



WHY START A SPARK CELL?

"To succeed, we must properly identify problems, empower decentralized solutions by individuals and teams, and infuse an ethos of innovation at all levels."

-Gen. Charles Q. Brown, CSAF

Near peer competitors have closed the gap with the United States; to maintain and reassert dominance, we must increase the speed at which we conceive, test and scale ideas, and fully leverage the experience, insight and creativity of our force.

There is an untapped resource of talented Airmen & Guardians at the tactical edge that - if empowered - can solve complex problems, ranging from tactical

to strategic importance, that improve the efficiency, lethality and quality of life of the warfighter.

Spark Cells provide Commanders with a focal point to send Airmen & Guardians that are looking to solve problems at the base-level. Bases with Spark Cells tend to transition more Airmen-derived solutions to the field, faster.

WHAT DOES A SPARK CELL DO?

- ▶ Supports and mentors Airmen & Guardians looking to innovate
- ▶ Maintains resident expertise in innovation best-practices, standard and non-standard acquisitions pathways, and innovation funding sources
- ▶ Connects Airmen & Guardians to the worldwide Spark network and broader DoD innovation enterprise
- ▶ Tracks and reports innovation project metrics to base leadership
- ▶ Supports effective spending of SIF and other innovation funds

COMPOSITION OF A SPARK CELL



There is no required size or structure! The guidelines below can be tailored to best fit your needs:

- ▶ Director - 1x FGO/CGO/SNCO or GS-13 - 15
- ▶ Deputy - CGO/NCO or GS-11 - 14
- ▶ Superintendent - 1x NCO/SNCO
- ▶ Program Manager - 2x AMN/NCO

However, the **RIGHT** people are critical. Successful Spark Cell members have some or all of the following qualities:

- ▶ Constructively critical (always asking 'why')
- ▶ Execution-oriented; biased towards action
- ▶ Entrepreneurial at heart
- ▶ Comfortable leaving rank at the door
- ▶ Think strategically and execute tactically
- ▶ Radically mission-focused
- ▶ Responsive to feedback; growth mindset
- ▶ Articulate & passionate; strong communicators

COMMANDER'S ROLE EMPOWER INITIATIVE

There are likely already Airmen/Guardian 'Intrapreneurs' under your command that are proactively solving problems and making an impact - the creation of a Spark Cell can be a force multiplier for those innovators. Commanders are the critical enabler and can accelerate change by providing: **time, money, mentorship, authority, freedom to explore** and **top cover**.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

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**OUR TEAM IS STANDING BY TO HELP YOU
STAND UP A SPARK CELL AT YOUR WING!**