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Strengthening our Air Force-to-Air Force relationships is a key element in the strategies to combat the realities of the present and prepare for an uncertain future. Much as General LeMay prepared the Air Force for the realities of the Cold War, this generation of Airmen must prepare for the challenges of today and tomorrow.

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The Air Force is embarking on the development of the Air Force Global Partnership Strategy that will replace the Air Force Security Cooperation Strategy. The Department of Defense has set a vector for an improved and more expansive strategy for building international relationships, interoperable capabilities, and partnership capacity in order to shape the operational environment and better prepare our Airmen and the USAF to fly, fight, and win in Air, Space, and Cyberspace well into the next century.

The new strategy incorporates elements of Irregular Warfare, Security Force Assistance (formerly Train, Advise, and Assist activities), and Building Partnership Capacity Portfolios, as well as the traditional Counter-Insurgency, Foreign Internal Defense, Security Cooperation, Security Assistance, and International Military Education and Training, among others.

This strategy will provide USAF Airmen the necessary guidance on why and how the USAF chooses and builds its partnerships around the world. This overarching strategy, combined with the essential planning conducted in the development of the Campaign Support Plan, ensures USAF Airmen, at all levels, work together in a coordinated, synergistic manner to build USAF Global Partnerships.

SAF/IA is hosting the first ever Global Partnership Strategy Working Group from 19-22 May in Crystal City, VA, with representatives from across our Air Force, to work together in creating the new Global Partnership Strategy for the 21st century.