613 INNOVATION Maj Paul “Gu$” Garcia

[paul.garcia.22@us.af.mil](mailto:paul.garcia.22@us.af.mil)

**Introduction**

In the rapidly evolving landscape of modern warfare, the ability to process information swiftly, generate actionable operational guidance, and communicate effectively with mission commanders and deployed units is paramount. Project Zion, a strategic collaboration between Scale AI, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (OuSD) Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office (CDAO), and the 613th Air Operations Center (AOC), aims to revolutionize these critical processes for Pacific Air Forces (PACAF).

Project Zion will significantly reduce the time and manpower necessary to process and summarize information into knowledge for decision makers. Proposed core objectives of Project Zion are:

1. **Enable Asynchronous Planning**: Build a user experience (UX) that allows collaborative, simultaneous planning based on a common data fabric between the Air Task Force and the Air Operations Center to enable seamless coordination and information exchange.
2. **Integrate Scalable Generative AI Technology**: Optimize and automate routine administrative tasks through explainable machine aided technology to reallocate valuable human resources for more complex, mission-critical activities.
3. **Enhance Data Analysis and Decision-Making**: Implement advanced data analysis tools capable of summarizing and analyzing data from diverse sources, providing decision-makers with comprehensive, actionable insights.

By achieving these objectives, Project Zion will significantly enhance operational effectiveness in the face of evolving challenges. This proposal outlines the detailed plan for Project Zion, including its objectives, scope, implementation strategy, and the strategic benefits it offers to PACAF. Through this collaboration, we are committed to equipping PACAF with the tools and technologies necessary to maintain a decisive edge in modern warfare.

**2. Objectives of Project Zion**

Project Zion will deliver a measurable increase in real-time knowledge quality for PACAF decision-makers through the following three primary objectives.

**Objective 1: Enable Asynchronous Planning**

Build a UX that allows collaborative, simultaneous planning based on a common data fabric between the Air Task Force and the Air Operations Center to enable seamless coordination and information exchange.

**Key Features:**

* **Version Control**: Provide a UX with Git repository functionality with merge rulesets and data validation for planning and execution products.
* **Conversation Tracking and Summarization**: Improve knowledge retention and processing as part of threaded conversations within applications like ChatSurfer and Mattermost.
* **Enhanced Scheduling and Task Insight**: Incorporate multi-platform scheduling and task management interfaces into automated workflows.

**Expected Outcomes:**

* Improved coordination and communication.
* Faster and more efficient planning processes.
* Enhanced real-time allocation of manpower and time.

**Objective 2: Integrate Scalable Generative AI Technology**

Optimize and automate routine administrative tasks through explainable machine aided technology to reallocate valuable human resources for more complex, mission-critical activities.

**Key Features:**

* **Summarization**: Machine aided summarization of information. This will include mission planning resources, real-time information during execution, and capture of lessons learned during assessment and debrief phases of the mission.
* **Automation**: Provide man-in-the-loop recommendations for decisions during planning and execution based on available context. This automation will be explainable and trainable.

**Expected Outcomes:**

* Increased operational efficiency and reduced manual workloads.
* Consistent and accurate administrative outputs.
* Reduce time spent on mundane tasks, collating data, and “sense-making.”

**Objective 3: Enhance Data Analysis and Decision-Making**

Implement advanced data analysis tools capable of summarizing and analyzing data from diverse sources, providing decision-makers with comprehensive, actionable insights.

**Key Features:**

* **Real-Time Data Analysis**: Flag key words, prompt users or auto complete to accelerate workflows.
* **Secure File Sharing**: Improve file sharing workflows for end users to reduce dependency on email.
* **Video and Tele Conference Enhancement**: Provide automated summarization and analysis of meetings.

**Expected Outcomes:**

* Faster, higher-quality decision-making.
* Improved situational awareness and effectiveness.
* Better anticipation and response to threats.

Project Zion will work through each objective using focused, user-centered, and iterative development. This lean method guarantees alignment with mission and warfighter requirements to enable rapid and effective implementation.

**3. Project Scope**

Project Zion is a comprehensive initiative designed to enhance the operational capabilities of the 613 AOC and PACAF. The project will be executed in phases, focusing on key units and personnel within PACAF and tailored to the unique challenges of the Pacific theater. Development will follow an iterative and lean approach, ensuring rapid and efficient deployment of solutions.

**Targeted Units and Personnel**

* **Primary Focus**: 613th Air Operations Center and related units
* **Supported Directorates**:
  + **A3 - Operations**
  + **A4 - Logistics, Engineering, and Force Protection**
  + **A5 - Plans and Requirements**
  + **A6 - Communications**
  + **A8 - Strategic Plans and Programs**
* **Personnel**:
  + Operational and Tactical Plans Divisions
  + Operations Centers
  + Lead Wings and Deployed Units

**4. Detailed Project Plan**

Project Zion will be implemented in a series of carefully planned phases to ensure smooth integration and maximum impact. Each phase will be iterative, incorporating lean and agile development techniques to facilitate rapid progress and continuous improvement.

**Phase 1: Requirement Analysis and Design**

* **Activities**:
  + Conduct a thorough analysis of current operational processes and requirements.
  + Engage with key stakeholders from the supported directorates (A3, A4, A5, A6, A8) and personnel (Operational and Tactical Plans Divisions, Operations Centers, Lead Wing) to gather detailed requirements.
  + Design tailored solutions that address identified needs.
* **Timeline**: 2 months
* **Outcomes**:
  + Deploy a working prototype of Donovan to SIPR tailored for PACAF use.
  + Project roadmap to include milestones and delivery schedule.

**Phase 2: Development and Integration**

* **Activities**:
  + Develop tools to meet established objectives.
  + Gain Interim Authority to Test on AOC Weapon System.
* **Timeline**: 4 months
* **Outcomes**:
  + Prototypes of tools specifically meeting or exceeding one Project Zion objective.
  + Initial deployment of AI solutions onto AOC Weapon System.
  + Functional data summarization capabilities integrated with organic AOC software.

**Phase 3: Testing and Feedback**

* **Activities**:
  + Conduct extensive testing of developed tools in exercises and real-world scenarios.
  + Gather and summarize feedback from end-users.
  + Refine Project Zion objectives and tools based on feedback to enhance usability and effectiveness.
* **Timeline**: 2 months
* **Outcomes**:
  + Refined tools and validated solutions ready for broader deployment.
  + Documented feedback and improvements.

**Phase 4: Training and Deployment**

* **Activities**:
  + Develop comprehensive training programs tailored to the needs of expanded PACAF user base and deploying units amongst the Air Task Force.
  + Provide training resources to raise awareness for users of Project Zion capabilities.
* **Timeline**: 3 months
* **Outcomes**:
  + Training program and material available for all PACAF and deployed personnel.
  + Operational deployment of tools across PACAF.

**Phase 5: Monitoring and Continuous Improvement**

* **Activities**:
  + Establish mechanisms for regular performance monitoring and evaluation.
  + Collect continuous feedback from end-users to identify areas for improvement.
  + Implement ongoing enhancements to tools and processes based on user input and operational needs.
* **Timeline**: Ongoing
* **Outcomes**:
  + Sustained improvements and adaptation to evolving operational needs.
  + Continuous enhancement of tools and technologies.

**5. Collaboration and Partnership Strategy**

Successful implementation of Project Zion requires a robust collaboration and partnership strategy. This involves coordinating efforts among key stakeholders, leveraging the strengths of each partner, and ensuring seamless communication and cooperation throughout the project lifecycle.

**Key Stakeholders and Roles**

**Scale AI**

* **Role**:eprovide AI expertise, and manage iterative development processes.
* **Responsibilities**:
  + Develop and integrate AI tools and technologies.
  + Ensure alignment with project objectives and PACAF requirements.
  + Provide ongoing technical support and updates.

**Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (OuSD) Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office (CDAO)**

* **Role**: Provide strategic oversight, ensure alignment with DoD data strategies, and facilitate access to necessary resources.
* **Responsibilities**:
  + Oversee project alignment with DoD data strategies and policies.
  + Facilitate coordination with other DoD initiatives and stakeholders.
  + Support resource allocation and prioritization.

**PACAF Directorates (A3, A4, A5, A6, A8)**

* **Role**: Provide operational insights, ensure that developed tools meet operational needs, and facilitate user adoption.
* **Responsibilities**:
  + Engage in requirement gathering and feedback processes.
  + Support testing and validation of tools in real-world scenarios.
  + Promote user adoption and provide feedback for continuous improvement.

**613th Air Operations Center**

* **Role**: Serve as the primary implementation site, provide operational context, and validate tool effectiveness.
* **Responsibilities**:
  + Participate in pilot testing and feedback collection.
  + Ensure seamless integration of tools into daily operations.
  + Provide continuous feedback for iterative improvement.

**Collaboration Mechanisms**

* Monthly Stakeholder Check-in
* Collaboration platform for communication (e.g. MS Teams)
* Feedback Loops to continuously gather user insights
* Development and Testing sprints with PACAF operators
* Comprehensive training material and curriculum

**Partnership Benefits**

**Leveraged Expertise**

* **Technology Expertise**: Scale AI brings advanced AI and data analytics expertise.
* **Operational Expertise**: PACAF and 613th Air Operations Center provide deep operational knowledge and context.
* **Strategic Alignment**: OuSD CDAO ensures alignment with broader DoD strategies and access to additional resources.

**Enhanced Coordination**

* **Integrated Efforts**: Regular coordination ensures that efforts and resources are aligned.
* **Shared Knowledge**: Open communication channels foster knowledge sharing.

By fostering strong collaboration and leveraging the unique strengths of each partner, Project Zion aims to achieve its strategic objectives efficiently and effectively.

**6. Conclusion**

Project Zion is a strategic initiative to enhance the operational efficiency and decision-making capabilities of PACAF. By integrating advanced technologies, such as scalable generative AI and robust data analysis tools, Zion will streamline processes, automate routine tasks, and provide actionable insights to decision-makers. This proposal outlines a comprehensive plan for implementing Project Zion, emphasizing collaboration, iterative development, and continuous improvement.

**Recap of Project Zion’s Potential Impact**

* **Operational Efficiency**: Automating routine tasks and enhancing asynchronous planning will free up valuable resources and reduce operational bottlenecks.
* **Enhanced Decision-Making**: Real-time data analysis and AI-powered insights will enable faster, more informed decision-making, improving responsiveness and strategic agility.
* **Improved Collaboration**: Advanced collaboration tools will facilitate better communication and coordination among dispersed teams, ensuring that all personnel are aligned and informed.

**Call to Action**

To achieve the transformative potential of Project Zion, PACAF's support and approval are essential. This project requires a commitment to adopting new technologies, fostering a collaborative environment, and continuously seeking improvements based on user feedback and evolving operational needs.

**Next Steps**

1. **Approval and Funding**: Secure approval and funding from PACAF leadership to initiate Project Zion.
2. **Stakeholder Engagement**: Convene an initial stakeholder meeting to finalize project plans, roles, and responsibilities.
3. **Requirement Analysis**: Begin the requirement analysis phase, engaging key personnel and directorates to gather detailed requirements and design tailored solutions.
4. **Development Kick-off**: Launch the development phase, following an iterative and lean approach to ensure rapid progress and continuous refinement.
5. **Pilot Testing and Feedback**: Implement pilot testing of developed tools, collect user feedback, and make necessary refinements.
6. **Training and Deployment**: Conduct comprehensive training sessions and deploy Project Zion tools across PACAF, ensuring seamless integration and user adoption.
7. **Monitoring and Improvement**: Establish ongoing monitoring mechanisms to track performance and gather feedback, enabling continuous improvement and adaptation to evolving needs.

By following this structured approach, Project Zion aims to deliver significant enhancements to PACAF's operational capabilities, ensuring that our forces are well-equipped to meet the challenges posed by our pacing adversaries. We look forward to PACAF's support in making Project Zion a success.