



INTERNATIONAL **FIGHTER**

OFFICIALLY SUPPORTED BY
AERONAUTICA MILITARE



2025 AGENDA

4-6 NOVEMBER 2025
Sheraton Rome Parco de' Medici
ROME, ITALY

★★★★ FOUR STAR LEAD PARTNER



★★★ THREE STAR PARTNERS

AIRBUS

 **ANDURIL**

 **BOEING**

 **Eurofighter
Typhoon**

LOCKHEED MARTIN 

 **Shield AI**

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Helsing

**NORTHROP
GRUMMAN** 

 **RTX**

COLLINS AEROSPACE | PRATT & WHITNEY | RAYTHEON

 **SAAB**

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PRE-CONFERENCE | MONDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2025

1800

**ICEBREAKER DRINKS RECEPTION**

Hosted by Lockheed Martin

Join us for some informal drinks and light bites, and start building those important relationships, before we kick-start the main event!

LOCKHEED MARTIN

CONFERENCE DAY 1 | TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2025

0700

REGISTRATION & REFRESHMENTS

0700

INTERNATIONAL FIGHTER 2025 WELCOME BREAKFAST

Hosted by Anduril



0805

DEFENCE IQ WELCOME

Alice Andrews, Deputy Divisional Director, Defence IQ

0810

**CHAIRMEN'S OPENING REMARKS**

General (Ret'd) Mark D. Kelly, Former Commander, Air Combat Command

General (Ret'd) Frank Gorenc, Former Commander, USAF-AFRICA

0815

WELCOME ADDRESS FROM GENERAL ATOMICS

Nicola "Niki" Johnson, Vice President, Government Affairs and Strategic Communications, General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc.

**OVERVIEW OF AIR POWER: ADAPTING TO UNCERTAINTY IN A CHANGING GLOBAL LANDSCAPE**

0820

**HOST NATION KEYNOTE ADDRESS: PROMOTING AIR POWER THROUGH COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION**

- Perspective on developments in 6th generation aircraft, and how cutting-edge technologies will support the Italian Air Force's future capabilities
- Demonstrating the F-35 fleet's Joint Air Power capabilities and growing proficiency with large-scale and international exercises
- Instilling a 5th generation mindset with advanced training to achieve operational success

Lieutenant General Giovanni Balestri, Deputy Chief of Staff, Italian Air Force

0850

INDUSTRY INSIGHTS FROM GENERAL ATOMICS

- Airpower remains core to military power but costs – and risks – are becoming unsustainable
- Uncrewed aviation restores mass, adds capability and facilitates affordable risk-taking, enabling a new but different path forward for airpower
- Deploying uncrewed fighters requires deep experience, mature designs and technology, and a modular, open approach that privileges speed and flexibility

Patrick M. "Mike" Shortsleeve, Vice President, DoD Strategic Development, General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc.



0920

**ADVANCEMENTS NEEDED IN NATO AIR POWER TO EFFECTIVELY DETER AND DEFEAT THREATS FROM RUSSIA**

- Gap analysis on NATO air power developments against Russia
- Importance of rapidly increasing airborne electromagnetic warfare capabilities in Europe to bolster Western airpower
- Key observations from the conflict in Ukraine as allies offer air support

Justin Bronk, Senior Research Fellow for Airpower and Technology, RUSI

0950

INDUSTRY INSIGHTS FROM AIRBUS: NEED FOR SPEED

- Link of air operations with multi-domain operations
- Digital Capabilities to accelerate operational cycle & weapon systems development
- Autonomy roadmap

Thomas Grohs, Head of Unmanned Aerial Systems, Airbus Defence and Space




AIRBUS

1020

**RAPID MODERNISATION OF CHINESE COMBAT AIR POWER**

- How the Chinese Air Force are combining speed, power and agility to enhance performance and combat capabilities
- Strategic implications of Chinese 6th Generation aircraft development on NATO and the Indo-Pacific
- Keeping pace with advancements in AI-powered drones and loyal wingman to enhance force flexibility

Douglas Barrie, Senior Fellow for Military Aerospace, IISS

1050		MORNING COFFEE & NETWORKING BREAK	
1130		AIR POWER FROM THE SEA AND AT SEA - HOW THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER CAN MEET TODAY'S CHALLENGES Rear Admiral David Desfougères, Commander of the French Naval Aviation Force, French Navy	
1150		PANEL DISCUSSION: THE EVOLUTION OF AIRPOWER - FROM ENDURING PRINCIPLES TO EMERGING TECHNOLOGY <i>Airpower is proving decisive worldwide—from Israel and Iran to Ukraine, Russia, Pakistan, and India—offering lessons for US and NATO priorities. As Collaborative Combat Aircraft and new technologies emerge, the US looks to the Pacific while Europe focuses on Russia, highlighting a strategic inflection point for airpower investment.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Do the principles of airpower still hold true and how do we balance these against the need to be affordable and in greater numbers?Does the world need 6th generation technology?How do lessons from WWII inform current and future requirements?Should we wait for 'requirements' or should industry 'push' more cutting-edge technology?Next Gen drivers are needed to pace technological development. Just because it's possible should it still be pursued, and is it probable?How do you manage rebalancing and refilling current capabilities while developing future capabilities in an era where budgets aren't always aligned?What are the core beliefs we should hold to in the changing character of airpower technology? <p>Moderator: General (Ret'd) Frank Gorenc, Former Commander, USAFE-AFAFRICA</p> <p>Panellists: Taylor Frank, Executive Director, Air Dominance Strategy, Boeing Jeff Harrigan, Vice President of Business Development Skunk Works, Lockheed Martin Lieutenant General (Ret'd) Joseph "Gus" Guastella, Corporate Vice President and Regional Executive for Europe & Middle East, Northrop Grumman</p>	
		<div>  </div>	
HARNESSING AUTONOMY FOR NEXT GENERATION AIR DOMINANCE TODAY			
1220		BOOSTING AIR COMBAT CAPABILITY TO ADDRESS AUSTRALIA'S DETERRENCE GAP <ul style="list-style-type: none">Increasing Air Combat mass, lethality, and survivability with increased force size, and supplementing squadrons with autonomous aircraftChallenges of integrating CCAs with the existing combat air fleetEnhancing combat readiness to respond to new and evolving threats Air Commodore Pete Robinson , Commander, Air Combat Group, Royal Australian Air Force	



1250

**PANEL DISCUSSION: DELIVERING MISSION AUTONOMY FOR NEXT GENERATION AIR DOMINANCE TODAY**

The rapid acceleration of AI-driven air autonomy is transforming the future of combat air power. With platforms like Boeing's Ghostbat, the USAF's YFQ-44A and YFQ-42A CCAs, and Helsing's Centaur AI pilot integrated into the Saab Gripen-E, the shift from experimentation to operational deployment is well underway. This panel explores how Autonomous Collaborative Platforms (ACPs) and Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCAs) will reshape mission roles, redefine risk calculus, and drive new operational concepts and tactics.

- How will the successful integration of combat air autonomy fundamentally affect the employment of air power and help deliver air superiority?
- What missions and roles do air forces foresee Autonomous Collaborative Platforms (ACPs) and CCAs undertaking? How will they alter the risk calculus for combat air operations and develop novel combat air operational concepts and tactics?
- How will the successful integration of ACPs / CCAs drive the future combat air force mix between crewed and uncrewed capabilities?
- How do we ensure that AI agents flying ACPs/CCAs stay competitive?
- What is the biggest challenge to moving autonomous platforms from the laboratory to real-world environments? What are the technical and human challenges that need to be considered?
- What policies, ethical frameworks, or guardrails are most urgently needed to ensure autonomy is harnessed responsibly without slowing down innovation?
- As we field autonomous uncrewed systems across different domains and with allied forces, how do we ensure interoperability, common standards, and effective command-and-control integration?

Moderator: General (Ret'd) Mark D. Kelly, Former Commander, **Air Combat Command**

Panellists:

Stephanie Lingemann, Senior Director Air Domain, **Helsing**

Nathan Michael, Chief Technology Officer, **Shield AI**

Diem Salmon, Vice President, Air Dominance and Strike, **Anduril**

Thomas Grohs, Head of Unmanned Aerial Systems, **Airbus**



Shield AI

ANDURIL

AIRBUS

1335

NETWORKING LUNCH BREAK
TRACK A
OPERATIONAL INSIGHTS
READINESS FOR CURRENT & FUTURE THREATS

1445


SWEDISH AIR FORCE PERSPECTIVE ON THE EVOLVING OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT, AND ITS IMPACT ON CURRENT AND FUTURE REQUIREMENTS

- Exploring the evolving threat landscape and its implications for airpower agility, resilience, and multi-domain integration
- Swedish Air Force research initiatives into autonomy and MUM-T, with a focus on the development and operational integration of CCAs
- Identifying capability gaps and future force structure requirements shaped by emerging technologies, peer-level threats, and joint operational demands

Major General Jonas Wikman, Commander, **Swedish Air Force**







TRACK B
ADVANCED ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
C2, COMBAT CLOUD, AND PROCESSING AT THE EDGE

1445


UTILISING AI AND ML FOR ENHANCED DECISION MAKING

- Enhancing connectivity for effective C2 in increasingly contested environments
- How artificial intelligence can support NATO's future force and capability development, and what is the timeline for implementation in fixed-wing aircraft
- Ethical considerations for increasing reliance on automation, and potential disadvantages of adversaries use of AI without ethical considerations

Colonel Vito Cracas, Assistant Director, **Joint Air Power Competence Centre**

1515	GENERATION SPEED – DISRUPTING AIR POWER WITH SOFTWARE, DATA AND AI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embracing the software revolution: proof points following IFC 2024 Effect on flight operations Effect on user and customer adaptation Operational perspective Mikael Olsson , Head of Flight Test Department, Saab AB 	1515	INDUSTRY INSIGHTS FROM GENERAL ATOMICS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Autonomous air-to-air combat capability isn't a notional or "someday" factor – it's here and it's flying now aboard actual aircraft in real-world tests Developing and employing CCAs will require adapting the full spectrum of fighter operations to the use of autonomy, large formations and agile employment Automated offboard sensor cueing, re-tasking, adaptive mission profiles, engagements and other aspects of air combat are being proven now in real exercises and other demonstrations Scott "FUG" Gilloon , Sector Vice President, USAF Strategic Development, General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. 
1545 	RCAF MODERNIZATION UPDATE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of Canada's strategic landscape Evolving threats as drivers for transformation Overview of broader Air Force modernization plan Focus on Fighter Force Modernization Plan, status and challenges Major General Jeff Smyth , Chief Air and Space Force Development, Royal Canadian Air Force Crista-lynn Ferguson , Director General Fighter Capability, Royal Canadian Air Force	1545 	UK PERSPECTIVE ON FUTURE WEAPONS AND ARMAMENTS RESILIENCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic direction: Understand how the 2025 SDR shapes the trajectory of UK weapon development Armaments Resilience: Explore the need to diversify and reinforce armaments production to meet current demands Impact on future effectors: examine how the current strategic picture is impacting the development of future weapons Air Commodore Alun Roberts , Head Air to Air Missiles, Royal Air Force
1615	AFTERNOON TEA & NETWORKING BREAK <i>Return to Plenary</i>		
1650 	CAPABILITIES OF WEAPON SYSTEM SUPPORT CENTRE 1 TO SUPPORT EUROFIGHTER AND TORNADO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategies to maintain and support combat aircraft during both development and deployment Supporting the phase-in of remotely piloted aircraft Priorities for sustaining weapon capabilities for aircraft currently in deployment Associated technical challenges with supporting weapon systems for next-generation aircraft Colonel Ralf Kleindienst , Deputy Commander, Weapon Systems Support Center 1, Bundeswehr		
1720 	VIRTUAL BRIEFING: FUTURE VISION OF AIR FORCE AND ALLIED COMBAT CAPABILITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priorities for plans & programmes Enhancing interoperability Strategies for air dominance Major General William Betts , Plans, Programs and Requirements Director, Air Combat Command		

1745


INDUSTRY LEADERS PANEL DISCUSSION: INDUSTRIAL SOVEREIGNTY AND COMBAT AIR - THE LINE BETWEEN PARTNERSHIP AND DEPENDENCE

- How does industry see the shift towards an independent industrial base impacting supply chain? What are the practical implications, and trade-offs, of building a more autonomous industrial base for combat air?
- How can 6th generation ambitions be shaped to reflect the industrial realities of Europe's defence ecosystem without compromising on capability or credibility?
- How can air forces and governments better structure programmes to ensure Europe's broader supplier ecosystem contributes meaningfully to next-gen combat air, and what role can you, as primes, play in enabling that? Is there a risk that without deliberate intervention, we default to familiar industrial patterns, and miss out on the agility and innovation smaller players can bring?
- Where do you see alignment, or tension, or opportunity between European autonomy and US industrial interests?
- How might US firms embed capability on the continent, and what should European governments do to make that investment climate viable without compromising on strategic autonomy?

Moderator: General (Ret'd) Mark D. Kelly, Former Commander, **Air Combat Command**

Panellists:

Patrick M. "Mike" Shortsleeve, Vice President, DoD Strategic Development,
General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc.

Rob Hewson, Public Relations Director, **Saab AB**

Jorge Tamarit-Degenhardt, CEO, **Eurofighter Typhoon**

Jeff Harrigan, Vice President of Business Development Skunk Works,
Lockheed Martin



1820


CHAIRMEN'S CLOSING REMARKS

General (Ret'd) Mark D. Kelly, Former Commander, **Air Combat Command**

General (Ret'd) Frank Gorenc, Former Commander, **USAFE-AFRICA**

1825





NETWORKING DRINKS RECEPTION

Hosted by General Atomics



CONFERENCE DAY 2 | WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2025

0715	REGISTRATION & REFRESHMENTS	
0825	<div></div> <div>CHAIRMEN'S OPENING REMARKS General (Ret'd) Mark D. Kelly, Former Commander, Air Combat Command General (Ret'd) Frank Gorenc, Former Commander, USAFE-AFAFRICA</div>	
ACHIEVING FUTURE AIR DOMINANCE: PROGRAMME UPDATES		
0830	<div></div> <div>ITALIAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE 6TH GENERATION COMBAT AIR SYSTEM: DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION OUTLOOK<ul style="list-style-type: none">How the Italian Air Force contributes to defining the operational concepts, requirements, and integration of the future systemThe role of Italian industry in developing core technologies for the FCAS systemColonel Antonio Vivolo, FCAS Tempest Director & Senior Technical Representative to GCAP, Italian MoD National Armament Directorate</div>	
0900	<div>OPERATIONAL BACKBONE AND STRATEGIC ENABLER FOR FUTURE AIR COMBAT<ul style="list-style-type: none">Europe's sovereign air power solution of choice, delivering unmatched, cutting-edge capabilityOver one million flying hours: the most flown fighter in Europe and the Middle EastReady for tomorrow: operational into the 2060s and the natural bridge to next generation systemsJorge Tamarit-Degenhardt, CEO, Eurofighter Typhoon</div> <div></div>	
0930	<div>FROM CONCEPT TO COMBAT: DELIVERING SOVEREIGN, SUSTAINABLE, LETHAL FIRES<ul style="list-style-type: none">Nations need systems that deliver sustainable, distributed, long-range lethal fires in volumeShield AI's new multirole strike fighter, X-BAT, enables precisely that—scalable, autonomous strike capability for contested environmentsAutonomy is no longer theoretical: Hivemind powers real systems and is ready for coalition adoptionPartnerships show how Europe can achieve sovereign autonomy while aligning with allied interestsRyan Tseng, Chief Strategy Officer and Co-founder, Shield AI</div> <div></div>	
1000	<div></div> <div>FRANCE'S FUTURE AIR COMBAT CAPABILITIES<ul style="list-style-type: none">Current French air combat capabilities and upcoming requirementsMoving towards collaborative air warfare with alliesProgress on the NGWS and the French Air and Space Force's contributionBrigadier General Phillipe Suhr, Operational Chief, FCAS Project, French Air and Space Force</div>	
1030	<div>INDUSTRY INSIGHTS FROM ANDURIL Dr. Jason Levin Ph.D., Senior Vice President of Engineering, Anduril</div> <div></div>	
1100	MORNING COFFEE & NETWORKING BREAK	
TRACK A OPERATIONAL INSIGHTS		TRACK B ADVANCED ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
ACHIEVING FUTURE AIR DOMINANCE		AIRCRAFT LOGISTICS, DESIGN & MANUFACTURING
1140	<div><div>ADVANCING AIR DOMINANCE THROUGH AVIATION<ul style="list-style-type: none">F-35 OverviewVectis OverviewAgile Drone FrameworkJeff Harrigan, Vice President of Business Development Skunk Works, Lockheed Martin</div><div></div></div> <div><div>1140</div><div>MODERNISATION AND CAPABILITIES TRANSFER OF THE GERMAN FIGHTER FLEET TO MAINTAIN AND INCREASE COMBAT READINESS<ul style="list-style-type: none">Seamless transition of TORNADO capabilities onto other platformsThe enabler for the German Air ForceIntroduction of the F-35A – challenges and opportunitiesRegine Friedberger, Branch Chief, Bundesministerium der Verteidigung Colonel Klaus Wuggazer, Coordination Officer F-35A, Bundesministerium der Verteidigung</div></div>	





1210 	FUTURE COMBAT AIR SYSTEM (FCAS) AND TRI-LATERAL GLOBAL COMBAT AIR PROGRAMME (GCAP) UPDATE FROM THE UK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on the GCAP and FCAS concept to improve combat air capability and address the evolving threat environment Progress on GCAP Agency, Edgewing and strategies to accelerate procurement Importance of collaboration, interoperability and integration for future combat air capabilities Group Captain Bill Sanders , FCAS Requirements and Concepting Head, UK MoD	1210	THE EUROFIGHTER TYPHOON – CURRENT AND FUTURE OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS SUPPORTED BY TECHNOLOGIES AND CAPABILITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Eurofighter Typhoon in the context of the current operations – ensuring air power and combat mass to partner nations and allies Product capabilities evolution – what we are doing The Typhoon in the next decades – enabling sustained operational relevance in future scenarios Cristiano Montrucchio , Chief Operating Officer Capabilities Sustainment and Future Enhancements, Eurofighter Typhoon 
1240	PARTNERING TO ACCELERATE SOVEREIGN CAPABILITY AND CAPACITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beacon: Next-generation testbed designed to rapidly deliver autonomous mission capabilities Leading the way: Integrating 4th to 5th to 6th generation airpower solutions Partnerships: The vital role of stronger defense cooperation in an uncertain security landscape Lieutenant General (Ret'd) Joseph “Gus” Guastella , Corporate Vice President and Regional Executive for Europe & Middle East, Northrop Grumman 	1240 	FLIGHT-TESTED, FUTURE READY: ENGINEERING AIR DOMINANCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand how the 96th Operations Group is aligning strategies for air superiority with digital transformation Gain insights into the testing of manned and unmanned systems for future air operations Testing priorities and strategies for AI and other digital tools, and plans for successful integration Colonel Lee Bryant , Commander, 96th Operations Group, US Air Force
1310	NETWORKING LUNCH BREAK		










TRACK A OPERATIONAL INSIGHTS		TRACK B ADVANCED ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY	
ENABLERS FOR FUTURE AIR OPERATIONS		PROPULSION, POWER, AND SITUATIONAL AWARENESS	
1420 	MODERNISATION OF THE BELGIAN AIR FORCE TO ENSURE OPERATIONAL READINESS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on the ongoing transition from F-16 to F-35A • Priorities for ensuring pilots and maintainers can operate and sustain 5th generation aircraft • Considerations for international collaboration and interoperability Colonel Roeland Van Thienen , F-35A Capability Director, Belgian Air Force	1420 	PANEL DISCUSSION: UNIQUE DEMANDS OF AIRCRAFT POWER AND PROPULSION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are advancements needed in integrated propulsion, power, and thermal management to meet future fighter aircraft requirements? • How can new technologies be tested, matured, and transitioned effectively across legacy fleets and next-generation platforms to accelerate fleet modernisation while minimising integration risk? • What are the key challenges in scaling, certifying, and transferring emerging capabilities across diverse aircraft fleets, and how can industry–government collaboration help streamline this transition process? Moderator: Yousuf Malik , Defence iQ Panellists: Ben Bellows , Vice President, Engineering, Military Engines, Pratt & Whitney, an RTX Business Luca Bedon , Head of R&T, Avio Aero Colonel Lee Bryant , Commander, 96th Operations Group, USAir Force Colonel Klaus Wuggazer , Coordination Officer F-35A, Bundesministerium der Verteidigung Regine Friedberger , Branch Chief, Bundesministerium der Verteidigung <div>     </div>
1450 	PANEL DISCUSSION: INCREASING MAGAZINE DEPTH TO MAXIMISE COMBAT CAPABILITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can air forces and industry partners shift from lean inventories to scalable, resilient munitions stockpiles without compromising efficiency? • How should munitions planning adapt to account for high-consumption rates in prolonged, high-intensity conflict scenarios? • What are the key supply chain vulnerabilities affecting magazine depth today, and how can they be mitigated across allied forces? Moderator: General (Ret'd) Mark D. Kelly , Former Commander, Air Combat Command Panellists: Jon Norman , VP, Air & Space Defense Systems, Requirements & Capabilities, Raytheon, an RTX business Air Commodore Alun Roberts , Head Air to Air Missiles, Royal Air Force Captain Kevin McLaughlin , Director of Air Wing of the Future, Boeing <div>    </div>	1500 	BOLSTERING IN-FLIGHT DECISION MAKING WITH ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current developments in the Navy Rafale Program • Technical capabilities to detect, track, and identify threats across air, sea, and land domains • Empowering pilots with timely, actionable intelligence with enhanced decision support Commander Jean Duboin , Navy Rafale Program Manager, French Navy


1530	AFTERNOON TEA & NETWORKING BREAK	
FORGING READINESS TOGETHER		
1610 	VIRTUAL KEYNOTE: ENABLING AIR DOMINANCE FOR AIR COMBAT COMMAND <ul style="list-style-type: none">Highlights the critical role of partnerships in achieving air superiority through seamless integration across air, space, and cyber domainsShowcases how joint and coalition operations enhance readiness and interoperability to counter evolving global threats.Emphasizes the importance of industry innovation in delivering cutting-edge technologies that ensure future air dominance General Adrian Spain, Commander, Air Combat Command, US Air Force	
1630 	ACADEMIC INSIGHTS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ROYAL AIR FORCE Dr Sophy Antrobus, Senior Research Fellow and Co-Director Freeman Air and Space Institute, King's College London	
1650 	VIRTUAL BRIEFING: NEXT-GENERATION AIR DOMINANCE: ACHIEVING AIR DOMINANCE WITH THE F-47 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Updates from the Air Force program of the Future Years Defence PlanProgress of the Next Generation Air Dominance program with the award of the F-47 contract in 2025Addressing the challenge of interoperability across the USAF's key capabilities Lieutenant General David Tabor, Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Programs, US Air Force	
1710 	VIRTUAL BRIEFING: UPCOMING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE US AIR FORCE TO SUPPORT FUTURE OPERATIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none">Upcoming requirements for an integrated Air ForceAssessing the current operating environment to determine future requirementsDelivering the right capabilities to the warfighter in a timely manner Thomas Lawhead, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, Strategy, Integration and Requirements, US Air Force	
1730 	CLOSING PANEL DISCUSSION: ADVANCING OPERATIONAL TRAINING FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE CONFLICTS: ESSENTIAL MISSIONS AND GETTING READY FOR CCAs <ul style="list-style-type: none">How do we ensure pilots are SEAD/DEAD-capable from day one? What are the key missions that pilots must ace in a peer conflict and given lessons from Ukraine? What does a CAS pilot need to rehearse in a synthetic environment to be effective in urban terrain?What are the future trends in training for 6th generation aircraft, alongside unmanned systems? What does that mission look like when AI and EW are in play, and how do we train pilots for it?How do we simulate CAP scenarios with realistic threat evolution and coalition coordination?How do we train pilots for Offensive Counter Air missions that involve layered adversary defences, electronic warfare, and real-time coordination with ISR assets?Changing training needs on the fly: How to build-in flexibility and minimize disruption in the transition from a traditional training cycle? How would existing training regimes need to evolve and how quickly can this transition take place when needed?What might the teaching of “softer” but necessary skills such physical and mental resilience need to look like and how to measure and assess these skills?Which aspects of training design genuinely shape pilot effectiveness in multi-domain missions? Moderator: Major General (Ret'd) Sylvain Ménard, Former Chief Fighter and NORAD Capability, Royal Canadian Air Force  Panellists: Brigadier General Paolo Rubino, Chief of Staff of the Air Education Training Command / 3rd Air Region, Italian Air Force  Crista-lynn Ferguson, Director General Fighter Capability, Royal Canadian Air Force  Stephane Hebert, IFTS Business Leader, LCAJT Chairman of the Board of Directors, CAE Services Italia srl.  Simon Murray, Business Development and Strategy Lead for Autonomous Air Systems, Boeing	
1810 	CHAIRMEN'S CLOSING REMARKS & END OF DAY TWO General (Ret'd) Mark D. Kelly, Former Commander, Air Combat Command General (Ret'd) Frank Gorenc, Former Commander, USAF-AFAFRICA	

CONFERENCE DAY 3 | THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2025

0730	REGISTRATION & REFRESHMENTS
0825 	CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS General (Ret'd) Mark D. Kelly , Former Commander, Air Combat Command General (Ret'd) Frank Gorenc , Former Commander, USAFE-AFAFRICA
PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE AIR OPERATIONS	
0830 	KEYNOTE: PRIORITIES FOR ITALIAN NAVAL AVIATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritising stealth and multirole strike capabilities with the F-35 fleet Enhancing carrier air wing operations and integrating with NATO maritime forces Future priorities to integrate manned-unmanned teaming, and counter A2/AD threats Rear Admiral Giancarlo Ciappina , Commander, Naval Aviation Department, Italian Navy
0900 	ENABLING COMBAT AIR AGILITY: INTEROPERABILITY ON THE GROUND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Configured for efficiency, not resilience and agility? Since the end of the Cold War, we have become configured more for efficiency in smaller scale conflict than the resilience and agility required in full-scale coalition warfighting Resilience & Agility = Logistics: To rapidly disperse and operate combat aircraft, responding to evolving threats, we must minimise equipment movements, utilising what is available, and assisted by our NATO allies Cross-Servicing – a force multiplier: We must be able to conduct basic activities to get each other's aircraft back into the fight, with minimal support Air Vice-Marshal Shaun Harris CBE , Director Support and Chief Engineer, Royal Air Force
0930 	PANEL DISCUSSION: ENABLERS OF AIR POWER - ELECTRONIC WARFARE, AEW, A2A REFUELLING <i>Drawing on insights from the recent air engagement between Pakistan and India, in which stand-off tactics, AEW systems, and guided long-range weapons shifted the tactical calculus, this discussion will explore how to optimise modern combat air operations against advanced, long-range adversaries.</i> <i>The discussion will also explore key enabling technologies and systems that enhance the effectiveness of combat air operations at range, including airborne early warning (AEW), air-to-air (A2A) refuelling, electronic warfare, and networked battlespace capabilities.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What new EW and counter-countermeasure technologies are required to protect our network-centric warfare architecture while still enabling stand-off engagements? In an environment where the adversary can strike from beyond traditional engagement distances, how must our approach to enabling systems change? What are the central lessons we can extract from the recent May 2025 engagement regarding the evolution of long-range aerial threats? Given current long-range threat profiles, how critical is the role of AEW systems in detection and weapon guidance? To what extent did AEW and ISR capabilities redefine the rules of engagement and what improvements are needed for the future? What operational and logistical challenges are associated with extending fighter endurance in a high-threat, stand-off environment? In scenarios where rapid force projection is essential, how can we ensure that refuelling operations themselves remain resilient to enemy detection and countermeasures? How can we refine our doctrine to maximise the synergy between stand-off detection, passive engagement, and rapid, precision retaliation? What do we need to understand about our adversaries' EW capabilities and tactics to ensure spectrum dominance? Moderator: General (Ret'd) Frank Gorenc , Former Commander, USAFE-AFAFRICA Panellists: Tom Goffus , Assistant Secretary General for Operations, NATO Rodney Meranda , Business Development Director, Boeing Major General Jeff Smyth , Chief Air & Space Force Development, Royal Canadian Air Force David Nyikos , Director, International Electronic Warfare Programs Airborne Combat Systems, L3 Harris Technologies



1020 	RAF COMBAT AIR – SETTING THE FORCE TO FLY, FIGHT AND WIN, IN THE 5TH GENERATION AND BEYOND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The combat air platforms and capabilities we intend to field, and how we'll employ them How we will need to support our national combat air capability, founded on a conflict-ready national arsenal and the full spectrum of enablement, ranging from logistics to information and cyber/electro-magnetic capabilities What sort of fighter pilots we will need, and how we will train them: their mindset, capabilities and approach Air Commodore Chris Layden, Combat Air Force Commander, Royal Air Force
1050 	INCORPORATING INFORMATION WARFARE AT THE OPERATIONAL AND TACTICAL LEVEL - SIXTEENTH AIR FORCE PRIORITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current priorities for the Sixteenth Air Force Importance of information sharing with allies to collectively address global challenges Challenges of persistently engaging and responding to threats today and in the future Major General Larry Broadwell, Deputy Commander, Sixteenth Air Force
1110	MORNING COFFEE & NETWORKING BREAK
INCREASING TRAINING CAPACITY	
1140 	MULTINATIONAL FAST JET AND ADVERSARY TRAINING REQUIREMENTS – NATO FLIGHT TRAINING EUROPE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successes and challenges of the NFTE after reaching full operational capability Leveraging existing structures to maximise training capacity Collaboration with industry partners to deliver on NFTE goals Jason Hawker, Principal Officer, NATO Flight Training Europe
1210 	DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SURROGATE TRAINING FAMILY OF SYSTEMS TO SUPPORT FUTURE FIGHTER PILOTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the next generation of pilots with training designed around the integration of CCAs and autonomy US Air Force Leadership priorities to determine the pace of advancing future fighter training and readiness How developments in 6th generation fighter programmes are influencing training programmes David “Jake” Timm, Future Fighter Training SME, Air Combat Command, US Air Force
1240 	TRAINING UPDATES FROM THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ItAF training pipeline International flight training school in Decimomannu Achievements and developments Brigadier General Paolo Rubino, Chief of Staff of the Air Education Training Command / 3rd Air Region, Italian Air Force
1310	NETWORKING LUNCH BREAK
MODERNISATION STRATEGIES TO RESPOND TO CURRENT THREATS	
1410 	HOW THE RMAF IS MODERNIZING ITS FLEET TO INCREASE COMBAT STRENGTH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing combat air capabilities, and addressing gaps with additional F/A-18s Technical and logistical challenges of integrating new aircraft with the existing fleet, and steps to ensure operational compatibility Collaboration with allies and partners to enhance maintenance efficiency and operational readiness Major General Ahmad Khusairi bin Ahmad Fadil, Air Support Commander, Royal Malaysian Air Force
1440 	STRENGTHENING EXISTING FIGHTER CAPABILITIES WITH TARGETED UPGRADES AND FLEET EXPANSION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring readiness and interoperability within NATO Maintaining a cost-effective defence strategy with strategic fleet expansion How targeted upgrades are ensuring the Hungarian Defence Force stays ahead of evolving threats Brigadier General Ugrik Csaba, Flight Director, Hungarian Defence Force

1510 	VIRTUAL BRIEFING: SOLVING THE FIGHTER PILOT CRISIS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defining a quality graduate Requirements, resources, and risk Instilling objective rigor into pilot training through competency mapping Major General Gregory Kreuder, Commander, 19th Air Force
1540	AFTERNOON TEA & NETWORKING BREAK
HARNESSING AIR POWER FOR MULTI-DOMAIN OPERATIONS	
1620 	VIRTUAL BRIEF: ADVANCING AIR COMBAT CAPABILITIES FOR THE US NAVY: MEETING TODAY'S AND TOMORROW'S THREATS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates on the Navy's NGAD program to achieve future air dominance Challenges of integrating legacy and future platforms to counter evolving peer threats Modernisation and upgrade programs for 4th and 5th generation platforms to enhance strike, reach, survivability, and networked operations Vice Admiral Daniel Cheever, Commander, Naval Air Forces, US Navy
1640 	CLOSING KEYNOTE: ITALIAN AIR FORCE STRATEGY FOR FUTURE OPERATIONS Lieutenant General Antonio Conserva, Chief of Staff, Italian Air Force
1710 	CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS General (Ret'd) Mark D. Kelly, Former Commander, Air Combat Command General (Ret'd) Frank Gorenc, Former Commander, USAF-AFACRICA
1715	END OF INTERNATIONAL FIGHTER 2025



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