



ACQUISITION INNOVATION
RESEARCH CENTER



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AIRC was established via 10 USC 4142

Cultivating Innovative and Transformative Research Across Academia, Government, and Industry

Innovative Approaches to Enduring Challenges

The Acquisition Innovation Research Center (AIRC) was established in September 2020 by the Department of Defense (DoD) to infuse innovation and alternative disciplines from academia to better respond to rapidly changing threats and technological advances.

As an applied academic research arm of DoD, AIRC brings a robust and scalable capability that reduces the impedance to innovate policies, practices, and procedures, to provide better and more rapid responses to warfighter and operator needs.

AIRC focuses on:

Researching acquisition policies and practices and applying new disciplines, technologies, and analytical capabilities to enhance strategic decision making.

Developing pilots and experiments to prototype, test, and demonstrate new acquisition practices for transition to broader use.

Enhancing education and training efforts to improve the defense acquisition executives and workforce.

Cultivating emerging best practices that span across research, engineering, acquisition, and sustainment.

Broadening its network of experts and partners across academia, government, and industry.

Conducting projects that bring “out of the box” thinking to address the most critical challenges facing the DoD.

MISSION

Improve Acquisition Outcomes

A learning organization that reaches across DoD to enable innovation and evidence-based decision making through policy, organizational change management, and workforce development.



Transformation

The Acquisition Innovation Research Center (AIRC), housed within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (OUSD(A&S)), is represented by a national network of expertise spanning academia, government, and industry. The AIRC leverages its multi-university partnerships to connect DoD domain experts with faculty-led research teams with backgrounds in engineering, management, business, law, economics, policy, data science, and more. These multidisciplinary teams deliver innovative research and identify opportunities to address enduring challenges in defense acquisition policies, practices, education, and training.

AIRC Innovation Framework



Leveraging a Network of Faculty and Researchers

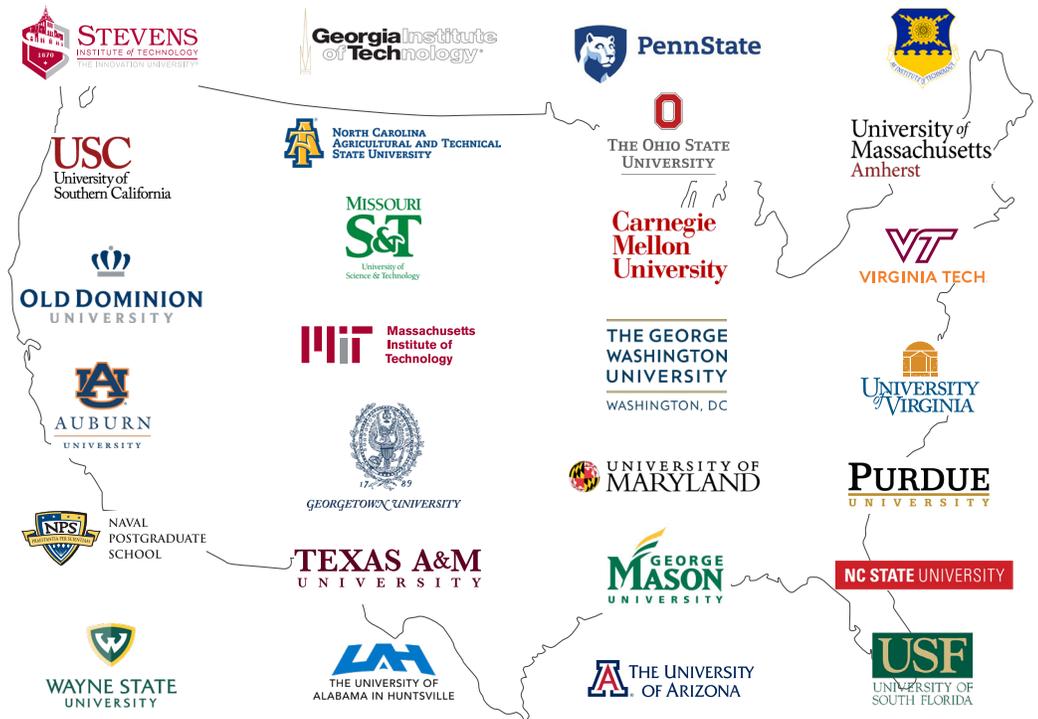
Working with AIRC and its Collaboration Network

AIRC engages the talents of faculty, students, researchers, and subject-matter experts from its network of collaborative universities to provide stakeholders across the extended DoD Acquisition Enterprise, thought leaders from across the nation, and researchers across academia with innovative academic analysis and policy alternatives for improved defense acquisition outcomes powered by evidence-based, data-driven decision making.

AIRC Distinctions:

- Applied** — Connects research teams with DoD leaders and users through pilots and experiments.
- Innovative** — Provides creative, out-of-the-box, can-do thinking.
- Action-Oriented** — Focuses on transitioning and scaling results.
- Nimble** — Responds to timelines and delivers impact.
- Efficient** — Streamlined and flat.

COLLABORATIVE UNIVERSITIES



AIRC can collaborate any accredited Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) or Minority Institutions (MI) across the United States

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