



## AFWERX Announces Final Selection of Participating Teams Across the Globe Vying to Build the Base of the Future

High-Resolution Images Available [Here](#)

**LAS VEGAS (Aug. 19, 2020)** – AFWERX, the catalyst for fostering innovation within the U.S. Air Force, announces the selection of the [top 92 participating teams](#) from across the globe competing in the [Base of the Future Challenge](#). The diverse group of teams - originating from the vast regions of North America, Europe, Australia and other allied countries - represent entrepreneurial startups, small businesses, large enterprises, academic institutions and research labs who are all vying to build the *Base of the Future* and modernize the Department of Defense.

The [AFWERX Challenge](#) is centered around six topics - Base Security, Installation Resilience, Leveraging Technology for Operational Effectiveness, Reverse Engineering, Culture of Innovation, and Airman and Family Wellbeing. The 92 proposals selected to advance represent components and full solutions to one of the six topics and were submitted by individuals and teams from both the private and public sectors. The proposed solutions range from new base security technology and VR training modules to virtual assistants and apps designed for wellness and leadership development.

“The AFWERX *Base of the Future* Challenge is critical to our mission of increasing collaboration between large businesses and entrepreneurs to accelerate solutions for the Air Force,” stated Mark Rowland of AFWERX. “We strive to guide the teams through future contracting, funding and prototyping to further develop their concept into real-world implementation to benefit the Air Force, our warfighters, the Department of Defense and allied partners worldwide.”

“If you look around the world today we’ve got plenty of challenges. But those challenges are opportunities. Opportunities for us to change and flip the script. We don’t just want your help. We need your help. Help us win—to build the Air Force we need for tomorrow,” stated General Stephen “Seve” Wilson, Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force.

Earlier this month, the [AFWERX Fusion 2020 Showcase](#) featured 370 of the participating teams, selected from a record breaking 1,500+ submissions received for the [Base of the Future Challenge](#). Throughout the event teams pitched their solutions to a panel of subject matter experts from the relevant sectors of the Air Force. The top 92 selections were identified and invited to further engage with the Air Force during the week of August 31 with the hope of obtaining contracts. For a complete list of participating teams visit [fusion.afwerxshowcase.com/](https://fusion.afwerxshowcase.com/).

The *Base of the Future* theme was inspired by [Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida](#), which was decimated by Hurricane Michael, a Category 5 storm that occurred in 2018. For decades, Tyndall had been home to many generations of Airmen and their families. In the storm’s aftermath, nearly 500 buildings were destroyed or damaged beyond repair. Thousands of Airmen and their families were displaced and forced to leave a part of their lives behind. Fortunately, Congress approved a \$3 billion military construction rebuild program, sparking hope that Tyndall would re-emerge stronger than ever before. The aspirational initiative seeks to create a robust installation that will become a universal symbol of innovation and excellence that can scale across the United States Air Force.

To learn more about the *Base of the Future* Challenges, [click here](#). Or to view a list of upcoming challenges and future events visit the Events page, [click here](#).

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### **About AFWERX**

Established in 2017, AFWERX is a product of the U.S. Air Force, directly envisioned by former Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson. Her vision of AFWERX — to solve some of the toughest challenges that the Air Force faces through innovation and collaboration amongst our nation's top subject matter experts. AFWERX serves as a catalyst to unleash new approaches for the warfighter through a growing ecosystem of innovators. AFWERX and the U.S. Air Force are committed to exploring viable solutions and partnerships to further strengthen the Air Force, which could lead to additional prototyping, R&D, and follow-on production contracts.

*Fast Company* named AFWERX [Best Workplaces for Innovators](#) on the 2020 List, honoring the top 100 businesses and organizations that demonstrate a deep commitment to encouraging innovation at all levels. AFWERX, U.S. Air Force's innovation arm and catalyst for fostering innovation within the Air Force, came in at #16 ranking in the top 20 alongside brands such as Microsoft, Google, and Amazon. [Preview the live announcement](#) with Stephanie Mehta, Editor-in-Chief of *Fast Company*, unveiled during the AFWERX Fusion 2020 Base of the Future Event & Showcase.

### **Media Contacts:**

Tracy Skenandore  
[AFWERX@kirvindoak.com](mailto:AFWERX@kirvindoak.com)  
Direct: 702-217-0414

Makenzie Coombs  
[AFWERX@kirvindoak.com](mailto:AFWERX@kirvindoak.com)  
Direct: 702.587.0171

Sara Greco  
[sara.greco@afwerx.af.mil](mailto:sara.greco@afwerx.af.mil)