

Department of the Air Force Contracting Strategic Plan

Accelerating Acquisition Change to Win



4 February 2026



SAF/AQC STRATEGIC INTENT



In 2025, the Department of the Air Force (DAF) Contracting workforce demonstrated remarkable agility and resilience during a time of tremendous change. Despite extraordinary challenges, including the loss of more than 10% of our contracting personnel, our workforce leaned forward and transformed how we do business ahead of the curve. **Our proactive transformation efforts to date have rapidly delivered Warfighter capability** and aligned with several elements of the Department of War (DoW) Acquisition Transformation Strategy released in November 2025.

Over the past year, we have empowered our workforce to more rapidly deliver capabilities by encouraging appropriate risk-taking and driving transformational change to how we do business. We maximized flexibility by embracing digital acquisition, including guidance and tools for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and building human-machine skills in our workforce. We accelerated commercial preferences with Commercial Solutions Openings (CSO). We enhanced awareness of resources, including the Air Force Contracting Central (AFCC) Acquisition Toolbox and the CSO Center of Excellence (CoE). We also accomplished significant modernization of our contracting writing system, CON-IT, to include the release of our Grants, Other Transactions, and Assistance Instruments capability, aligning with the Administration's preference for flexible contracting.

The Year of Pricing focused on enhancing the pricing acumen of our workforce, including launching the new Pricing CoE. We improved the Digital Acquisition Transformation Environment (DATE) and incorporated pricing tools. We also enhanced the visibility of Foreign Military Sales data to inform data-driven decision-making for the DAF and our international partners. Through all of these efforts, DAF Contracting enhanced tools, processes, and skillsets while also leading customer education in requirements generation and acquisition strategy.

In 2026, we will continue our alignment with DoW Acquisition Transformation Strategy and Secretary of War (SecWar) priorities, including transforming our strategic planning. We will pivot from the Flight Plan construct used in previous years and adopt a streamlined Strategic Plan format. This streamlined plan will organize our strategic approach to continue enhancing lethality and more rapidly delivering critical Warfighter capabilities.

Our 2026 DAF Contracting Strategic Plan, a living document, will allow us to vector our approach when needed to meet evolving requirements and mission priorities. To maintain both flexibility and focus, the plan includes Strategic Objectives in three broad Mission Areas: Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Communications.

Efficiency. We will leverage our resources to streamline the acquisition process to deliver mission and outcomes with speed. This includes building resource awareness in the field and optimizing our processes to develop high performance and execution excellence in contracting operations. Additionally, we will align our AFCC resources with the Revolutionary Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Overhaul (RFO), creating a 'one-stop shop.' We will also continue to modernize our information technology (IT) systems, such as CON-IT, and enhance awareness of tools, such as AI tools, to maximize acquisition flexibility through contracting process innovation.

Effectiveness. We will prioritize professional development to enhance lethality and acquisition workforce excellence. This includes prioritizing functional Contracting education for personnel at all levels. We will revitalize training resources to better equip our Mission-Focused Business Leaders to rapidly deliver capability. We will build on our successes in category management, contingency contracting, and joint capabilities. We will also enhance our approach to contracting career building and workforce management to develop and retain the high-performing personnel needed to sustain our DAF Contracting workforce. In doing so, we will continue to elevate and empower balanced and flexible technical experts to accomplish the mission.

Communications. We will enhance force readiness for the path ahead through optimized communications. This includes ensuring that our workforce has the information needed to effectively accomplish our mission. Our team will deliver functional training on a recurring basis and share best practices and lessons learned across the field. Additionally, we will pulse the field for feedback and ideas to continuously improve resources that provide value for the entire DAF Contracting community.

To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our processes and enhance the readiness of the DAF Contracting community, our **SAF/AQC divisions will champion Strategic Initiatives supporting the objectives in each mission area.** These initiatives include Contract Optimization (AQCA); Transition to Modernized CON-IT (AQCI); Enhanced Early Engagement and Resource Awareness (AQCK); DAF Contracting Training Revitalization (AQCL); and AFCC-RFO Alignment (AQCL). SAF/AQC Champions will engage with stakeholders in the DAF Contracting community for input and feedback as we work to achieve Key Results for each initiative.

Throughout 2026, we will continue to engage in DoW-aligned Acquisition Transformation efforts in addition to achieving our Key Results. We will also prioritize the development of our DAF Contracting workforce to enhance lethality and develop high performance and execution excellence in contracting operations. Above all, we will remain true to our Core Values—*Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do (USAF)* and *Character, Connection, Commitment, and Courage (USSF)*. **Our Core Values remain consistent even as we continue to accelerate transformative change.**

Thank you for your continued dedication to excellence and innovation in the midst of extraordinary challenges and changes. **Each of you adds tremendous value and enables critical capabilities for the Warfighter every day.** We have no doubt that your mission-focused leadership will continue to transform how we do business in 2026 and beyond.

Together, we will accomplish the Mission—rapidly delivering capabilities to the Warfighter anytime, anywhere.



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2026 SAF/AQC STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

2026 SAF/AQC Strategic Initiatives, activities with measurable outcomes, support the Strategic Objectives, action-oriented goals, in each Mission Area: Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Communications. SAF/AQC Champions will engage with the DAF Contracting community for input and feedback as we work to accomplish Key Results, measurable achievements towards meeting objectives, by the estimated completion dates (ECD). These Strategic Initiatives, along with other current and planned efforts, align with DoW Acquisition Transformation Strategy.

DoW Acquisition Transformation Strategy	2026 SAF/AQC Initiatives
I. Fuel the Arsenal of Freedom	3 – 5
✓ Expand the Industrial Base	
II. Elevate and Empower Workforce to Rapidly Deliver Capability	1 – 5
✓ Acquisition Workforce Excellence	
III. Maximize Acquisition Flexibility through Reduced Regulations and Processes	1 – 5
✓ Digitize Acquisition	
IV. Develop High Performance Systems through Rigorous Enterprise Technical and Execution Excellence	3 – 5
✓ Balanced and Flexible Technical Experts	
V. Improve Effective Lifecycle Risk Management	1 – 5
✓ Owning the Operator’s Manual of Our Systems	

INITIATIVE 1: CONTRACT OPTIMIZATION

Champion: SAF/AQCA Installation & Sourcing Division

Description: DAF Contracting will leverage existing contracts and standardize requirements to achieve increased efficiency and effectiveness in alignment with Executive Order 14240, *Eliminating Waste And Saving Taxpayer Dollars By Consolidating Procurement*, and the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul. AQCA will team with functional leaders to standardize repetitive/common/complex requirements through standardized products (e.g. Performance Work Statements (PWS)) and highlight demand signals to inform development of enterprise solutions where those vehicles make sense. This standardization will also provide better visibility for the Contracting Officer to identify existing contract solutions to inform acquisition strategies and reduce duplicative or repetitive contract actions.

Key Results:

1. Pilot spend areas analysis and prioritization (ECD: Jan 26)
2. Stakeholders/functional engagement (ECD: Feb 26)
3. Initial stakeholder targets prioritization (ECD: Apr 26)
4. Requirements standardization and alignment (i.e., Collect PWS/conduct MR/engage Industry) (ECD: Jul 26)
5. Sourcing decisions alignment, including aligning mandatory DAF Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contracts to requirements for Mandatory Use Policy (MUP)/Preferred Use Policy (PUP) solutions and increasing enterprise visibility of these solutions/policies. (ECD: Oct 26)
6. Sourcing strategy communication (ECD: Nov 26)

INITIATIVE 2: TRANSITION TO MODERNIZED CON-IT

Champion: SAF/AQCI Contracting Business Systems Division

Description: DAF Contracting will end reliance on outdated and non-compliant systems for new awards with continued transition to the modernized CON-IT contract writing system. AQCI will team with the DAF Contracting community to define system requirements and develop the following remaining capabilities: Research and Development (R&D) for Classified users; Logistics Minimally Viable Product (MVP); and E-Filing MVP. Following the completion of this development, DAF Contracting will discontinue use of ConWrite and Contract File Share (KTFS) for any new efforts. Additionally, AQCI will identify any remaining logistics requirements to inform the development of capabilities necessary to transition our logistics contracting community from the Automated Contract Preparation System (ACPS) to CON-IT.

Key Results:

1. E-Filing capability MVP and fielding plan (ECD: Mar 26)
2. Logistics MVP defined (ECD: Mar 26)
3. E-Filing deployed to unclassified users; users trained and transitioned (ECD: Jun 26)
4. Classified R&D capability developed and deployed to classified users (ECD: Jun 26)
5. KTFS sunset (ECD: Aug 26)
6. E-Filing deployed to classified users and users trained (no transition needed) (ECD: Dec 26)

INITIATIVE 3: ENHANCED EARLY ENGAGEMENT AND RESOURCE AWARENESS

Champion: SAF/AQCK Contracting Operations Division

Description: AQCK and the Intellectual Property (IP) Cadre will promote enhanced early engagement and resource awareness to optimize AQCK-level coordination and reviews. Earlier AQCK engagement with Portfolio Acquisition Executives (PAE)/Program Executive Offices (PEO) (e.g., during acquisition planning) will support increased awareness of best practices for coordination and reviews. Earlier IP Cadre engagement (e.g., supporting ASP pre-brief and Program Objectives Memorandum (POM) processes) will support accelerated adoption of IP best practices. SAF/AQCK will also launch a new review request site with a directory of AQCK Action Officers (AO)/IP Cadre Points of Contact (POC), current trends and best practices, and promote resource awareness (e.g., AFCC 'one-stop shop').

Key Results:

1. Launch SAF/AQCK site to streamline clearances and reviews requests (ECD: Feb 26)
2. Establish real-time trends and best practices repository (ECD: May 26)
3. Deliver roadshow trainings to facilitate early engagement and build awareness of best practices for IP and coordination/reviews (ECD: Jul 26)

INITIATIVE 4: DAF CONTRACTING TRAINING REVITALIZATION

Champion: SAF/AQCL Contracting Processes & Pricing

Description: Acquisition Transformation requires effective training that reflects the new acquisition environment. AQCL will modernize and adapt the current training baseline to reflect changing regulations and DAF Contracting workforce needs. This includes a blend of general training and specialized training to engage the workforce at all levels.

Key Results:

1. Training Revitalization baseline (ECD: Jan 26)
2. Updated training format/structure (ECD: Jan 26)
3. Training rollout (ECD: Jan 26)
4. Deliver targeted trainings:
 - Senior Contracting Official (SCO) training (ECD: Jan 26)
 - Journeyman and Seasoned Procuring Contracting Officer (PCO) Training (ECD: Mar 26)
 - Other Transactions (OT)/Commercial Solutions Openings (CSO) Training and Workshops (ECD: Mar 26)
 - Pricing Training (ECD: Mar 26)

INITIATIVE 5: AFCC-RFO ALIGNMENT

Champion: SAF/AQCL Contracting Processes & Pricing

Description: AQCL will build a new, dynamic SharePoint tool to bring statute, policy, processes, and training into a single site (i.e., AFCC) to create a true 'one-stop shop' while replacing the DAFFARS to effectively meet the DAF mission focus and field needs. This includes delivering training roadshows and virtual events (e.g., Acquisition Center of Excellence (ACE) offices, SCOs, general field virtual sessions, targeted on-site training, and embedded newcomer's training).

Key Results:

1. Map FAR changes to new AFCC (ECD: Jan 26)
2. Map DFARS changes to new AFCC (ECD: Feb 26)
3. Establish AFCC as the replacement for the DAFFARS (ECD: Feb 26)
4. Deliver training roadshows and virtual events (ECD: Jun 2026)