



Air Force Key Talking Points

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A monthly publication to alert Airmen about key issues and talking points

Heritage to Horizons – Commemorating 60 Years of Air, Space & Cyberspace Power

Air Force 60th Birthday: September 18, 2007



Communicators – be sure to personalize and localize these talking points as you speak to your audiences about the Air Force. Tie your message to big Air Force themes, but make it personal to you and relevant to your local audience

AIR FORCE MISSION

The mission of the U.S. Air Force is to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests – to fly and fight in Air, Space and Cyberspace.

We provide America **Global Vigilance, Global Reach, Global Power**: global expeditionary air, space and cyberspace forces providing **vigilance** that is persistent, focused and predictive; **reach** that is reliable, rapid and agile; and **power** that is precise, stealthy and decisive.

ISSUE OF THE MONTH: CYBERSPACE

CYBERSPACE IS A DOMAIN: Like land, sea, air and space, it must be defended

- Cyberspace comprises and controls our nation's critical infrastructure
- Our adversaries already operate in cyberspace. We seek to deny our adversaries cyberspace sanctuary while ensuring our access and operation in this domain
- The Air Force vision is to expand our leading role in cyberspace ... we must organize, train and equip our force to deliver the full range of effects. Therefore, we are in the process of standing up an operational command for cyberspace
- As we commemorate the Air Force's 60th birthday, we recognize our proud accomplishments as a preeminent provider of air and space capabilities. We continue this tradition in the domain of cyberspace

AIR FORCE PRIORITIES

1. FIGHTING AND WINNING THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR ... AND PREPARING FOR THE NEXT WAR

- Our first priority is to win the Global War on Terror and provide for the strategic defense of our nation now and in the future
- More than **35,000** of our Airmen are deployed across the globe. More than **25,000** of our Airmen are deployed in the Global War on Terror in the CENTCOM AOR
- We fly **250** daily sorties for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and have flown over **80,000** sorties in the past year
- Our Air Force operates and flies from **10** major bases in CENTCOM and fights the Global War on Terror from a total of **59** locations across the CENTCOM AOR
- Air Force Aeromedical Evacuation is the Joint warfighters' "lifeline home"
 - More than **44,600** Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen have been aeromedically evacuated since October 2001 in support of the Global War on Terror. Patients are moved from the AOR to the U.S. in as little as 3 days
- Our Airmen are also fully engaged in the war from their home stations – controlling satellites, standing on alert with intercontinental ballistic missiles, providing intelligence assessments, operating UAVs, and launching airlift, tanker and other aircraft missions essential to Joint operations worldwide
- Since 11 Sep 01, our Air Force has flown more than **48,000** sorties in America's skies to protect our homeland
- **Our Air Force has engaged in continuous combat operations for more than 17 years**
- Our adversaries worry about America's Air Force -- we can hold any target at risk. Current enemies in the Global War on Terror fear our airpower and potential future adversaries are now working hard to catch up in air and space power capabilities
- **THE AIR FORCE IS IN THE FIGHT EACH AND EVERY DAY:** "The Air Force is engaged every single day in global operations, fighting the Global War on Terror, defending our homeland, providing strategic deterrence, and giving our nation unparalleled Global Vigilance, Reach and Power." –SECAF/CSAF, 2007 U.S. Air Force Posture Statement
- **Global Vigilance**
 - Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) aircraft and spacecraft provide early warning to the Joint warfighter every day
 - Airmen provide space situational awareness of more than **500** daily passes over Baghdad by satellites of all nations
- **Global Reach**
 - The AF gives America **an Air Bridge** – a strategic asset providing operational reach – making possible the deployment and employment of joint **combat power and humanitarian relief**.
 - Around the world, on average, **one U.S. Air Force air mobility aircraft takes off every 90 seconds ... 24/7/365**

- In the Global War on Terror alone, on a typical day, our Air Force flies more than **200 airlift sorties** and moves in excess of **1,000 tons of cargo and 2,500 passengers**
- “In this global Air Force business, the single point of failure of an air bridge, the single point of failure for global ISR or the **single point of failure for global strike is the tanker.**”—CSAF
- **Global Power**
 - In the last year, our Air Force conducted **more than 900 strikes in Iraq and Afghanistan**, employing more than **2,600** air-to-ground weapons
 - Our Air Force eliminated several high-value terrorist and insurgent targets in Afghanistan, Somalia and Iraq
 - Air Force satellites provide **24/7 persistent global communications and GPS** signals vital to Joint success

2. DEVELOPING AND CARING FOR AIRMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES

- Our active duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian Airmen are our most valuable assets
- Our Warrior Ethos is woven into the fabric of our culture as is evidenced by our [Portraits in Courage](#) Airmen
 - Our [Airman's Creed](#) reflects how each Airman's service and conduct is fueled by an ethos aimed at serving and defending this Nation, its Constitution and its citizens
 - We are focusing efforts on the right education, training and experience at the right time in an Airman's career
- We continue to develop warfighting capabilities by increasing numbers of Airmen in high-demand career fields

3. RECAPITALIZING AND MODERNIZING OUR AIR, SPACE AND CYBERSPACE SYSTEMS

- We must ensure our warfighting capabilities through recapitalizing (replacing) and modernizing our aging air and space fleets ... and the FY08 President's Budget continues us down that road
- Fiscal constraints challenge our ability to ensure dominant air and space power for the 21st Century without increasing risk. “We see a long-term strategic mismatch between national strategy and defense resources.” –SECAF/CSAF
- **Our acquisition priorities reflect our dedication to enabling the Airman warrior:**
 - **KC-X**
 - The KC-X is our #1 acquisition priority and enables the Joint Force to project combat capability anytime, anywhere
 - A next-generation aerial tanker will ensure the Air Force remains a rapid expeditionary force providing fast, lethal, flexible and global air, space and cyberspace capabilities in pursuit of global enemies
 - **CSAR-X**
 - Every U.S. service member knows that he or she can rely on Air Force combat search and rescue
 - The GAO sustained the most recent contract protest. “The Air Force is reviewing the GAO decision and developing our plan of action to address the findings.” *Sue Payton, Asst. Secretary for Acquisition*
 - The Air Force is the only Service with dedicated forces to perform search and rescue in combat situations
 - **SPACE SYSTEMS – SPACE COMMUNICATIONS, SPACE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS AND EARLY WARNING PROGRAMS**
 - We ensure global communications, navigation, precision timing, missile warning, nuclear deterrence and space surveillance are available to the Joint warfighter and other users anytime, anywhere
 - We must pursue advanced space system acquisition in Space Based Infrared System (SBIRS), Transformational Satellite Communications System (TSAT) and Space Radar upgrades
 - **F-35A LIGHTNING II (JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER)**
 - The F-35A is a 5th generation, multi-role strike fighter optimized for air-to-ground attack
 - It provides affordable precision engagement and global attack for the Air Force, Navy, Marines and our international partners
 - 5th Generation fighters – the F-22 and F-35 – complement each other, enabling cutting-edge stealth and net-centric operations critical to the Joint fight
 - **NEXT GENERATION LONG RANGE STRIKE – A NEW BOMBER BY 2018**
 - A new long-range strike platform is **the** critical piece to upgrading our portfolios to ensure range and payload – the soul of our Air Force – and access in enemy environments for the future

REFERENCING THE FY08 BUDGET

- **The Air Force supports the President's Budget (PB)**
- The FY 08 Budget continues last year's efforts to develop Airmen and to modernize and recapitalize
 - It starts our procurement priorities that will put the best technology in the hands of our Airmen warriors
 - It lays the groundwork for further recapitalization and modernization
- We fight from our bases. Infrastructure is critical to our readiness and caring for Airmen and their families
- We face the fiscal reality that costs have increased: people, contracts, spare parts, fuel and utilities

OTHER INITIATIVES

- See Air Force Strategic Communication Plans for additional themes and messages on Force Shaping; Cyberspace; CSAR-X; Aerial Tanker Refueling; etc, located on the [Strategic Communication CoP](#)