AFWERX

TECHNOLOGY | TALENT | TRANSITION

Garrett Custons (AFRL/RGS - Spark)

MISSION

AFWERX transitions agile, affordable, and accelerated capabilities by teaming commercial technology developers with Airmen and Guardian talent.

VISION

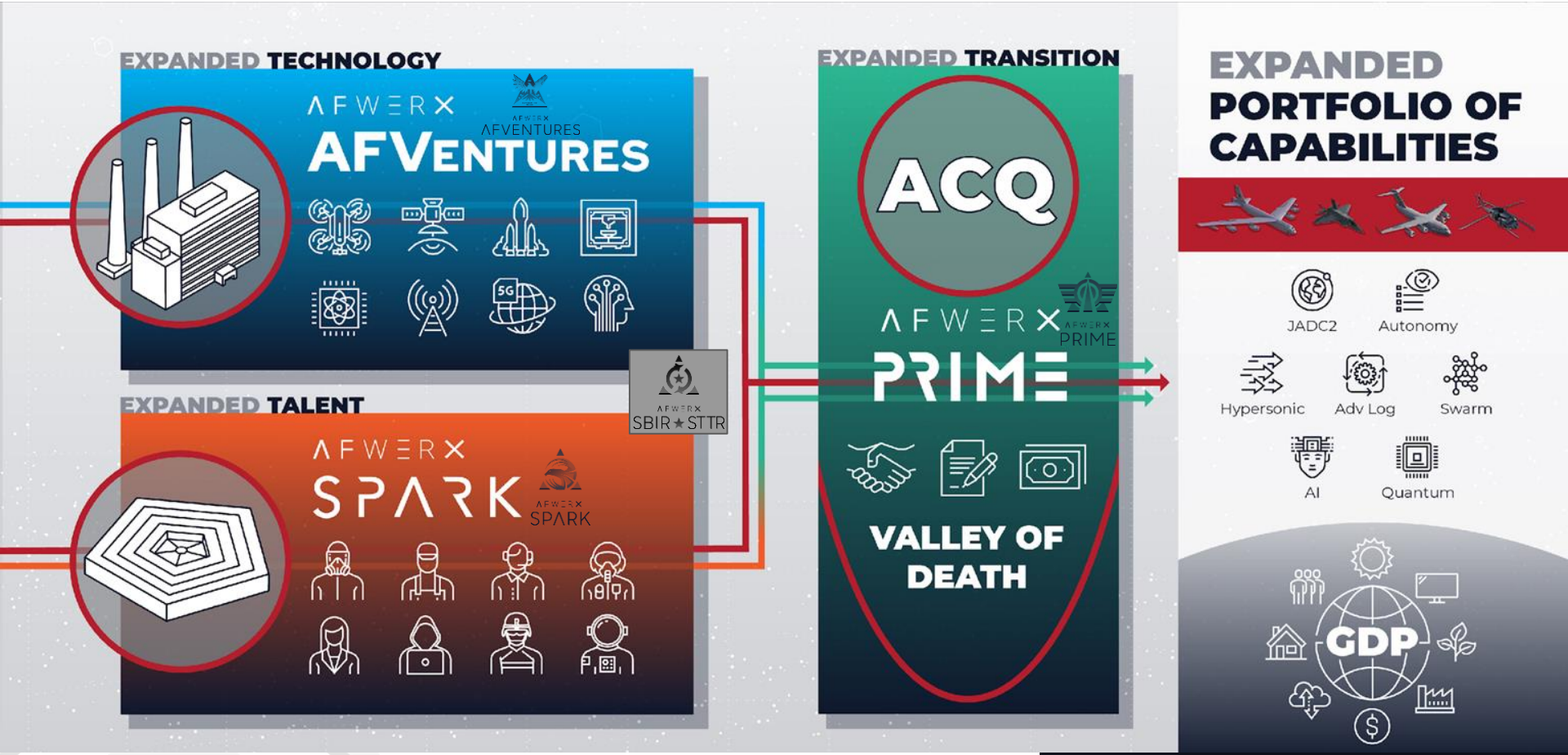
Vast technology, talent, and transition partnerships for competitive commercial advantage and military capability.

AFWERX SPARK

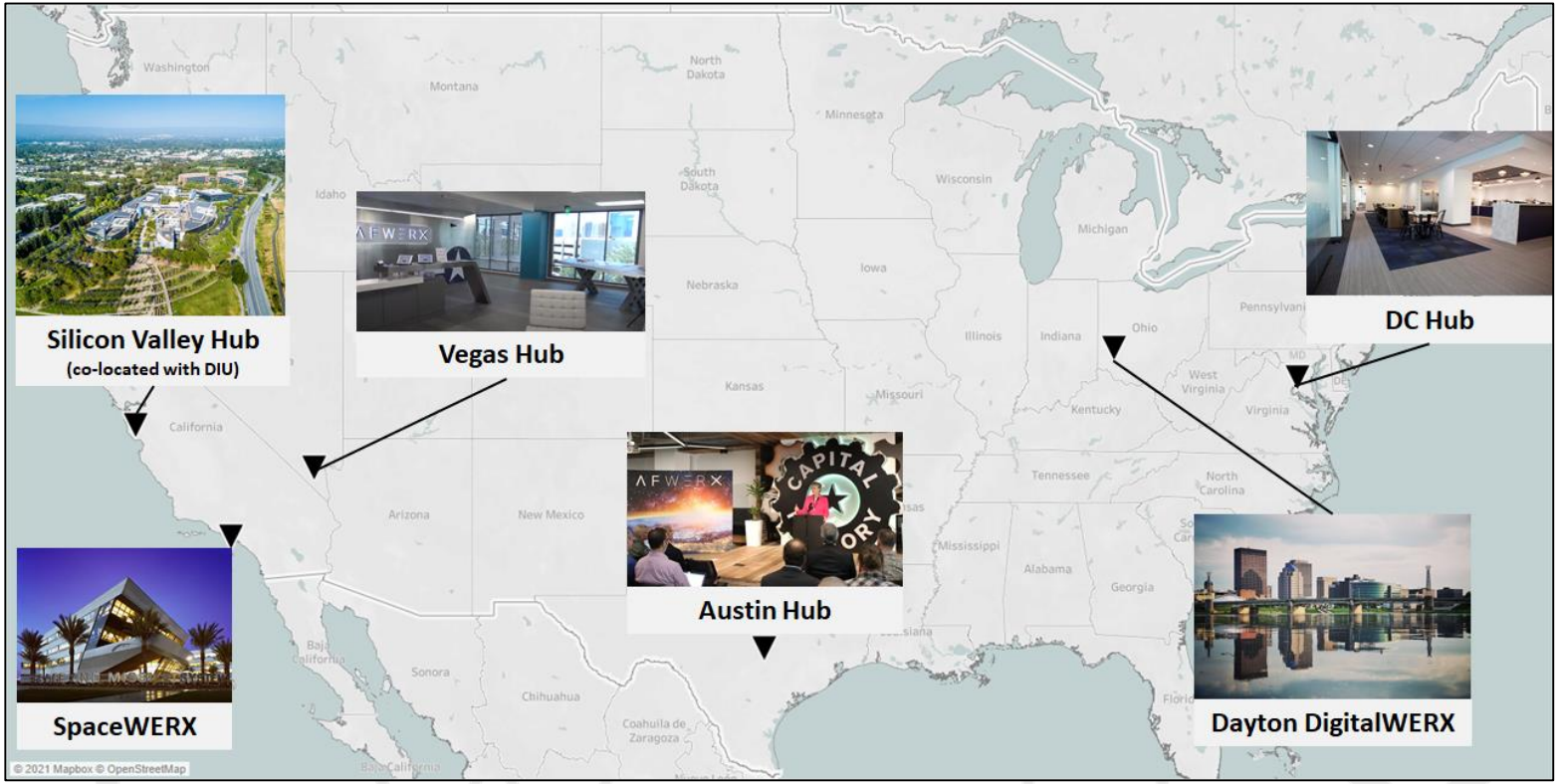
AFWERX PRIME

AFWERX AFVENTURES

Capability Development with AFWERX



AFWERX Hubs


Silicon Valley Hub
(co-located with DIU)
Vegas Hub
DC Hub
Austin Hub
SpaceWERX
Dayton DigitalWERX
Washington
Montana
North Dakota
Minnesota
South Dakota
Idaho
Wisconsin
Michigan
Nebraska
Iowa
Pennsylvania
Illinois
Indiana
Ohio
West Virginia
Kansas
Missouri
Kentucky
Virginia
California
Tennessee
North Carolina
Arizona
New Mexico
Mississippi
Alabama
Georgia
Sonora
Chihuahua
Coahuila de Zaragoza
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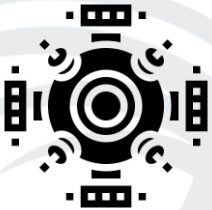
Spark Overview

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)

Specializes in promoting the expansion, connectivity, energy and culture of the innovation ecosystem

Development Branch (RGST)

Specializes in training and developing Airmen & Guardian Innovators through curriculum and experiences

Innovation Catalyst Branch (RGSI)

Specializes in accelerating capability development through advocacy, advisement and support

Spark Programs

Empowering Innovators, Accelerating Results...

CONNECT

Spark Cells - Base-level, Commander-owned, MAJCOM-aligned, AFWERX-supported innovation cells

MAJCOM Cells - MAJCOM-level, AFWERX- supported innovation cells (multiple structural variations across DAF)

Colliders - programs/events to efficiently bring together DAF problem-owners and industry solution-providers

DEVELOP

Internships - Semester-aligned experiential training that pairs AFROTC and USAFA cadets with DAF innovation efforts (3/yr)

AFWERX Fellowship - 5-month, full-time experiential training that pairs Airmen & Guardians with AFWERX programs (3/yr)

Defense Ventures Fellowship - 6-week, intensive immersion with startups and venture firms (~4/yr)

Innovation Courses (e.g. Design Warfare) - intensive training for innovators; students solve real DAF problems as they learn

Virtual Training - covers key elements of DAF innovation & intrapreneurship

Augmentee Opportunities - large-scale, audacious efforts to empower decentralized govt. talent to solve hard DAF problems

SUPPORT

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

Innovation Strike Team - dedicated AFWERX team to support innovators through consultation, advocacy, and co-program management

The Collective - group of veteran innovators that crowdsources answers to hard problems across the DAF

Products & Tools - advocates for/helps develop best-in-class innovation tools

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

Spark Program Applicability by Activity

	Spark Cell	MAJCOM Cell	Colliders	Internship	AFWERX Fellowship	Defense Ventures	Innovation Courses	Virtual Training	Augmentee Ops	Spark Tank	Strike Team	The Collective	Spark Incubator
A/G with a specific idea - looking for avenues to implement/scale	X	X	X source solutions				X Design Warfare			X	X	X	X high-potential efforts
A/G seeking to learn more about innovation and/or connect to the innovation community	X			CADET	X	X	X	X	X				
Commander seeking to foster innovation at their organization	X create cell	X align with MAJCOM					X Design Warfare for CC's			X run mini-Spark Tank			

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	MEDIUM	BIG
Support Offered to Every Innovator	**Deeper Learning and Support**	**Significant/Customized Scaling Support**
Spark Cell[1] D.W. Bootcamp (1 wk) Virtual Training (self-paced) Augmentee Ops (5-25 hrs) Spark Tank (apply) Strike Team (Q&A) The Collective (Q&A)	MAJCOM Programs[2] AFWERX Fellowship (5 mo) Defense Ventures (6 wk) Design Warfare (1 mo) Spark Tank (semi-finalist) Strike Team (advisory)	Spark Incubator (6 mo - 3 yr) Strike Team (co-PM)

[1] Items listed in one category are also available to all innovators in later categories (further right on the continuum)
[2] Variations across MAJCOM programs

Spark Cells

Common Characteristics:

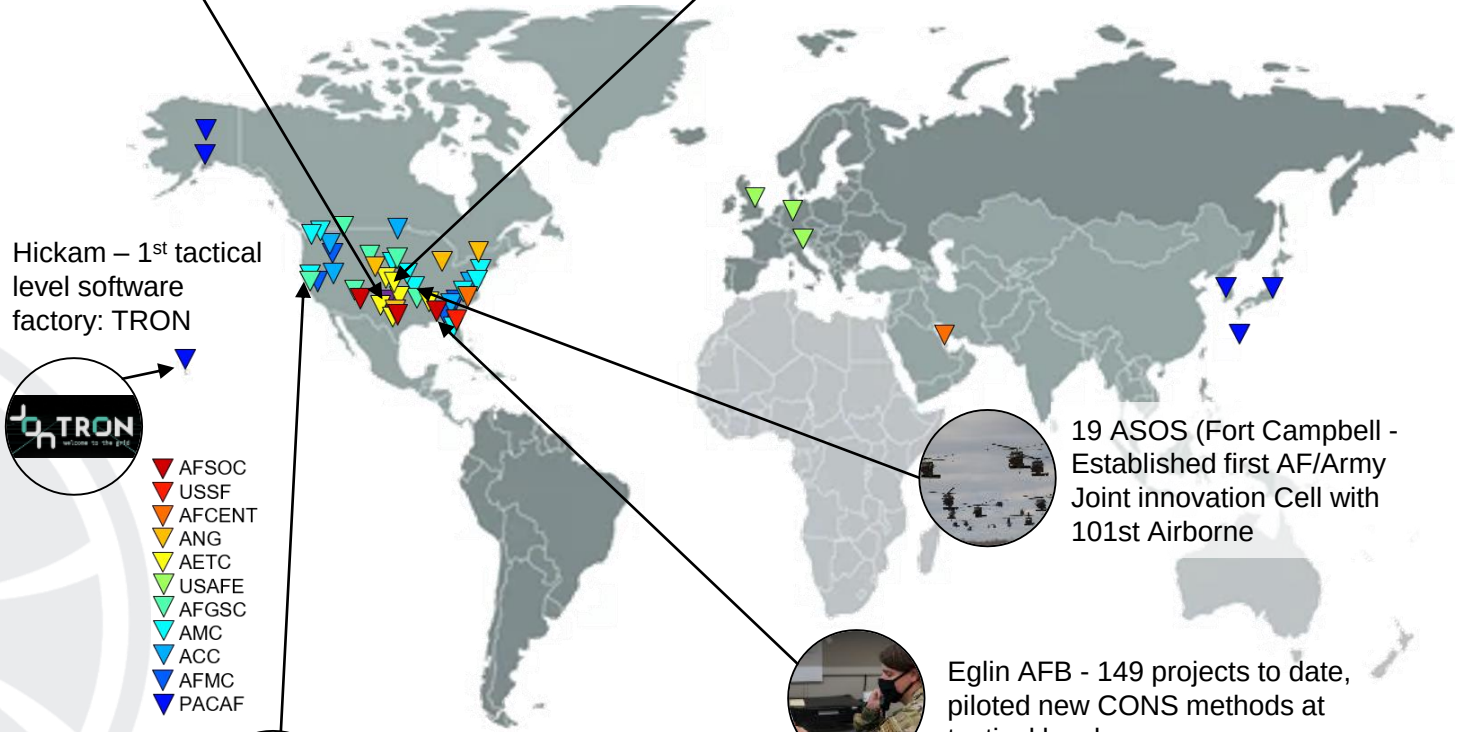
- Commander owned
- Direct Report to Wg/CC
- MAJCOM aligned (objective)
- AFWERX supported
- Manage SIF for instillation
- Leverage SBIR/STTR
- FOC:
  - 1 CGO/FGO lead
  - 1 CIV deputy
  - 1-2 enlisted

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 innov. tools

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



Hickam – 1st tactical level software factory: TRON

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

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

Travis AFB - 28 active SBIR/STTRs at installation

AFWERX

THANK YOU!