Welcome to the second issue of The Leading Edge, the newsletter focused on the development of flight-level leadership across the Department of the Air Force. To issue #1 this newsletter format was introduced as a bridge between flight-level leadership aspirants at Air University and course directors, instructors, and educators, and individual leaders in the field. The new open-content format on AFPIMS allows readers, creators, and distributors to be better informed specifically for growing flight-level leaders. Thank you for engaging in The Flight Commander’s Edge ecosystem of resources and allowing us to share in your development efforts for educating today’s Airmen and Guardians.

This second newsletter focuses on force development and provides some ideas for balancing needs of the force and the individual.

Course Director Corner

"Leader development occurs daily not in a day." — Joshua Bowen, USAF

With a focus on both the individual leader and leadership development, The Flight Commander’s Edge newsletter offers a wealth of topics for flight-level leaders so that as instructors, these leaders gain direct and indirect knowledge.

For this issue, we emphasize in our content general principles that provide a framework for you to consider as you plan flight-level courses. Three areas should give your courses direction to develop a leader.

1. Build skill & expertise Technical-level education and training should take into account the relative importance and development needs of young leaders. As every flight level is unique, you must focus on leadership principles that are most important for leadership development. In your courses, you need to focus not only on high-level leadership skills, but also give your learners an opportunity to deeply explore elements that are important or unique to your unit.

2. Build depth of experience Competence and credibility require depth of experience that leaders gain as they grow their flight members. These principles should guide your courses to develop tactical leadership skills: foundation for effective leadership. In your courses, you need to plan future and flight-level leadership opportunities. Provide your learners with opportunities to identify their personal leadership strengths and limitations through self-assessment tools. The FCE lesson plans are designed specifically for your learners. Avoid including skills using long PowerPoint™ lectures like the plague.

3. Build skill set expertise What purpose does force development serve? Force development creates opportunities! Force development leverages education, training, and experience to build skill set expertise. All team members should understand the force development construct. Developing Others

Questions to Consider

Who is responsible for force development?

Ask these questions of yourself and your flight members

What is force development?

Ask these questions of yourself and your flight members

Who is responsible for force development?

What purpose does force development serve?

How does force development impact mission success?

Suggestions to grow Airmen & Guardians

Go to the Edge Newsletter #2

Application-focused content to grow your flight-level leaders

Review the first lesson on AFPIMS “What is the Role of the Flight Commander?”

(No digit this newsletter in your browser), first page is a PDF file to create a new page (Now you send it to your flight-level leaders).