

501ST COMBAT SUPPORT WING



PATHFINDER STRATEGY 2029

We Are....

Pathfinders!

Our Motto

**Light the
Way!**

Our Vision

Our vision is to be the premier enabler and combat operations gateway into the European theater and our purpose is to eliminate barriers so others may operate.

We do that by providing innovative solutions and exceptional support...any time, any place. We will be USAFE's foremost ACE (Agile Combat Employment) hub for those who seek to tip the balance of Great Power Competition.

Our Priorities

- **Ready:** Be combat proficient; prepare our battlespace to accept forces and hold ground. Support our families and be part of a healthy, resilient culture.
- **Reliable:** Foster mutually supporting interservice, interagency, and international partnerships.
- **Responsive:** Provide unobstructed, agile, scalable, and exportable combat support to deliver desired effects.

Our Mission

To provide agile combat support to enable ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance), global strike, and C3 (Command, Control, and Computers) missions for US and NATO operations.

We serve 9 CCMDs (Combatant Commands) and 65 DoD, DoS, NSA, and NATO missions. We are combat support experts, and we deliver on our commitments.

Required Capabilities

- 1.) A mature "One Wing" mindset. It is imperative we work together to eliminate stovepipes and gain efficiencies by sharing resources and solutions across installations...only together will we win.
- 2.) A communication plan. We will develop a deliberate communication plan to convey our strategy to HHQ, partners, and Pathfinders and provide progress reports to the wing along specified LOEs (Line of Effort).
- 3.) A wing-wide infrastructure accountability system. To keep our bases viable we will develop a wing-level program that addresses our desperate need for durable infrastructure and has oversight of all projects, funding, and timelines.

Minimum Management Systems

1.) Existing management systems include CCIP (Commander's Inspection Program), DRRS (Defense Readiness Reporting System), DCAPEs (Deliberate and Crisis Action Planning and Execution Segments), and RAT (Ready Airmen Training) tables.

2.) To test our capabilities and interoperability, we will aggressively seek out squadron-level training and exercise opportunities with our US and host nation counterparts.

3.) Finally, a strategy requires an implementation plan; ours will track progress along numerous lines of effort and require regular updates.

Risks to Consider

1.) If we do not focus on tough realistic training, we risk not being ready for war.

2.) Misalignment with HHQ strategy could divert resources from our primary missions; the inherent risk lies in the perception we no longer require what has been allocated.

3.) We must be rigorous in our processes when seeking or accepting new mission; we risk not having the appropriate manpower and resources to support.

4.) When seeking out opportunities to highlight our capabilities, we risk:

- a.) Degraded C2 of an AOR that already spans three countries over 2,500 miles apart and
- b.) Losing focus on our established core mission partners.

Our Key Assumptions

1.) The US and NATO will remain in steady state Phase 0-Shape/Phase I-Deter operations through 2029.

2.) No additional manpower or money is coming without approved new mission.

3.) We can gain parity by exporting our BOS-I (Base Operating Support Integrator) model USAFE-wide.

4.) No current infrastructure project will be completed by time of need, but operations will continue.

5.) We can add project execution options to supplement the BMC (Base Maintenance Contract) services.

Every Pathfinder plays a critical role in the success of this strategy, and I look forward to celebrating our successes together. Keep taking care of yourselves, each other, your families, and the mission, and together we will Light the Way!