



# Air Force Global Futures Report

## Vignette Writing Contest



**BLUF:** Air Force Futures is soliciting entries for their Air Force Global Futures Report (AFGFR) Vignette Writing Contest.

- Entries should be ~1500-2500 words
- Due Friday 1 September 2023
- Anybody can submit an entry
- Send submissions to [AF.A5SC.Mailbox@us.af.mil](mailto:AF.A5SC.Mailbox@us.af.mil)
- Focus on one of the Joint Functions in one of the Four Futures (24 total options) in the AFGFR
- Make it relevant to the USAF

The U.S. Air Force is proud to present the **Air Force Global Futures Report: Joint Functions in 2040 (AFGFR)**, published by Headquarters Air Force A5/7 (Air Force Futures) on 12 Apr 2023 on [AF.mil](https://www.af.mil). The AFGFR uses foresight methodology to analyze weak signals, emerging trends, and structural forces and develop potential operating environments that the world may face over the next several decades.

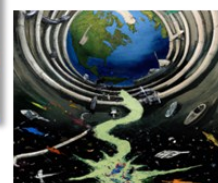
Through the lens of the **seven joint functions** – Fires, Protection, Movement and Maneuver, Information, Intelligence, C2, and Sustainment – Air Force Futures has explored four alternative future operating environments, or “**Four Futures**,” and examined how elements of each Future may impact core operations in the USAF and DOD. The Four Futures outlined in the report are:

**Continued Growth** – Great power competitors continue attempts to increase leverage over the U.S. and diminish its advantages.

**Transformational** – Unprecedented technological advances and their widespread dissemination reshape global power dynamics on a scale not previously considered plausible.

**Constrained** – Sino-Russian coordination continues to benefit both countries in everything from new technologies and critical minerals, to the production and distribution of resources.

**Collapse** – Natural and man-made crises drive isolationist and nationalist tendencies globally.



With the publication of the AFGFR, Air Force Futures is soliciting entries to bring the report to life for their **AFGFR Vignette Writing Contest**. Vignettes are dramatically engaging, plot-driven stories that illustrate a scenario that could occur within the future, specifically within one of the futures described in the AFGFR. The vignette glimpses of the future will help communicate and unpack the AFGFR.

Vignettes should focus on the intersection of any of the Four Futures and seven Joint Functions. For example, a vignette could illustrate a scenario regarding the C2 function in the “Collapse” future, or the Protection function in the “Transformational” future.

With Four Futures and six\* Joint Functions (Information and Intelligence are combined), there are 24 total vignette categories, and therefore a possible 24 winners. The winning vignettes will be compiled in an addendum to the AFGFR.

Questions? Email [AF.A5SC.Mailbox@us.af.mil](mailto:AF.A5SC.Mailbox@us.af.mil)



# Air Force Global Futures Report

## Vignette Writing Contest



### Step by Step Instructions

- 1) View the AFGFR, available [here on AF.mil](https://www.af.mil/About-Us/Global-Futures/)
- 2) Read at least one Future, which provides the world in which your vignette will take place.
 

Continued Growth	Constrained
Transformational	Collapse
- 3) Select one of the six Joint Functions that takes place in the Future of your choice.
 

Fires	Information & Intelligence
Protection	C2
Movement and Maneuver	Sustainment
- 4) Write your vignette. Focus on characters and stories experiencing a dramatic event (*e.g.*, a difficult circumstance or threat). Send submissions via email to [AF.A5SC.Mailbox@us.af.mil](mailto:AF.A5SC.Mailbox@us.af.mil) by 1 Sept 2023.

The winning vignettes should be dramatic and interesting, consistent with the global environment of the chosen future, and demonstrate new aspects about the Joint Function's capabilities, vulnerabilities, and/or effects in that future world. Think through how different trends may interact in strange or unique ways and how it may impact the USAF and Joint Force.

		Joint Functions					
		Fires	Protect	MM	Intel & Info	C2	Sustain
Four Archetypes	Continued Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proxy Wars</li> <li>AI/ML</li> <li>Great Power Competition</li> <li>Gene Editing (CRISPR)</li> <li>Risk Tolerances</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proxy Wars</li> <li>ABO / Posture</li> <li>AI/ML</li> <li>Allies and Partners</li> <li>Myth of Sanctuary</li> <li>Supply Chains</li> <li>Great Power Competition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ABO / Posture</li> <li>AI/ML</li> <li>Supply Chains</li> <li>Great Power Competition</li> <li>Risk Tolerances</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AI/ML</li> <li>Risk Tolerances</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AI/ML</li> <li>Myth of Sanctuary</li> <li>Supply Chains</li> <li>Risk Tolerances</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AI/ML</li> <li>Supply Chains</li> </ul>
	Transformational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Space Fires</li> <li>Bio-Weapons</li> <li>AI/ML Decisions</li> <li>Universal Federated Sensing Web</li> <li>Additive Manufacturing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Space Fires</li> <li>Low-Cost Energy</li> <li>Directed Energy</li> <li>Bio-Weapons</li> <li>AI/ML Decisions</li> <li>Autonomous Systems</li> <li>Universal Federated Sensing Web</li> <li>Additive Manufacturing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low-Cost Energy</li> <li>Directed Energy</li> <li>AI/ML Decisions</li> <li>Metaverses</li> <li>Autonomous Systems</li> <li>Universal Federated Sensing Web</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bio-Weapons</li> <li>AI/ML Decisions</li> <li>Degraded Nat'l Boundaries</li> <li>Universal Federated Sensing Web</li> <li>Bio-Data Storage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Space Fires</li> <li>AI/ML Decisions</li> <li>Autonomous Systems</li> <li>Universal Federated Sensing Web</li> <li>Additive Manufacturing</li> <li>Bio-Data Storage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additive Manufacturing</li> <li>Universal Federated Sensing Web</li> <li>AI/ML Decisions</li> <li>Metaverses</li> </ul>
	Constrained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Space Capabilities</li> <li>Budget Limits</li> <li>Long-Range A2/AD</li> <li>Bio-Weapons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Political Polarization (Nat'l &amp; Int'l)</li> <li>Natural Resources Access</li> <li>Human Capital</li> <li>Space Capabilities</li> <li>Budget Limits</li> <li>Long-Range A2/AD</li> <li>Bio-Weapons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural Resources Access</li> <li>Long-Range A2/AD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget Limits</li> <li>Info Operations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Space Capabilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget Limits</li> <li>Info Operations</li> </ul>
	Collapse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quantum Computing</li> <li>Sensor Ubiquity</li> <li>AI/ML</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quantum Computing</li> <li>AI/ML</li> <li>Resource Scarcity</li> <li>Climate Change</li> <li>Space Access</li> <li>Info Warfare</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sensor Ubiquity</li> <li>AI/ML</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quantum Computing</li> <li>Sensor Ubiquity</li> <li>AI/ML</li> <li>Info Warfare</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quantum Computing</li> <li>Sensor Ubiquity</li> <li>AI/ML</li> <li>Climate Change</li> <li>Space Access</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quantum Computing</li> <li>Sensor Ubiquity</li> <li>AI/ML</li> <li>Resource Scarcity</li> </ul>