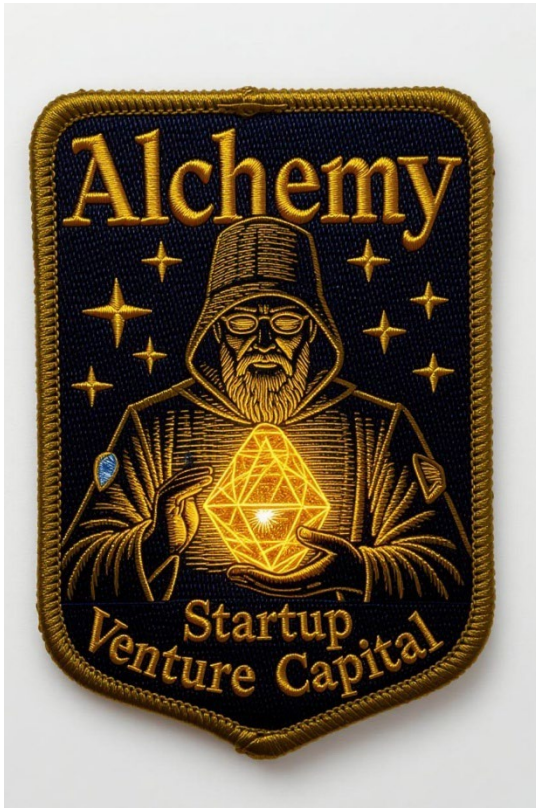


ALCHEMY

BLUE HORIZONS, USAF CSAF OUTBRIEF 15 MAY 2026



THE PROBLEM

Imagine this: Our adversaries, like China (PRC), are deploying new military capabilities at breakneck speed, exploiting what they see as glaring US weakness. Meanwhile, the Department of Defense is stuck in slow, bureaucratic acquisition processes that take years to deliver solutions. That's not just a gap-it's a vulnerability that could cost us our edge in the Pacific. But what if we could flip the script? What if we could field innovative fixes in months, not years, by tapping America's greatest strengths: venture capital and startup ingenuity? That's Project Alchemy-a process of processes that turns unclassified enemy insights into rapid, real-world capabilities.

THE SOLUTION

1. Intelligence Process: We fuse open-source intel, adversary doctrine, and PRC media to pinpoint solvable gaps. For example, PRC views our mobile missile launchers as a threat but vulnerable due to size, so we define problems like enhancing mobility or resilience without classified data. Outputs? Actionable insights are published openly.
2. Venture Capital Process: These insights go to an open marketplace. DoD funds milestones like \$250K for a compact launcher prototype that cuts detectability by 50%. Startups compete, VCs match with millions more (aiming for 10x leverage). Result? Rapid prototypes, multiplied by private capital.

3. POM Process: We align everything with DoD's Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution cycles. Tie innovations to funded programs like the Pacific Deterrence Initiative for seamless adoption-no more shelfware.

WHERE TO FIND US

Maxwell AFB, AL, until further notice.

WHAT IS BLUE HORIZONS?

A Chief of Staff of the Air Force chartered developmental education program, Blue Horizons, is the Chief's **"Think and Do Tank."** Blue Horizons Fellows identify problems with strategic value for the Air Force and prototype a solution in <10 months.

WHO WE ARE

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THE JOURNEY SO FAR

