

# AIR FORCE INFORMATION OPERATIONS BATTLELAB



## MISSION

The Air Force Information Operations Battlelab's mission is to rapidly identify innovative and superior material or non-material ways to plan and employ information operations capabilities, to organize and train forces for information operations, and to influence Information Operations doctrine and tactics in order to meet current and emerging missions.

The Battlelab accomplishes this mission by conducting operational demonstrations of Information Operations initiatives, then evaluating their military worth. The lab solicits Information Operations concepts from Air Force operators, industry, other government agencies and academia. AFIOB identifies/evaluates Information Operations concepts for potential military value. Plans/leads successful operational demonstrations. Facilitates transfer of its initiatives and demonstrated concepts to the warfighter via recommendations to the Air Staff and other appropriate agencies.

## LINEAGE

Air Force Information Warfare Battlelab constituted and activated, 1 Apr 1997  
Redesignated Air Force Information Operations Battlelab, 1 Mar 2006

## STATIONS

Kelly AFB (later, Kelly Field Annex, Lackland AFB), TX, 1 Apr 1997

## ASSIGNMENTS

Air Force Information Warfare (later, Air Force Information Operations) Center, 1 Apr 1997

## COMMANDERS

Col Randall T. Kersey, #2007

## HONORS

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

## **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Air Force Organizational Excellence Awards

1 Jun 2003-31 May 2004

### **EMBLEM**



### **MOTTO**

#### **OPERATIONS**

The mission of the Information Warfare Battlelab is to advance the Air Force's core competencies by rapidly identifying innovative and superior ways to: Plan and employ IW capabilities; Organize, train, and equip IW forces; Influence development of IW doctrine and tactics in order to meet current and emerging Air Force missions for the advancement of air and space power

The Information Warfare Battlelab will develop innovative solutions to IW needs in a five-step process:

Solicit and prioritize IW needs and ideas from Air Force operators, industry, laboratories and academia.

Organize and coordinate demonstrations of innovative IW tactics, techniques, procedures and/or technologies.

Lead operational demonstrations within 18 months, with extensive warfighter interaction and operator feedback.

Analyze results, focusing on operational impact.

Publish results and make recommendations to the Air Force Board of Directors and Air Force Requirements Oversight Council

The Information Warfare Battlelab is composed of 24 personnel (15 Officers, 8 Enlisted, 1 Civilian). It draws from many career fields: the rated fields (pilots and navigators),

communications and computers, engineering, intelligence, space and administration. Other Air Force organizations will be tasked to temporarily provide members when their expertise is needed for a particular project. The Battlelab is housed in a 4,000-square-foot facility located within the Air Force Information Warfare Center at Kelly Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The handling of several national security events during the late 1990s required precise battlefield information. In response to national taskings, AIA's assets and people deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Southwest Asia, and Kosovo. The activation of the Air Force Information Warfare Battlelab at Kelly AFB in 1997 and the USAF approval of an Air Force Doctrine Document (AFDD) for IO Doctrine in August 1998 indicated that IO would become an integral and sustaining part of future US military operations. The IWBL began operations on March 17, 1997.

With the snip of a giant pair of ceremonial scissors, Air Force Chief of Staff General Ronald R. Fogleman cut a ribbon March 17 opening the Air Force's Information Warfare Battlelab at the Air Intelligence Agency on Kelly's "Security Hill." The IW Battlelab is one of six that the chief of staff directed be established to help the Air Force explore new ideas and foster innovative technologies to improve the capabilities of the Air Force's core competencies. In a short speech to AIA personnel before the ceremonial ribbon cutting, Fogleman explained the background of the battlelab concept and said that "information operations is a major core competency" as the Air Force prepares to enter the 21st Century. "When I was first briefed on what Information Warfare was, it became clear that we were about to enter into a true revolution in information technology. This, combined with the power of computers doubling every 18 months, made it clear that we were about to undergo another fundamental change in the conduct of warfare. "Information," he continued, "is a tool that must be defended. We are becoming more dependent on information and data exchange so we must create a great defensive capability to protect our information sources. Both offensive and defensive operations are part of this equation."

---

USAF Unit Histories  
Created: 16 Nov 2022  
Updated:

Sources  
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.