Mission, Vision and History of Air University

Air University Mission: Educate and develop Air, Space, and Cyberspace warrior leaders in support of the National Defense Strategy.

Air University Vision: The intellectual and leadership-development center of the Air and Space Forces

Air University (AU), headquartered at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, is a major component of Air Education and Training Command (AETC) and is the lead agent for Air Force education. AU provides the full spectrum of Air Force education, encompassing pre-commissioning programs for new officers; graduate programs in specialized military disciplines; progressive, career-long professional military development for officer, enlisted, and civilian Airmen; and specialized programs for US cabinet appointees, senior executive service (SES) civilians, and general officers.

AU’s professional military education (PME) programs educate Airmen to leverage air, space, and cyberspace power to achieve national security objectives. Specialized professional continuing educational programs provide scientific, technological, managerial, and other professional expertise to meet the needs of the Air Force. AU also conducts research on the evolving security environment; emerging threats; future uses for air, space, and cyberspace power; working in joint and coalition teams and multicultural environments; education; military leadership; management; and other topics that inform senior Air Force leaders and contribute to curriculum development. The university is engaged in community and public service, offering two citizenship programs: Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps and Civil Air Patrol–USAF.

History

The Wright brothers established the first US civilian flying school in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1910. By the 1920s, Montgomery was an important link in the growing system of aerial mail service. In the early 1930s, the Army Air Corps Tactical School (ACTS) moved to Montgomery, establishing Maxwell Field as the country’s intellectual center for airpower education.

Air University, established in 1946, continues the proud tradition of educating tomorrow’s planners and leaders in air and space power for the Air Force, other branches of the US armed forces, federal government civilians, and many international organizations. AU’s current worldwide reach enriches the careers of every Air Force member.