



Shaping a Long-term Strategy for US Air Force Telepathology

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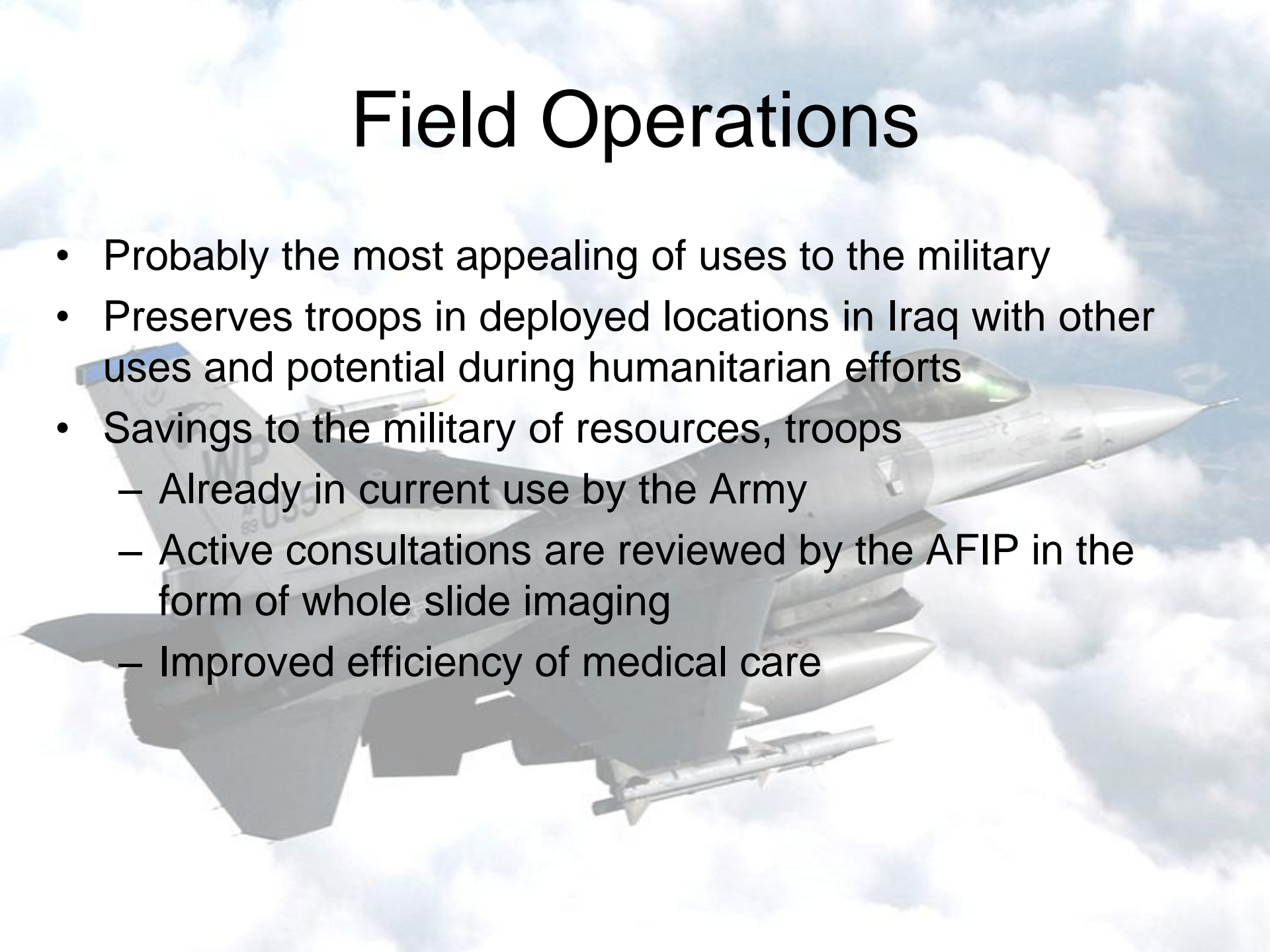
Potential (Theoretical) Utilities of Telepathology for the Air Force

- Quality Assurance
- Intraoperative consultations
- Case load sharing (already used in Radiology)
- Continuing Medical Education
- Field Operations (“Readiness”)



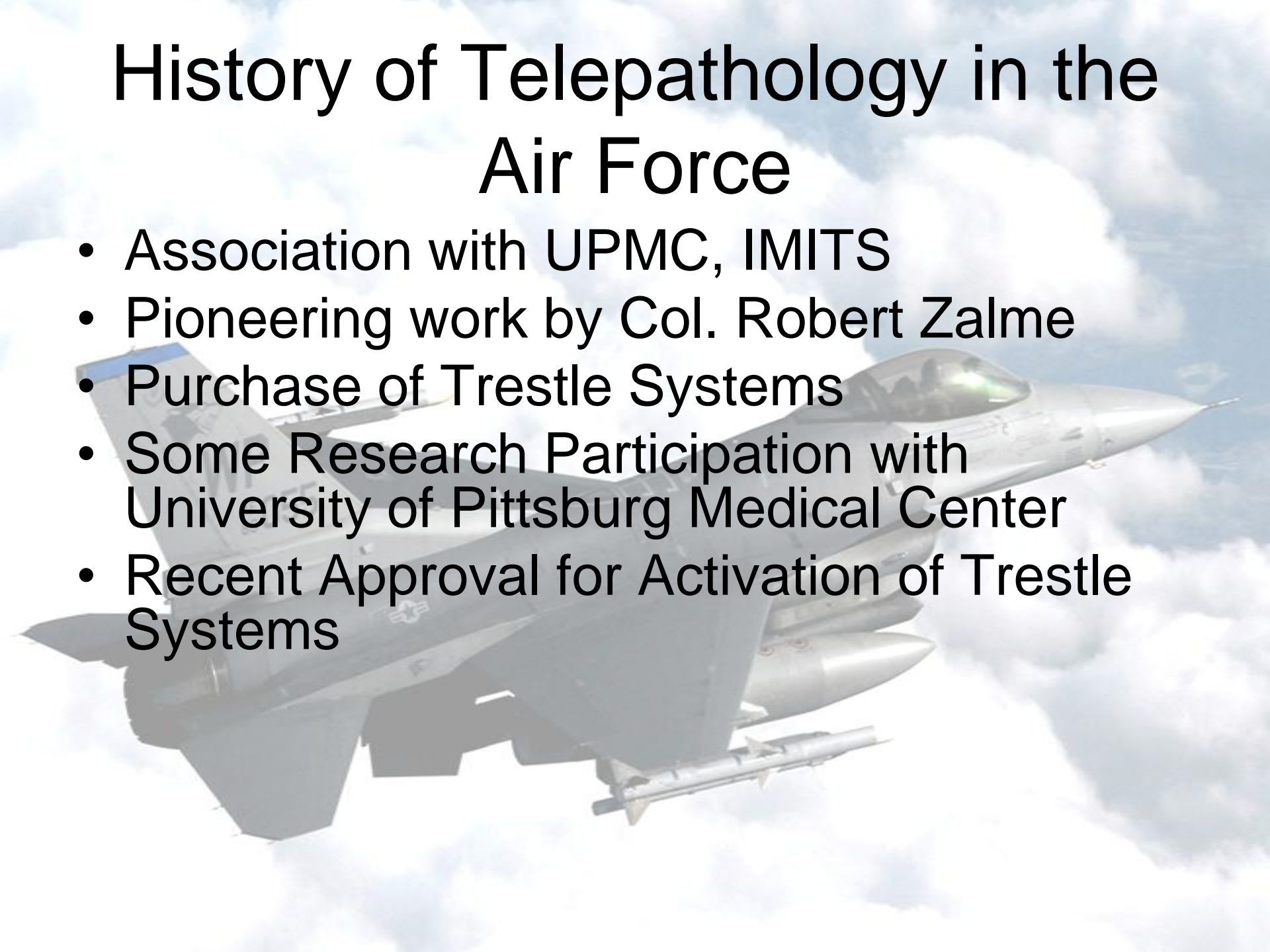
Field Operations

- Probably the most appealing of uses to the military
- Preserves troops in deployed locations in Iraq with other uses and potential during humanitarian efforts
- Savings to the military of resources, troops
 - Already in current use by the Army
 - Active consultations are reviewed by the AFIP in the form of whole slide imaging
 - Improved efficiency of medical care



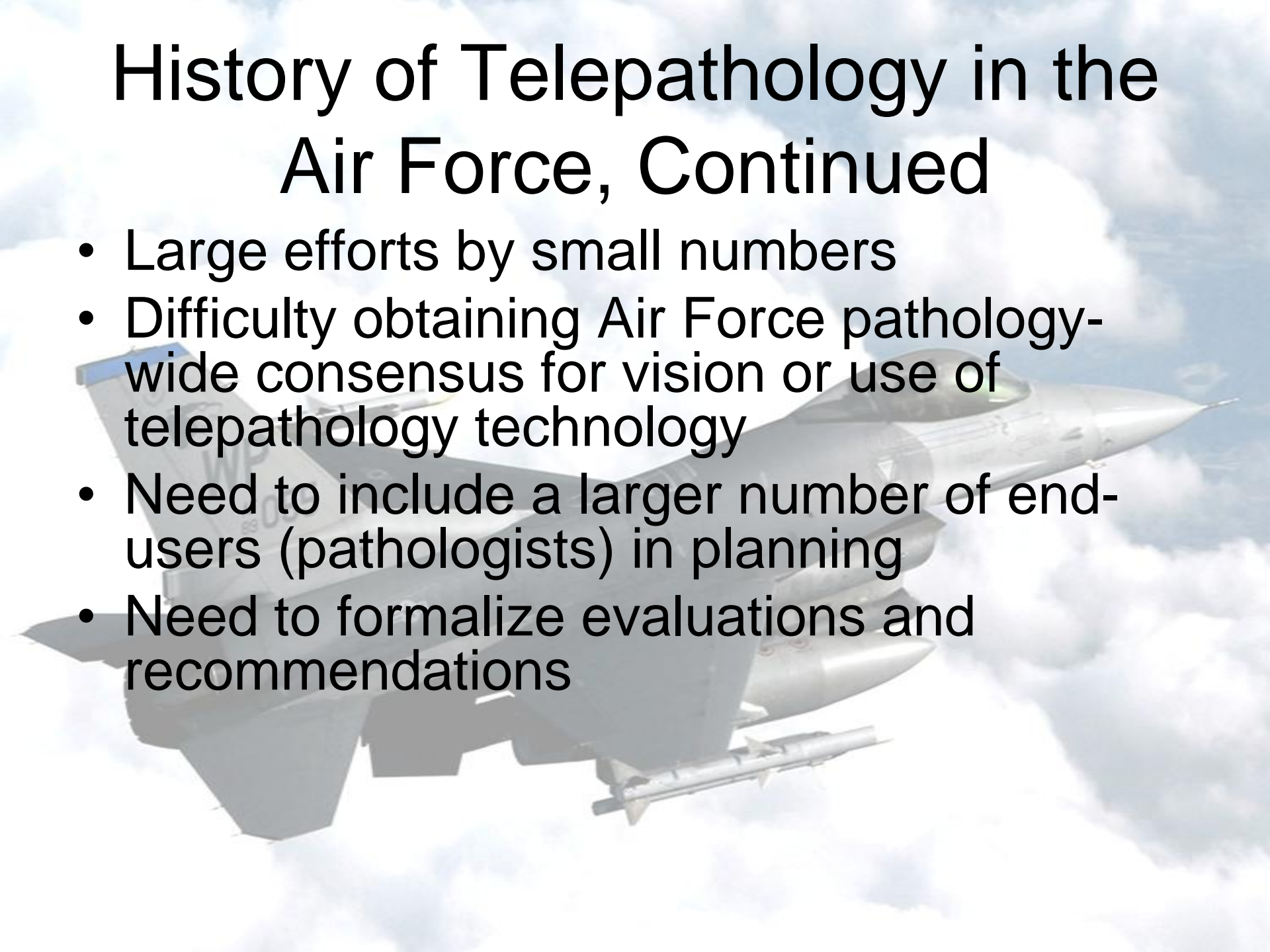
History of Telepathology in the Air Force

- Association with UPMC, IMITS
- Pioneering work by Col. Robert Zalme
- Purchase of Trestle Systems
- Some Research Participation with University of Pittsburg Medical Center
- Recent Approval for Activation of Trestle Systems




History of Telepathology in the Air Force, Continued

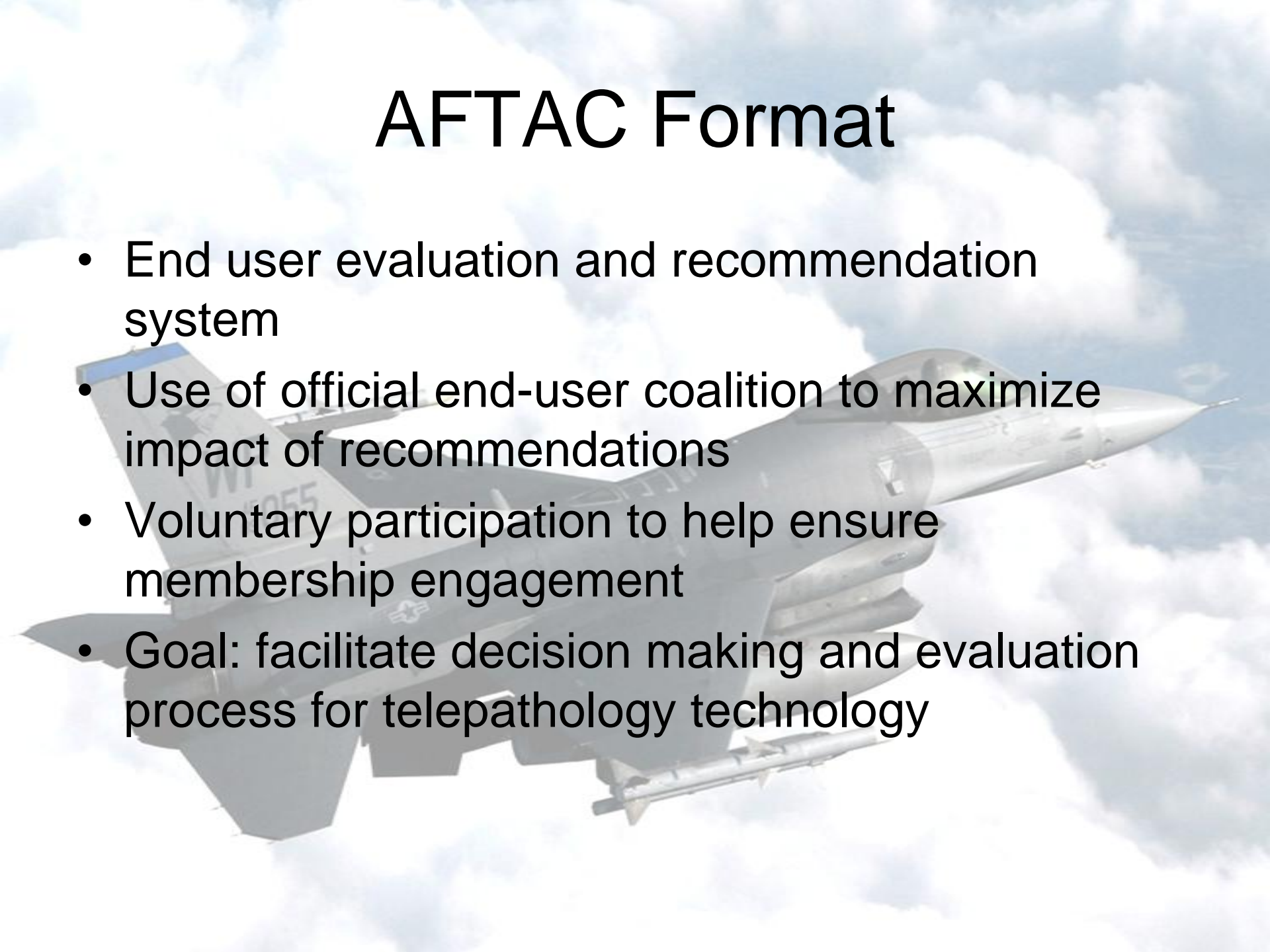
- Large efforts by small numbers
- Difficulty obtaining Air Force pathology-wide consensus for vision or use of telepathology technology
- Need to include a larger number of end-users (pathologists) in planning
- Need to formalize evaluations and recommendations



Formation of AFTAC

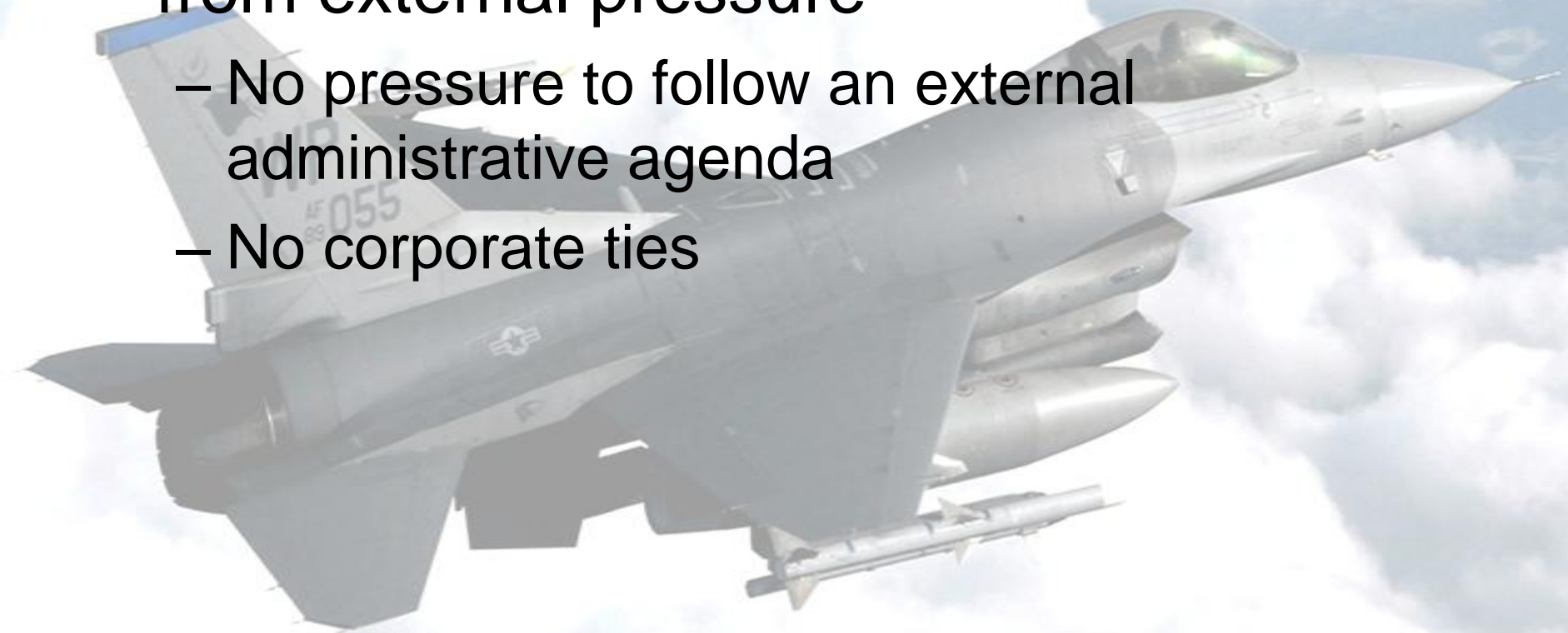
- AFTAC (Air Force Telepathology Advisory Council)
 - Formed in September 2007; charter pending
 - Members: Interested Air Force Pathologists
 - Primary Goal: Provide Direction and Advice to the Air Force for Implementation of Telepathology Technology
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AFTAC Format

- End user evaluation and recommendation system
 - Use of official end-user coalition to maximize impact of recommendations
 - Voluntary participation to help ensure membership engagement
 - Goal: facilitate decision making and evaluation process for telepathology technology
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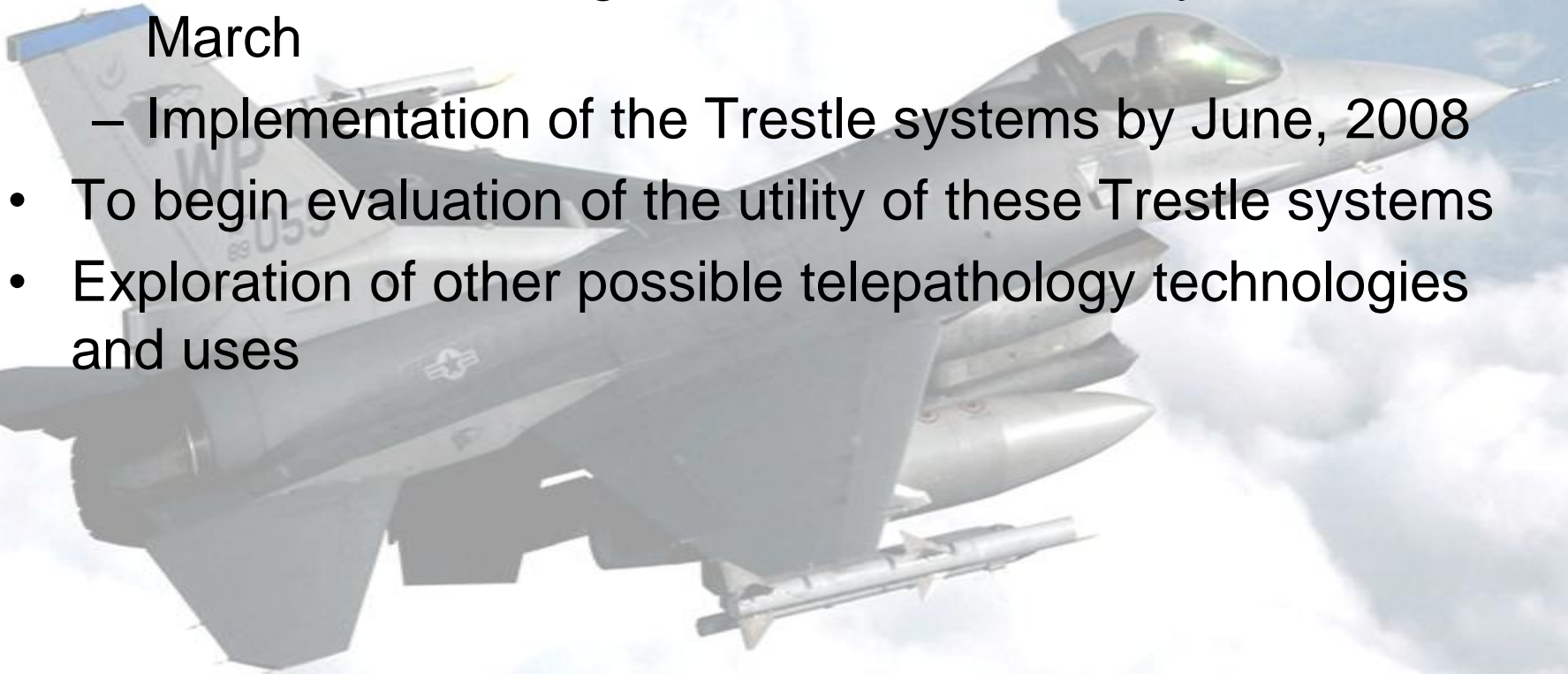
AFTAC Format, continued

- “No strings attached” format, freeing group from external pressure
 - No pressure to follow an external administrative agenda
 - No corporate ties



Primary AFTAC Recommendations

- Implementation and training in the Trestle systems
 - Successful training in the use of Trestle systems in March
 - Implementation of the Trestle systems by June, 2008
- To begin evaluation of the utility of these Trestle systems
- Exploration of other possible telepathology technologies and uses

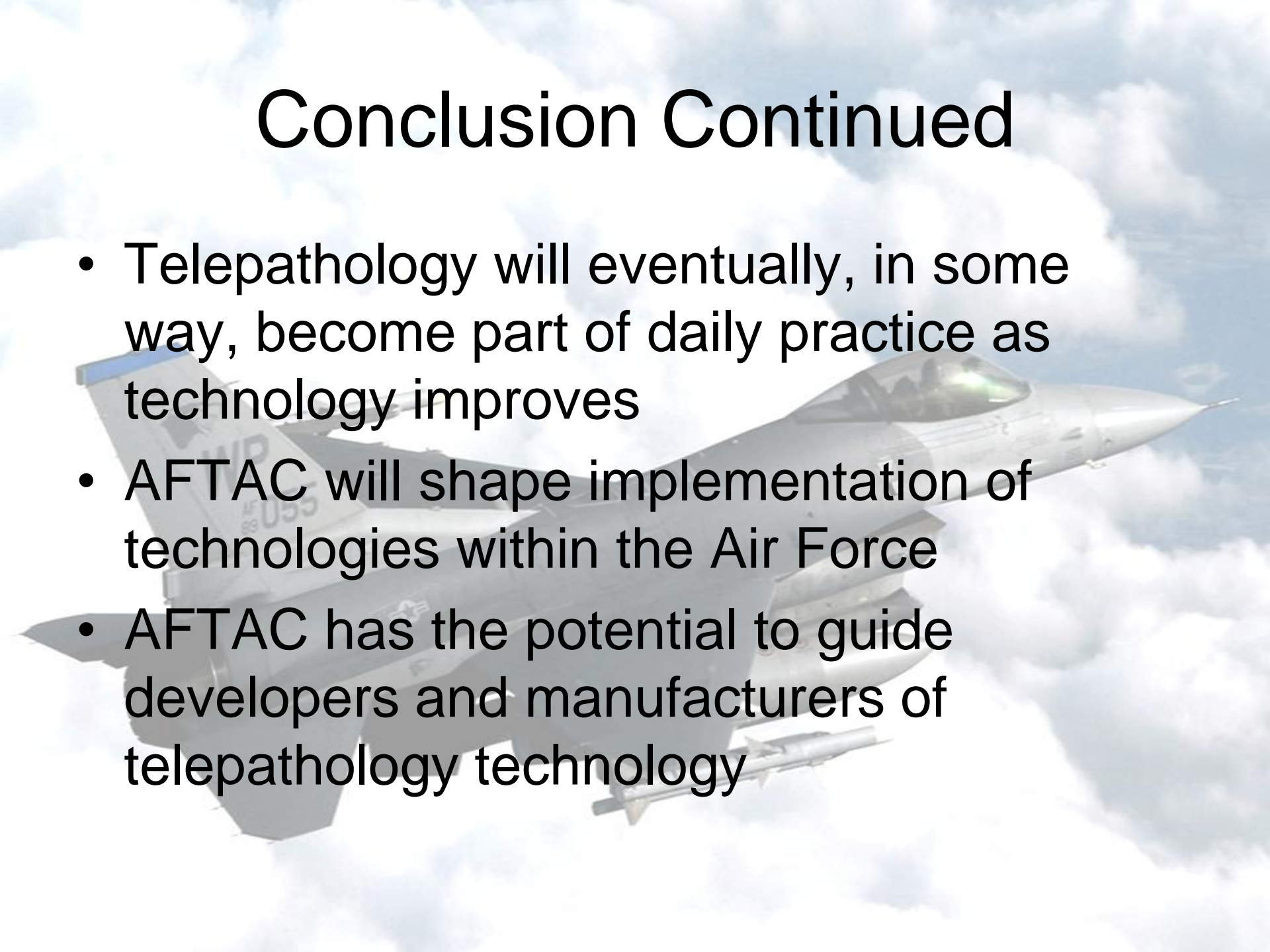


Conclusion

- Current live evaluation of Trestle systems is just beginning
 - AFTAC can facilitate agreements between primary pathologists and consultant participants
 - Provide assurance that roles are acceptable and well defined
 - Further recommendations will depend largely on the experience of the users
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Conclusion Continued

- Telepathology will eventually, in some way, become part of daily practice as technology improves
- AFTAC will shape implementation of technologies within the Air Force
- AFTAC has the potential to guide developers and manufacturers of telepathology technology



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