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**LIVE**

## Colonel George M. Dougherty, USAF (Ret.)

Author, "Beast in the Machine: How Robotics and AI Will Transform Warfare and the Future of Human Conflict"



Colonel George M. Dougherty, USAF (Ret) is the author of "Beast in the Machine: How Robotics and AI Will Transform Warfare and the Future of Human Conflict", one of the most influential books on autonomy, AI, and the future of war. Published in 2025, it has since been reprinted in foreign editions including in Ukraine and South Korea.

As an active duty and reserve officer in the U.S. Air Force he held the second highest military position in Air Force Science and Technology. He co-authored the Department of the Air Force's Science and Technology 2030 Strategy, which created a new emphasis on transformational warfighting capabilities and launched the Department's Vanguard Programs. One example is the Skyborg program for autonomous aircraft, which led to the Air Force's Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA) program. He has been a senior leader in defense laboratories, acquisition centers, and military service acquisition headquarters in the Pentagon. He also served as the military deputy for the Office of Emerging Capability and Prototyping in the Office of the Secretary of War, and as the Director of Innovation for the Portfolio Acquisition Executive for Command, Control, Communications, and Battle Management (C3BM).

As a civilian, he has been an executive in two international management consulting firms, helping high tech and life sciences companies to navigate disruptive change.

Dougherty has written peer-reviewed articles for defense journals and given invited lectures on accelerating disruptive innovation and transforming future combat doctrine. He holds three degrees in engineering, including a PhD from the University of California, Berkeley, and an MBA from Cornell University.