼ AFMC
- ▼ PACAF



Dyess AFB - Created Design Warfare Innovation Course; trained 100+ personnel



Vance AFB - key partner in the authoring and execution of UPT 2.0 & 2.5



Travis AFB - 28 active SBIR/STTRs at installation



Eglin AFB - 149 projects to date, piloted new CONS methods at tactical level



19 ASOS (Fort Campbell) - Established first AF/Army Joint innovation Cell with 101st Airborne



A Pathway for Innovation to Scale

By making **progressively larger investments** in our Airmen & Guardian innovators as they show promise and demonstrate success, we mitigate risk, control costs, and increase the likelihood that truly disruptive innovators (and the capabilities they are creating) realize their full potential.



SMALL

Support Offered to Every Innovator

Spark Cell¹

Spartan-V (1 wk)

Augmentee Ops (5-25 hrs)

Spark Tank (local)

MEDIUM

Deeper Learning, Support & Credentialing

Spark Cell Lead

AFWERX Fellowship (5 mo)

Defense Ventures (6 wk)

Design Warfare (1 mo)

Spark Tank (MAJCOM, semi)

BIG

Significant Visibility, Time & Scaling Support

Spark Refinery (1 mo - 3 yr)

Spark Tank (finalist)

Prime PM Support

Growing next generation of DAF Innovators // forging leaders of the Innovation Corps

¹ Items listed in one category are also available to all innovators in later categories (further right on the continuum)

Questions?

Please type your questions into the Q & A.

