



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
AIR UNIVERSITY (AETC)

21 August 2026

Air War College Class of 2028

Congratulations on your selection to the Air War College. This milestone places you within a highly selective cohort of senior leaders from across the Joint Force, our Interagency partners, and allied nations. You are entering the world's premier Senior Developmental Education (SDE) institution—the crucible designed to forge the air-minded, joint-force strategic leaders required for tomorrow's high-stakes conflicts.

The academic year ahead will demand your absolute best. This is intentional. As senior leaders, you will be charged with solving the most complex, volatile security challenges of our era. Future conflicts will not be won simply by mass, but by strategic minds that can out-think, out-adapt, and out-maneuver our adversaries. Your time at Air University is a deliberate opportunity to hone that intellectual edge and secure our decisive advantage.

While our curriculum is built on the hard realities of modern warfare and global power projection, you bring the immediate, vital perspective of recent command and critical staff experience. I challenge you to push past comfortable assumptions, pressure-test established doctrine, and actively shape this institution. We expect you to challenge us, refine our thinking, and help us keep this elite environment sharp.

This experience is highly customizable, matching the diverse demands of modern leadership. Through an agile curriculum, you will select specialized electives and drive research that directly answers real-world operational problems. You will do this alongside a world-class faculty of combat-tested professionals and distinguished civilian scholars, while building vital strategic relationships with peers across the global coalition. Lean on this network; the trust you build here will sustain your leadership in the critical years ahead.

Welcome to Maxwell Air Force Base. Arrive ready to expand your strategic reach, challenge your peers, and prepare for the heavy demands of supreme command. I look forward to your arrival. Travel safely.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Lyle K. Drew".

LYLE K. DREW  
Major General, USAF  
Commander, Air War College