**Title:** Self-Directed Learning Tools in the US Air Force

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**Abstract:** The Air Force is currently conducting a complete overhaul of its education and training paradigm, shifting from multi-month face-to-face programs to a modular, agile, on-demand design. This new initiative, referred to as the Continuum of Learning, plans to leverage advanced learning and education tools to create and sustain life-long learners in the Air Force. This is a lofty goal that can only be obtained by developing systems that leverage both people and technology to promote Self Directed Learning (SDL), a term coined by Malcolm Knowles in 1968. This paper describes the concept of SDL and explains its effectiveness in building and fueling life-long learners who can adapt to new situations and meet new challenges. This paper also examines the components of information technology tools that contribute to a user’s development as an SDL and encourages them to continue to reach new goals. Specifically, tools must be human-centered, intuitive, open, dynamic, and encourage collaboration. One emerging solution that contains basic forms of these elements is the Cyber Education HubTM (CEH). This cloud-based learning tool is designed to present crowd-sourced content on an intuitive platform that encourages community engagement and feedback. The CEHTM is focused on providing cyber education to a broad spectrum of personnel in the armed forces. While this system addresses the unique challenges of cyber education and training, it has the potential to inform the design of future Continuum of Learning systems covering many functional areas. The paper concludes by posing a construct for a human subject research experiment and other suggestions for future study.

**Keywords:** US Air Force, education and training, Continuum of Learning, Self-Directed Learning, cyber education, Cyber Education Hub