

Mad Scientist Initiative

By U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command 30 January 2018



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What is it?

Mad Scientist is a [U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command](#) initiative that continually explores the future through collaborative partnerships and continuous dialogue with academia, industry and government. Through this initiative, the Army helps shape future land operations in its role as a thought leader in the future of warfare.

The program consists of an All Partners Access Network community of interest, a monthly online speaker series, and conferences with world-class experts at the nation's premier academic institutions.

What has the Army done?

The [Mad Scientist program](#) has hosted three major events, which informed science and technology investments, confirmed human dimension initiatives, and identified numerous other opportunities for further assessment and experimentation. Mad Scientist programs resulted in over 50 published articles and informed the Army's warfighting challenges and strategies on megacities, robotics and the human dimension.

Key topics and themes include:

- Disruptive Technologies, co-hosted by Georgetown University: sentient data, internet of sustainable energy, platform mergers, autonomous vs. unmanned, and the next revolution in computing.
- Human Dimension, co-hosted by Army University: measuring cognitive potential, man-machine interface, genome sequencing, wearables, continuous diagnostics and performance enhancers.
- Megacities and Dense Urban Areas, co-hosted by Arizona State University: modeling megacities, population-centric intelligence, invisible geography, hot zone robotics, avatars in the field, and the role of augmented and virtual reality in training for operations in dense urban areas.

What continued efforts are planned for the future?

TRADOC continues to conduct Mad Scientist events, which tap into a broad range of expertise about future trends in technology and the human dimension, resulting in key findings and recommendations that are then incorporated into Army concepts, documents and assessments to ensure superiority over potential adversaries.

The Army will continue to collaborate with external organizations and individuals in analyzing trends to prepare for the future.

Future Mad Scientist events include:

- Aug. 8 and 9: Strategic Security Environment in 2050, co-hosted by the Army chief of staff's Strategic Studies Group and Georgetown University's Center for Security Studies.
- Sept. 13 and 14: Building a Cyber Proficient Force in 2050, in partnership with the Army Cyber Institute at West Point, Army Cyber Command and the Cyber Center of Excellence.

Why is this important to the Army?

The Army uses key findings and recommendations to advance understanding of the future and innovate more rapidly. As the Army faces unparalleled complexities in the future operating environment, such initiatives can ensure the future readiness of the Army and also of the entire joint force.

