



PRESS RELEASE

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AFA's Mitchell Institute Releases new Forum Paper *Preserving Our Command & Control Edge: A Near Term Flight Plan for the Air Operations Center Weapon System*

ARLINGTON, Va (February 29, 2015) — The Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies is pleased to announce its newest publication in its Forum paper series, [*Preserving Our C2 Edge: A Near Term Flight Plan for the Air Operations Center Weapon System*](#), authored by Maj Gen Michael R. Boera, USAF (Ret.). The paper offers an assessment of one of the Air Force's most sought after command and control capabilities, the Air Operations Center Weapon System (AOC-WS), and describes a proposed path to modernize and upgrade this critical aerospace power tool in the coming years, despite challenging budget realities.

Centralized command and control (C2) from an AOC with decentralized execution by Airmen in combat has served as the "cornerstone of a dominant Air Force for the past quarter of a century," he writes. But significant manpower and operational needs continue to accumulate for USAF's 13 AOCs. This drives a need to identify more effective ways of operating an AOC at a time when demand is increasing, and new capabilities such as non-kinetic effects are rising in importance.

Boera, who retired in 2014 after 33 years of service, lays out a case for a near term AOC "flight plan" and urges the service to embrace potential solutions which could be realized with minimal budgetary impact—such as personnel efficiencies, smarter use of "reachback" capability, and closer collaboration between the military services and the aerospace industry. Boera's plan provides a framework to put the AOC-WS on the right track to realizing the service's long range strategic plans to increase the agility of its C2 enterprise, and pave the way for distributed control and execution of future air, space, and cyberspace operations.

The Mitchell Forum series provides a venue for authors with ideas, concepts, and thoughts on national defense and aerospace power to engage with current and emerging policy issues. For more information on the series, and inquiries about submissions, contact Mitchell's Director of Publications Marc Schanz at mschanz@afa.org or visit our website, www.mitchellaerospacepower.org.

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The Air Force Association's Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies is an independent, nonpartisan policy research institute established to promote understanding of the national security strategy advantages of exploiting the domains of air, space, and cyberspace. The Mitchell Institute's objective is to provide creative, insightful policy options to better empower our nation's leaders.

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