The success of our military depends upon the ability to control the air and space and project power against pacing challenges. The Department of the Air Force must invest in to protect the United States’ ability to deter variety of threats, including cyber and kinetic threats. Achieving these imperatives will enable the Air Force and Space Force to maintain our competitive advantages.

This initiative, similar to the initiative associated with the NGAD, has to do with identifying the components of a B-21 size we need operationally; we need to add attritable, less expensive, uncrewed autonomous aircraft to the mix. NGAD (Next Generation Air Dominance), we have an unaffordable future tactical air force. Those platforms are too expensive to fully equip an Air Force of the future.

Operational Imperatives

**OPERATIONAL IMPERATIVE 1**

**GLOBAL STRIKE**

**SITUATION**

As weapons systems become more powerful, our ability to employ them in a way that delivers decisive results increases.

**CHALLENGE**

While China and Russia have been building capabilities to defeat U.S. power projection forces, they are primarily focused on the Eastern Pacific; Russia is attempting the same in Eastern Europe.

**APPROACH**

The NGAD family-of-systems is, in part, comprised of air combat aircraft. This fleet of planes will complement our existing fleet of 540 F-22s and 1,246 F-35s, allowing us to deny our adversaries the ability to counter our own operations. When we look at what the DAF is currently acquiring to modernize the tactical air force (i.e., F-35s, F-15EXs, F-16s), the NGAD will fill a gap in the current and future capability mix.

**OPERATIONAL IMPERATIVE 2**

**RESILIENT Basing**

**SITUATION**

Airmen, Guardians, and the systems they employ takes a herculean effort. Deploying Airmen, Guardians, and the systems they employ takes a herculean effort. This imperative will identify priority gaps overseas, to mobilize, deploy and support our forces in a major conflict. All of these dependencies can be targeted by a wide variety of threats, including cyber and kinetic threats.

**CHALLENGE**

The nation’s dependency on space has only grown over time. Our potential adversaries have operationalized space to enable attacks on our terrestrial operations and to deny joint and combined forces the services from space that they depend on. The theory behind ABMS is that using modern networking capabilities, communications capabilities, artificial intelligence, and autonomous systems, we can identify, track, and engage multiple targets simultaneously.

**APPROACH**

One way to counter these growing threats is through a new wave of data fusion, allowing us to see, sense, hear, and analyze all the information in real-time. By using data fusion, we can identify and engage multiple threats simultaneously. The ABMS concept is to fundamentally change our approach to fighting. The Air Force is pursuing in this regard, called Agile Combat Employment (ACE), is a strong step in the right direction, but a reasonable time, if necessary.

**OPERATIONAL IMPERATIVE 3**

**SPACE ORDER OF BATTLE**

**SITUATION**

The United States depends primarily on space for communications, surveillance, and intelligence. The space-based ability to attack our terrestrial assets, especially our high-value power projection assets.

**CHALLENGE**

We must deny our adversaries an easy targeting opportunity and the perceived vulnerability that a small number of known fixed locations provides.

**APPROACH**

While China and Russia have been building capabilities to defeat U.S. power projection forces, they are primarily focused on the Eastern Pacific; Russia is attempting the same in Eastern Europe.

**OPERATIONAL IMPERATIVE 4**

**OPERATIONAL FOCUSED ABMS**

**SITUATION**

The United States depends primarily on space for communications, surveillance, and intelligence. The space-based ability to attack our terrestrial assets, especially our high-value power projection assets.

**CHALLENGE**

Chinese is fielding capabilities designed to defeat the United States’ ability to project power in the Western Pacific. Russia is deploying the same in its Black Sea Region.

**APPROACH**

httpClient().get("https://api.example.com/data")

**OPERATIONAL IMPERATIVE 5**

**TACTICAL AIR DOMINANCE**

**SITUATION**

The United States also has an advantage in space-based global strike. We have all the necessary capabilities to project power to any point on the globe.

**CHALLENGE**

While China and Russia have been building capabilities to defeat U.S. power projection forces, they are primarily focused on the Eastern Pacific; Russia is attempting the same in Eastern Europe.

**APPROACH**

The United States has an advantage in space-based global strike. We have all the necessary capabilities to project power to any point on the globe.

**OPERATIONAL IMPERATIVE 6**

**MOVING TARGET ENGAGEMENT**

**SITUATION**

As weapons systems become more powerful, our ability to employ them in a way that delivers decisive results increases.

**CHALLENGE**

The U.S. will need to supplement current and next-generation, crewed platforms with lower cost complimentary uncrewed air combat aircraft. In a hypothetical scenario with a well-resourced adversary, U.S. forces could be faced with numerous ground moving targets. 

**APPROACH**

The NGAD family-of-systems is, in part, comprised of air combat aircraft. This fleet of planes will complement our existing fleet of 540 F-22s and 1,246 F-35s, allowing us to deny our adversaries the ability to counter our own operations. 

**OPERATIONAL IMPERATIVE 7**

**READY TO DEPLOY AND FIGHT**

**SITUATION**

The United States also has an advantage in space-based global strike. We have all the necessary capabilities to project power to any point on the globe.

**CHALLENGE**

The United States has an advantage in space-based global strike.

**APPROACH**

The United States has an advantage in space-based global strike.