BY ORDER OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE INSTRUCTION 10-2801

24 OCTOBER 2005

Operations

AIR FORCE CONCEPT OF
OPERATIONS DEVELOPMENT

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

This Air Force Instruction (AFI) establishes guidelines for developing Air Force Concepts of Operations (AF CONOPS) and implements AFPD 10-28, *Air Force Concept Development*. The guidance in this AFI should be reviewed with AFI 10-604, *Capabilities-Based Planning,* to fully appreciate the relationship between AF CONOPS and capabilities-based planning. This AFI applies to all Air Force active duty and Reserve units, and Air National Guard (ANG) units in United States Title 10 status, developing, reviewing, managing, or using AF CONOPS in support of Air Force capabilities-based planning. Adherence is mandatory, except when Joint Staff (JS) directives override. This AFI is approved for public release; distribution is unlimited. Send proposed changes to Headquarters Air Force, Deputy Chief of Staff for Air and Space Operations, Operational Plans and Joint Matters, Concept of Operations Division, HAF/XOX-CONOPS, 1480 AF Pentagon, Washington DC 20330-1480. This AFI will be revised, as required, to address changes, additions, and/or deletions to the compendium of AF CONOPS and related Air Force and Joint Staff concept and capability-based planning developments.

Chapter 1

PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES, AND TERMINOLOGY

1.1. Purpose. This AFI standardizes the development, coordination, approval, and distribution of Air Force Concepts of Operations (AF CONOPS). AF CONOPS describe key Air Force mission areas and/or functional areas for enabling desired joint warfighting effects in accordance with national, joint, and service guidance. The AF CONOPS articulate the capabilities required to achieve those effects and inform Air Staff and Major Command senior leadership on the Air Force vision for capabilities development. The specific effects and capabilities outlined in the AF CONOPS provide the conceptual foundation for the Capabilities Review and Risk Assessment (CRRA) and the Air Force capabilities-based planning (CBP) process.

1.2. Objectives. This instruction details procedures for the comprehensive and timely preparation and use of the seven AF CONOPS: Global Strike (GS), Global Persistent Attack (GPA), Homeland Security (HLS), Nuclear Response (NR), Global Mobility (GM), Space and Command, Control, Communications, Computer, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (S&C4ISR), and Agile Combat Support (ACS).

1.2.1. This instruction provides:

1.2.1.1. A central focus for the AF CONOPS development effort.

1.2.1.2. Air Staff and Major Command (MAJCOM) key roles and responsibilities.

1.2.1.3. AF CONOPS planning considerations and terminology.

1.2.1.4. AF CONOPS document format.

1.2.1.5. AF CONOPS approval process.

1.2.1.6. AF CONOPS distribution plan.

1.2.2. Standardization of all AF CONOPS documents improves cross-CONOPS analysis, the CRRA process, the subsequent integration of CRRA findings, and the preparation of the CRRA presentation. Additionally, uniform AF CONOPS documents define required operational capability requirements for the development of MAJCOM Road Maps. The relationship between AF CONOPS, CRRA, and Road Maps is critical to the Air Force CBP process.

1.3. Terminology. While the focus of this effort is the sound development of AF CONOPS, Air Force-level concepts of operations are not defined in existing Service publications. Therefore, a new definition for AF CONOPS is required to capture the meaning and intent of this innovation in capabilities-based force planning.

1.3.1. **Distinction.** To clarify what distinguishes an AF CONOPS from operating, functional, and other enabling concepts, it must be accepted and understood: *An Air Force concept of operations (AF CONOPS) delineates the highest Service-level concept comprising a commander's assumptions and intent to achieve desired effects through the guided integration of capabilities and tasks that solve a problem in an expected mission area.*

Table 1.1. Representative applications for Air Force Concepts of Operations.

CUSTOMER	APPLICATION
Department of Defense (DoD)	- Promote Air Force (AF) perspective in DoD CBP process
Joint Staff (JS)	- Promote AF perspective in JS CBP process - Provide AF foundation for JS Capabilities-Based Assessment (CBA) - Support Joint Operating Concepts (JOC) - Inform development of Joint Integrating Concepts (JIC)
Air Staff (AF)	-Express AF senior leaders' AF CONOPS vision -Contribute to long-range planning process -Provide foundation for CRRA analysis process -Provide format for AF CONOPS advocacy -Provide reference for capabilities requirements -Establish framework for program decision support -Guide Service science & technology efforts, including advanced concept technology demonstrations (ACTD) - Guide training requirements, including exercises - Guide program objective memorandum (POM) development
Major Commands	- Express warfighting effects and needed capabilities - Examine Combatant Commanders' Integrated Priority Lists (IPL) - Provide reference for Road Map development - Guide POM development
Science & Technology	- Provide framework for project prioritization
Research	- Provide focus on Service efforts and intent - Provide framework for studies prioritization
Industry	- Provide framework for communicating Service needs

1.3.2. **Application.** AF CONOPS provide the conceptual foundation for conducting the CRRA, the Air Force process for examining and assessing the proficiency and sufficiency of Air Force capability levels vis-à-vis specific warfighting effects. Additionally, AF CONOPS inform and guide an array of other activities for the Air Staff, MAJCOMs, the science and technology sector, the research community, and support industries. The table in Figure 1 provides a representative sampling of AF CONOPS applications. This list is by no means exhaustive or all-inclusive. New applications for AF CONOPS are identified periodically as transformation efforts expand throughout the Air Force.

Chapter 2

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITES

2.1. General. The successful development of AF CONOPS, and their effective application in related CBP processes, relies on close and continuous coordination between responsible MAJCOM offices and the Air Staff. The diversity of AF CONOPS, and the dynamic development of their inherent capabilities, demands a disciplined and systematic approach to this enterprise effort.

2.2. Headquarters Air Force. Air Staff responsibility for AF CONOPS resides in the Operational Plans and Joint Matters (AF/XOX) and Installations and Logistics (AF/ILG) Directorates.

   2.2.1. **AF CONOPS Sponsor.** Concepts of operations are typically sponsored by MAJCOMs. AF/IL sponsorship of the ACS CONOPS is the only exception to this rule. The ACS CONOPS describes capability support requirements for the entire Air Force. AF/IL prepares and coordinates ACS CONOPS documentation in accordance with the procedures outlined in **Chapter 3** and **Chapter 4** of this AFI. All AF CONOPS Sponsors will capture the unique missions and capability requirements of AFSOC. AF/IL and AFMC will transition sponsorship of the ACS CONOPS to AFMC at a future date. Specific responsibilities of AF CONOPS Sponsors are described AFI 10-604, *Air Force Capabilities-Based Planning*.

   2.2.2. **AF CONOPS Champions.** The AF CONOPS Champions are the Air Staff focal points for all AF CONOPS-related activities and work in close coordination with the AF CONOPS Flight Leads. The AF CONOPS Champions for GM, GS, GPA, HLS, NR, and S&C4ISR are assigned to AF/XOX-CONOPS and the AF CONOPS Champion for ACS is assigned to AF/ILGX. AF/IL will maintain its role as ACS CONOPS Champion after AFMC assumes sponsorship of the ACS CONOPS. Specific responsibilities of AF CONOPS Champions are described AFI 10-604, *Air Force Capabilities-Based Planning*.

2.3. Major Commands. In most cases, the AF CONOPS are aligned with the MAJCOM possessing the preponderance of capabilities for enabling a particular CONOPS. MAJCOM ownership of a specific CONOPS is determined by the CSAF. With the exception of the ACS CONOPS, MAJCOMs are responsible for developing all AF CONOPS. AF/IL and AFMC will transition sponsorship of the ACS CONOPS to AFMC at a future date.

   2.3.1. **AF CONOPS Sponsors.** MAJCOMs currently sponsor six of the seven AF CONOPS. Air Combat Command (ACC) is directly responsible for the GS, GPA, HLS, and NR CONOPS. Air Force Space Command (AFSPC) is responsible for the S&C4ISR CONOPS. Air Mobility Command (AMC) is responsible for the GM CONOPS. All AF CONOPS Sponsors will capture the unique missions and capability requirements of AFSOC. AF/IL and AFMC will transition sponsorship of the ACS CONOPS to AFMC at a future date. Specific responsibilities of AF CONOPS Sponsors are described AFI 10-604, *Air Force Capabilities-Based Planning*.

   2.3.2. **AF CONOPS Flight Leads.** With the exception of the ACS CONOPS, the respective sponsoring MAJCOM designates Flight Leads for each of their assigned AF CONOPS. The AF CONOPS Flight Leads are the focal points for all CONOPS-related activities in their commands, and they work in close coordination with the AF CONOPS Champions. The Flight Lead for GS and GPA CONOPS is ACC/XPS. The Flight Leads for HLS and NR CONOPS are ACC/DOH and ACC/DON, respec-

tively. The Flight Lead for S&C4ISR CONOPS is AFSPC/XO, and the Flight Lead for GM CONOPS is AMC/A35. AFSPC/XO is lead for all space issues included in the Global Mobility CONOPS. The AFSOC point of contact for all AF CONOPS issues is AFSOC/XPPX. Because of the institutional and unique cross-functional nature of the ACS CONOPS, AF/ILGX serves as the ACS CONOPS Flight Lead. Specific responsibilities of AF CONOPS Flight Leads are described AFI 10-604, *Air Force Capabilities-Based Planning*.

2.3.3. **AF CONOPS Architecture Developers.** The MAJCOMs develop AF CONOPS architectures that reflect the scope, concepts, and capabilities of their respective AF CONOPS. As described in AFI 10-604, *Air Force Capabilities-Based Planning*, Warfighting Integration (AF/XC) will provide guidance and oversight to ensure AF CONOPS architectures are standardized and support the CRRA and other CBP analyses. ACC/SCSI (CIO Strategy and Support) develops architectures for the GS, GPA, HLS, and NR CONOPS. AFSPC/LCAA (Architectures and Integration Branch) is responsible for the S&C4ISR CONOPS architecture. AMC/A35 (Operations and Plans) is responsible for the GM CONOPS architecture. Currently, AF/ILG is responsible for the ACS CONOPS architecture. AF CONOPS architecture developers are tasked to:

2.3.3.1. Maintain top-level architectures, including activity models that document how sequenced Master Capabilities Library (MCL) capabilities and tasks combine to achieve desired AF CONOPS effects.

2.3.3.2. Maintain more detailed architectures and mission-level activity models, consistent with the top-level CONOPS activity models, supporting analysis of high-interest areas selected by the AF CONOPS Champions and Flight Leads.

2.3.3.3. Maintain close liaison with the AF CONOPS Flight Leads to ensure the architectures appropriately reflect the CONOPS.

2.3.3.4. Assist the AF/XOX-CONOPS during the CRRA process by providing a context for assessing capabilities and dependencies among capabilities for a given AF CONOPS and scenario.

2.3.3.5. Provide support to AF/XOX-CONOPS by participating in the mapping of systems to capabilities in the context of each AF CONOPS.

2.3.3.6. Support MCL review and revision by identifying missing or inaccurate MCL components during development of AF CONOPS architectures.

Chapter 3

AF CONOPS DEVELOPMENT AND CONTENT

3.1. Planning Guidelines. Standardized AF CONOPS enable cross-CONOPS analysis, improved CRRA activities and integration, guide Functional Area, Needs, and Solutions Analysis (FAA, FNA, and FSA), and aid the MAJCOM Road Map development process. Coordination and mutual support in these related documents is necessary to refine the Air Force CBP process. To this end, capability statements in all AF CONOPS documents must be consistent with one another as well as the Master Capabilities Library (MCL). New or revised capabilities resulting from revisions to the AF CONOPS and/or the MCL must be cross-referenced with other pertinent documents to enable the most complete CBP process possible. Together, they build a consistent and convincing Air Force capability "picture" and provide useful tools and data to inform the Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System (JCIDS) process. Therefore, current and complete documents are vital to multiple, ongoing transformation initiatives.

3.1.1. **Revision Cycle.** All AF CONOPS are reviewed annually and formally revised on a biennial basis. The revision process ensures current foundational documents are available for capability analysis and provides a consistent set of reference materials to support the CBP process.

3.1.1.1. **Timeline.** All AF CONOPS revisions are due <u>NLT 1 MAR</u> of the Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution (PPBE) on-year (i.e. even numbered years) to facilitate the MCL review and revision process, guide the CRRA analysis process, and inform the MAJCOM Road Map and POM development processes. AFI 10-604, *Capabilities-Based Planning*, details the execution of analysis relative to AF CBP.

3.1.1.2. **Critical Review.** All AF CONOPS revisions are subject to an objective review prior to approval. A "Red Team," designated by Assistant Director of Operational Plans and Joint Matters for CONOPS (AXOX), HQ USAF, and comprised of diverse subject matter experts, periodically reviews each AF CONOPS to:

3.1.1.2.1. Ensure the AF CONOPS present a current and timely representation of the desired joint warfighter effects and the AF capabilities required to achieve them.

3.1.1.2.2. Ensure institutional bias does not obscure alternative approaches or promote unrealistic assumptions.

3.1.1.2.3. Provide constructive feedback to the office of primary responsibility.

3.1.1.3. **Approval.** All AF CONOPS revisions are approved IAW the procedures outlined in **Chapter 4**.

3.1.2. **Master Capabilities Library (MCL).** The MCL is intended to be a mutually exclusive, collectively exhaustive list of Air Force capabilities. Organized in distinct capability areas, the list decomposes hierarchically, revealing dependent sub-capabilities and tasks. Decomposition of each capability area continues until reaching a measurable task suitable for capability analysis. The MCL is reviewed annually and formally revised on a biennial basis.

3.1.2.1. **Timeline.** MCL revisions are due <u>NLT 1 SEP</u> of the PPBE on-year (i.e. even numbered years) to guide the CRRA analysis process and inform MAJCOM Road Map development.

3.1.2.2. **Review and Revision.** The MCL is reviewed and revised by the AF CONOPS Champions, AF CONOPS Flight Leads, each MAJCOM, each AF MAJCOM Analytical Center of Excel-

lence, Air Force Studies and Analysis Agency (AFSAA), and other subject matter experts as designated by the AXOX.

3.1.2.3. **Approval.** MCL revisions will be approved by the Director of Operational Plans and Joint Matters (XOX), HQ USAF.

3.2. Documentation. The AF CONOPS are source documents that express a vision for how the Air Force intends to plan, prepare, deploy, employ, and/or sustain air and space forces against potential adversaries within focused mission or functional areas.

3.2.1. The AF CONOPS documents should be:

3.2.1.1. *Descriptive*, a narrative that promotes broad understanding of the Air Force approach to specific, future challenges.

3.2.1.2. *Synergistic*, a story line of integrated capabilities including but not limited to, those expressed in the MCL, that leads the reader to an end state greater in impact than the sum of the parts described in the AF CONOPS.

3.2.1.3. *Focused*, a specific plan for achieving desired effects or a definite outcome.

3.2.1.4. *Adaptive*, a living document that conforms to the strategic environment and applies across a range of military operations.

3.2.1.5. *Relevant to the Joint warfighter*, a non-parochial operational concept that resonates with the Joint community in common language and derives operational context from the Joint Operating Concepts (JOC).

3.2.2. **Content.** All AF CONOPS will reflect the document format outlined in **Figure 3.1.** This format complies with AFPD 10-28 standards; however, elements have been re-arranged for emphasis of key features. When necessary to articulate unique aspects of a particular AF CONOPS, additional paragraphs are authorized.

Figure 3.1. Sample Table of Contents for AF CONOPS documents.

<div style="border:1px solid black;">

CONTENTS

Section I - Issue

A.   Problem Statement

B.   Purpose of the AF CONOPS

C.   Relationship to other AF CONOPS

Section II - Overview

A.   Synopsis

B.   Operational View (OV)-1

C.   Description of the Military Challenge

D.   Desired Effects

Section III - Context

A.   Time Horizon

B.   Assumptions

C.   Risks

Section IV - Employment Concept

A.   Critical Capabilities

B.   Enabling Capabilities

C.   Sequenced Actions

D.   End State

E.   Command Relationships (OV-4)

F.   Top-Level Activity Models

Section V - Summary

Appendix 1 – Supporting CONOPS

Appendix 2 – Definitions

Appendix 3 – Acronyms

</div>

    3.2.2.1. **Section I – Issue**

        3.2.2.1.1. Problem Statement. A narrative description of a specific challenge to the interests of the United States that requires or may require resolution through the employment of the military instrument of national power.

3.2.2.1.2. Purpose of the AF CONOPS. A narrative description that conveys how air and space power capabilities should be used as the instruments of national power to resolve the problem.

3.2.2.1.3. Relationship to the other AF CONOPS. A narrative and/or graphical representation relating a specific AF CONOPS to other enabling or supporting AF CONOPS, subordinate CONOPS, and related concepts.

3.2.2.2. **Section II – Overview.**

3.2.2.2.1. Synopsis. A brief description of how this specific AF CONOPS significantly addresses joint warfighter requirements.

3.2.2.2.2. Operational View-1. An operational level, graphic depiction of the AF CONOPS.

3.2.2.2.3. Description of the Military Challenge. A narrative description of the strategic environment, adversarial strategies, and current and future enemy capabilities challenging US Armed Forces.

3.2.2.2.4. Desired Effects. Joint warfighting effects produced by Air Force capabilities or the combination of Air Force and other Service capabilities as described in the AF CONOPS.

3.2.2.3. **Section III – Content.**

3.2.2.3.1. Time Horizon. A narrative description of the timeframes for executing the AF CONOPS. This expression of time has at least two components:

3.2.2.3.1.1. W*hen in time* the AF CONOPS applies. (Example: *"This AF CONOPS addresses capabilities required to achieve desired effects 15 to 20 years from the present."*)

3.2.2.3.1.2. *What operational phase of time* the AF CONOPS intends to influence. (*The Global Strike CONOPS focuses on the initial stages of a conflict and is designed to facilitate attack of key targets globally and on short-notice, normally within hours or even minutes."*).

3.2.2.3.2. Assumptions. Self-explanatory.

3.2.2.3.3. Risks. Self-explanatory.

3.2.2.4. **Section IV – Employment Concept.**

3.2.2.4.1. Critical Capabilities. A narrative description of the key capabilities required for achieving the effects enumerated in a particular AF CONOPS.

3.2.2.4.2. Enabling Capabilities. A narrative description of other essential capabilities for achieving the effects enumerated in a particular AF CONOPS.

3.2.2.4.3. Sequenced Actions. A narrative description of how the concept unfolds in a sequenced manner. This is a generic "story" that links major activities with sufficient detail to articulate a specific end state.

3.2.2.4.4. End State. Self-explanatory.

3.2.2.4.5. Command Relationships. A narrative description of the major "players" involved in the execution of a particular AF CONOPS. (May include an OV-4 graphic.)

3.2.2.4.6. Top-Level Activity Models. (Activity models as described paragraph **2.3.3.1.**)

3.2.2.5. **Section V – Summary.**

3.2.2.5.1. Restate the intent for developing the AF CONOPS.

3.2.2.5.2. Emphasize the joint warfighting effects created by the AF CONOPS.

3.2.2.5.3. Highlight the critical and enabling capabilities required by the AF CONOPS to achieve the desired effects.

3.2.2.5.4. Identify products the AF CONOPS will inform, guide, or otherwise influence (e.g. Road Maps, etc.).

3.2.2.5.5. Identify other processes the AF CONOPS will inform, guide, or otherwise influence (e.g. POM development, etc.)

3.2.2.5.6. Include signature blocks for CSAF, AF CONOPS Sponsor (MAJCOM/CC or AF/IL), AF CONOPS Champion, and AF CONOPS Flight Lead.

Chapter 4

AF CONOPS APPROVAL AND DISTRIBUTION

4.1. Approval Authority. The CSAF is the final approval authority for all AF CONOPS. CSAF review and approval of the AF CONOPS initiates the biennial Air Force CRRA cycle. Periodic "Focus Sessions" during the review and assessment cycle ensure CSAF engagement throughout the CBP process. The CSAF closes the biennial CBP process by approving CRRA findings and issuing capabilities-based planning and programming guidance derived from Road Maps and CRRA recommendations. CSAF involvement in every step of the process ensures a consistent and credible approach to Air Force CBP.

4.2. Coordination Process. The AF CONOPS coordination process is designed to ensure AF CONOPS development and approval is completed in time to support CRRA cycle initiation. Close contact and cooperation between the AF CONOPS Champions and AF CONOPS Flight Leads is vital to successful and timely coordination. All phases of the coordination process must be complete, to include CSAF approval, <u>NLT 1 MAR</u> biennially, following the revision process outlined in **Chapter 3**.

4.2.1. **Phase I.** AF CONOPS Flight Leads draft AF CONOPS revisions, coordinate with other MAJCOMs and supporting agencies, as required, then submit to AF CONOPS Champions for review.

4.2.2. **Phase II.** AF CONOPS Champions review draft revisions, coordinate Red Team assessments, and staff documents with appropriate Deputy Chiefs of Staff to secure two-letter coordination, as required. AF CONOPS Champions then consolidate and forward Air Staff inputs to AF CONOPS Flight Leads for action.

4.2.3. **Phase III.** AF CONOPS Flight Leads adjust draft revisions, as appropriate, coordinate as required, and secure MAJCOM Commander approval. The ACS CONOPS will be staffed through the ACS Colonels Advisory Group, followed by the ACS Executive Steering Group before coordination with all MAJCOM/CVs. AF/IL and AFMC will transition sponsorship of the ACS CONOPS to AFMC at a future date. Phase III procedures for the ACS CONOPS will be adjusted, as required, following sponsorship transition.

4.2.4. **Phase IV.** AF CONOPS Sponsors will brief revised AF CONOPS directly to CSAF. Once approved, CSAF and the AF CONOPS Sponsor, AF CONOPS Champion, and AF CONOPS Flight Lead will sign their respective documents.

4.2.5. **Phase V.** AF CONOPS revisions are effective upon signature. They are the standard reference for all AF CONOPS-related processes for the next two years or until the document(s) are subsequently revised. Revisions will be approved by the CSAF and the AF CONOPS Sponsors.

4.3. Distribution. All AF CONOPS revisions will be distributed electronically to facilitate CBP activities across the Air Force.

4.3.1. AF CONOPS Champions will post only the most current version of AF CONOPS documents on the AF/XOX website.

4.3.2. AF CONOPS Flight Leads will post only the most current version of AF CONOPS documents on their respective websites.

4.3.3. Unclassified AF CONOPS documents are approved for unlimited release to US industry. Industry partners may release the AF CONOPS through any unrestricted means to the general public

via web posting to a commercial domain. Special attention must be given to FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (FOUO) data. Unclassified-FOUO data will be handled and distributed in accordance with applicable security directives.

4.3.4. Classified AF CONOPS documents are approved for limited release to US industry to support their response to an Air Force Request for Information (RFI). Release authorities for classified AF CONOPS are the AF CONOPS Champions and AF CONOPS Flight Leads, as identified in **Chapter 2** of this instruction. Industry partners shall not release the AF CONOPS further through any unrestricted means or to the general public via web-posting to a commercial domain. Internal dissemination within the company must be managed through the corporate POC in accordance with security directives, maintaining adequate records of all copies made and all internal dissemination.

4.3.5. AF CONOPS architecture developers will post approved architecture products on the Air Force Architecture Repository.

Attachment 1

GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

References

AFPD 10-28, *Air Force Concept Development*

AFI 10-604, *Capabilities-Based Planning*

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACS—Agile Combat Support

ACTD—Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration

AF CONOPS—Concept of Operations

AFI—Air Force Instruction

AFROCC—Air Force Requirements for Operational Capabilities Council

APPG—Annual Planning and Programming Guidance

CBA—Capabilities-Based Assessment

CBP—Capabilities-Based Planning

CBRNE—Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High Explosive

COCOM—Combatant Commander

CRRA—Capabilities Review and Risk Assessment

DOTMLPF—Doctrine, Organization, Training, Materiel, Leadership & Education, Personnel, and Facilities

FAA—Functional Area Analysis

FNA—Functional Needs Analysis

FSA—Functional Solution Analysis

GM—Global Mobility

GPA—Global Persistent Attack

GS—Global Strike

HLS—Homeland Security

INT—Integration Division

IPL—Integrated Priority List

JCIDS—Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System

JFC—Joint Force Commander

JIC—Joint Integrating Concept

JOC—Joint Operating Concept

JS—Joint Staff

JIMP—Joint Vision Implementation Master Plan

MCL—Master Capabilities Library

MOE—Measures of Effectiveness

MOP—Measures of Performance

NR—Nuclear Response

RM—Road Map

S&C4ISR—Space and Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance

Terms

Air Force Concept of Operation (AF CONOPS)—An Air Force Concept of Operations delineates the highest service-level concept comprising a commander's assumptions and intent to achieve desired effects through the guided integration of capabilities and tasks that solve a problem in an expected mission area. Joint Force Commanders employ Air Force Concepts of Operations through Air Expeditionary Forces to fight and win wars.

AF CONOPS Champion—The Air Staff focal point for service-level CONOPS and the capabilities described and required by that AF CONOPS. The Champion promotes the attainment and sustainment of essential Air Force capabilities required to achieve the effects needed by Joint Force Commanders (JFC) to fulfill their assigned missions. The Champion is also responsible for leading the Capabilities Review and Risk Assessment (CRRA) process, advocating AF CONOPS, effects, and capabilities in all Department of Defense, Joint Staff, and Air Staff capabilities-based planning processes, and informing the Air Force Corporate and the Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution System processes.

AF CONOPS Flight Lead—The Air Staff Directorate representative or Air Force Major Command representative responsible for documenting service-level CONOPS on behalf of their sponsor and advocating AF CONOPS effects and capabilities to their appropriate AF CONOPS Champion.

AF CONOPS Sponsor—The Air Staff Deputy Chief of Staff or Air Force Major Command responsible for developing any AF CONOPS in support of the Air Force capabilities-based planning process.

Agile Combat Support CONOPS—ACS CONOPS details the capability to create, protect, and sustain Air and Space Forces across the full range of military operations and provides the foundational, cross-cutting, and distinctive capabilities that enable operational AF CONOPS. The ACS CONOPS promotes highly mobile, technologically superior, robust, responsive, flexible, and fully integrated support for all combat operations.

Capability—The ability to achieve an effect to a standard under specified conditions through multiple combinations of means and ways to perform a set of tasks.

Capabilities-Based Planning—An approach where the focus is to identify a prioritized, integrated, and optimized set of air and space capabilities, including required support, that provide for specific effects. This set of effects-based capabilities is in turn tied to distinct, prioritized planning and programming actions that balance risk across the spectrum of military operations.

Capabilities Review and Risk Assessment—The Air Force process for identifying and assessing the levels of capability needed to execute service-level concepts of operations, determining the status of these capabilities to achieve desired effects, and recommending courses of action to rectify overages, shortfalls, and gaps in the capability portfolio.

Condition—An environmental variable that affects the performance of a task.

Effect—An outcome (condition, behavior, or degree of freedom) resulting from tasked actions.

Global Mobility CONOPS—GM CONOPS represents a compilation of Air Force capabilities that collectively achieve the primary effect of rapid global projection supporting the application of joint military power and the full spectrum of political operations under a variety of environments. Integrated and responsive air and space mobility operations, global command and control, and the ability to rapidly establish airbase operations anywhere are key elements of the GM CONOPS.

Global Persistent Attack CONOPS—GPA CONOPS defines a spectrum of capabilities applicable across a wide range of military operations. GPA CONOPS provides the JFC the critical capabilities to dominate by driving the tempo of operations in the campaign. GPA CONOPS conducts and sustains enduring combat operations to achieve campaign objectives with minimum loss and seeks to perform decision cycles increasingly faster and smarter than the opponent. In addition, GPA CONOPS applies persistent precision strike and information operations to influence, manipulate, or dismantle an opponent's ability to act, both physically and psychologically. The persistent application of force continues to erode the range and methods by which the enemy can operate or create regional and global instability, eventually compelling it to abandon its objectives.

Global Strike CONOPS—GS CONOPS represents the very high end of USAF combat capability--the ability to employ in the face of the most challenging threats to air and space operations, basing, and the joint force. GS capabilities allow the JFC to employ joint power-projection forces to counter adversary anti-access systems and achieve desired effects and create the conditions required to gain and maintain access for follow-on forces. GS seeks to neutralize critical opposing capabilities in the initial stages of crisis or conflict to more rapidly create war-winning effects and enable JFC objective achievement.

Homeland Security CONOPS (Air Force)—HLS CONOPS defines a set of capabilities focusing on three areas: (1) defending the homeland through air and space power in an interagency environment with legal and resource constraints; (2) ensuring proactive coordination with, and responsive actions to requests for assistance from, local, state, and federal agencies without compromising combat mission capabilities; and (3) preserving the ability to project forces overseas in a terrorist threat environment and providing for their protection.

Master Capabilities Library—A single, unified taxonomy providing visibility into, and common understanding of, all Air Force capabilities for the purpose of supporting service and Joint capabilities-based planning analysis.

Measures of Effectiveness—Measures designed to correspond to accomplishment of mission objectives and achievement of desired effects.

Measure of Performance—Measures designed to quantify the degree of perfection in accomplishing functions or tasks.

Nuclear Response CONOPS—NR CONOPS champions capabilities that provide survivable, reliable, responsive, and flexible nuclear forces. The NR CONOPS provides deterrent capabilities under which joint conventional forces operate; deterring chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high explosive

(CBRNE) attacks and major conventional aggression that endangers U.S. or allied vital interests. They dissuade any adversary from employing nuclear forces to coerce the U.S., its forces, or its allies. If deterrence fails, the NR CONOPS links nuclear strike forces with command and control, information, and adaptive planning capabilities to jointly defeat the enemy through a variety of nuclear attack options, and to re-establish deterrence upon conflict termination.

Road Map—A long-range, capabilities-based projection of force structure and associated support spanning a three-Fiscal Year Defense Plan planning period. The Road Map provides a fiscally-constrained projection connecting current programs to the future and identifying future capabilities, transformational technologies, and critical decision points to achieve an operationally effective force.

Space and Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance CONOPS—S&C4ISR CONOPS describes the capabilities necessary to enable persistent application of force and related joint operations as well as to respond and adapt to varying world situations [i.e., military operations other than war (MOOTW)]. The successful application of S&C4ISR capabilities will create or enable conditions that will enhance friendly forces' ability to generate "effects" on adversary forces (and the strategic/operational/tactical environment) across the range of military operations.

Standard—The minimum proficiency required in the performance of a task. For mission-essential tasks of joint forces, each task standard is defined by the joint force commander and consists of a measure and criterion.

Task—An action or activity based upon doctrine, standard procedures, mission analysis or concepts that may be assigned to an individual or organization.