



AF Key Themes and Messages

December 2006 // Vol.1, Edition 9

A monthly publication to alert Airmen of key themes and talking points.

Further public affairs information available on the AF Portal – under Air Force tab, select “Strategic Communication”



AF Priorities

Enduring Themes

We are vigilant in the pursuit of the enemy in the Global War on Terror (GWOT)

• **We’re in the fight.** Our first priority is to maintain focus on winning the Global War on Terror to ensure the safety and security of our Nation and its citizens. The character and capabilities of our enemies are increasingly uncertain, veiled, growing, and constantly changing. AF capabilities are integral to an interdependent force.

Developing and Caring for Airmen and their families ensures readiness (Airmen)

• **Airmen are warfighters.** Our active duty, Guard, Reserve, and civilian Airmen are our most valuable assets in fighting the GWOT and ensuring we are the world’s dominant air, space, and cyberspace force. Airmen ensure continued transformation to a more agile and capable force. We are making sure Airmen are properly educated, trained and equipped.

Recapitalizing and Modernizing Air, Space, & Cyberspace Systems secures warfighting capability (Recap)

• **We must ensure our warfighting future.** The Air Force continues to become more capable, more efficient, and more lethal. Modernization includes aggressive divestment of legacy platforms and significantly enhances what our Airmen bring to combat operations. We are reorganizing to create efficiencies and synergize the strengths of our Total Force. The generated savings enable us to provide Airmen needed capabilities to counter worldwide threats to our nation.

AF Mission Areas

- **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.
- We are the only service that provides range and payload for the Nation’s security -- the heart and soul of America’s Air Force.

Talking Points

Talking Points reflect top issues supporting AF priorities, initiatives, and programs. Senior leaders at all levels should use these to ensure AF priorities are communicated accurately and consistently.

Battlefield Airmen – Battlefield Airmen are AF special tactics and operations forces who are Total Force warfighters trained to operate in hostile, uncertain, and unpermissive environments and under severe environmental conditions.

- There are five mission areas that make up the Battlefield Airmen core group: Joint Fires Integration; Tactical Airlift Ops; Special Ops; Weather Support Ops; Personnel Recovery/Recovery Ops.

60th Anniversary & AF Memorial Dedication – The year-long event’s theme is “From Heritage to Horizons – Commemorating 60 Years of Air & Space Power.”

Budget Challenges – In 15 years, we have become smaller and leaner while engaged in combat ops. FY07 Budget funded a leaner, more agile, and lethal AF that meets current and future joint warfighting requirements through key investments vetted/validated through the QDR.

- We face unexpected demands on our resources – rising fuel prices, costs of war, system retirement restrictions.
- The AF has lost over \$31B in budget authority since Dec ’04 and approximately \$10B per year in buying power.
- We are transforming our force in an effort to guarantee that we will dominate air, space and cyberspace now and into the future.
- We must ensure our force is structured to meet emerging threats; that means tough decisions about size, shape, and structure to meet our obligations as **an interdependent force**.

AFSO 21 – We will march unnecessary work out the door – forever – with AF Smart Operations 21 focusing on the processes of the work we do and giving us permission to find better ways to do our jobs and eliminate waste.

- Every Airman’s focused effort on working smarter delivers warfighting capabilities. It’s about how to get the job done better.
- We will use generated savings to recapitalize and modernize air, space, and cyberspace systems.

Force Shaping – Meeting the priority to develop and care for Airmen, we are committed to securing the best equipment, training, and education. We have to find more innovative ways to do what we do to ensure we have the necessary resources to fight the GWOT and to recapitalize and modernize.

- We will shape our force to meet our mission with the right number of people with the right skills for the joint warfighter.
- We will continue to use voluntary reductions as much as possible, but will conduct non-voluntary reductions when necessary and we will help those who leave the Air Force.

Cyberspace Domain – SECAF announced on 2 Nov that **8th Air Force is the service’s lead command for cyberspace**. “There will be careers and a strong future for the Airmen whose work is in the cyberspace domain.” – SECAF

- Military operations in cyberspace cannot be a pick-up game. Cyberspace is where the nation’s neural network resides. As a preeminent nation with a technologically advanced military, **we cannot afford vulnerability in that neural network**.
- We must be properly organized, trained, and equipped – fully prepared and ever vigilant to protect it.

Education – Our education opportunities must be fully integrated into our Force Development program to ensure synchronization of training, experience, and education.

- Understanding different languages and cultures is especially important in the Global War on Terror where we work with many coalition partners in distant lands. The AF is committed to improving cultural awareness and developing regional expertise.

KC-X – “**The tanker is our number one procurement priority**. In this global Air Force business, the single point failure of an air bridge, the single point failure for global ISR or the single point failure for global strike is the tanker.” –CSAF

- If we don’t start replacing our tanker fleet now, tanker viability will expire without replacements. The Joint Requirements Oversight Council validated the Capabilities Development Document (CDD), which provides the basis for our acquisition strategy. The Air Force is committed to a full and open competition and has proceeded in a transparent and deliberate manner.

- Release of the draft request for proposal (RFP) occurred 25 Sept 2006. An update to the draft RFP will be released in December 2006. The final RFP is now projected for release in January 2007.
- KC-X replacement tanker will have an additional role to carry cargo and passengers and be equipped with robust floors, doors and defensive systems.

CSAR-X – The Air Force has selected the CH/MH-47 built by The Boeing Company, Chicago, Illinois, as our newest Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) aircraft, culminating a competitive source selection process. **We'll call it the HH-47.**

- We're confident our dedicated, professional CSAR Airmen and the HH-47 will carry on the rich Air Force CSAR heritage - stretching back to the Army Air Corps, through conflicts in Korea, Vietnam and most recently in Iraq and Afghanistan - toward a limitless horizon, where they continue to fly and fight so "That Others May Live."

Space – Space-based missile warning and satellite communications capabilities are one of our top three Air Force acquisition priorities.

- Space capabilities are a critical component for success in modern warfare.
- The first step in protecting our space capabilities is improving our Space Situation Awareness. We need to assure these capabilities are available to our joint warfighters.

Fifth Generation Fighters

- **F-35 Lightning II:** 5th Generation, multi-role, stealth, precision strike fighter meeting operational needs of AF, Navy, USMC, and Allies.
- **F-22A Raptor:** 5th Generation multi-role, stealth, air dominance fighter, with precision strike and ISR capabilities, countering existing and emerging threats our legacy systems cannot – integrated avionics, advanced stealth and super cruise make it second-to-none in capability.

- It is the best value for the money today. The “fly-away” cost for the most recent lot of F-22As is \$136.6M.

- Total Force Airmen fly the F-22A today—80 delivered, 27 in production, and 40 combat coded at Langley. “The Future of the AF is the F-22. We believe it underpins everything we do.” *COMACC*

Bomber Futures – A new long-range strike platform is *the* critical piece to upgrading our portfolios to ensure range and payload, the soul of our AF, and persistent access in enemy environments for the next generation.

- We will leverage near-term technology and push system-of-systems technology for advanced speed, range, precision, and connectivity.

MQ-1/MQ-9 – To meet joint warfighting requirements, we will fulfill our QDR commitment to provide 21 MQ-1 orbits and TFI commitment to stand up 5 ANG Predator units, and ensure a seamless capabilities transition from the U-2 to RQ-4.

- The first Air National Guard Predator facility opened at March Air Reserve Base 28 Nov 06. The men and women of the California ANG 163rd Reconnaissance Wing are flying real-time missions in support of the Global War on Terror.

Joint Cargo Aircraft (JCA) – We are DOD's airlift provider, and the JCA will fill a niche role complimenting modernized C-130s and C-130Js providing flexible, responsive, tailored airlift capability for combat, humanitarian operations and homeland defense.

- Brig Gen Dichter, Deputy Director of Joint Integration, “ The important take-away message is that the Army and AF have always focused on the same goal – to provide the combatant commanders with the tools they need to do the mission, and in the process of developing new capabilities, to be good stewards for our taxpayer's money. By adopting a common platform, we believe we are doing just this.”

Assured Domestic Energy Initiatives – The AF remains committed to energy conservation and the use of renewable energy. Since 1985, the AF reduced energy consumption enough to power 20,000 average sized homes for 10 yrs. “Green purchases” make up 11% of AF electricity.

- The Air Force is the largest purchaser of renewable power in the U.S. representing over 41% of total Federal purchases of renewable power – equates to reduced pollutant emissions comparable to removing about 30,000 cars from the road annually.

Total Force Integration – These initiatives enhance the Total Force organization increasing capabilities, gaining efficiencies, increasing effectiveness, and ensuring an **operationally ready Guard and Reserve** with the right equipment, right now.

- The Total Force team is essential in accomplishing our mission and has enabled the Air Force to sustain its critical contribution to our nation's fight in the GWOT – remaining at war via the AEF CONOPS.

- All emerging mission areas, including the KC-X and CSAR-X, will be operated by the Total Force, comprised of Regular, Guard and Reserve Airmen. Engaging the total force from the beginning of new mission stand-up allows for increased global reach, global vigilance and global power by all the men and women who wear the Air Force uniform.

C-17 – MCS & QDR determined 180 C-17s meet DoD warfighting needs supporting current requirements. Global War On Terror has decreased C-17 service life at a faster rate than anticipated, resulting in C-17s being added to the FY07 Air Force Unfunded Priority List.

- Discussion continues with regard to high ops-tempo and the accumulating number of flying hours on the current C-17 inventory.

Quality of Life – The Air Force has a long-standing tradition of caring for Airmen and their families—providing that quality of life is still one of our top three priorities.

- Community support programs and services are transforming to become more agile and capable if meeting the needs of both married and single Total Force Airmen while keeping pace with a smaller Air Force.

Airman Battle Uniform (ABU) – The ABU will provide Airmen with a distinctive Air Force uniform that fits better and is easier and less costly to maintain.

CV-22 Osprey – This aircraft changes the rules. With its one-of-a-kind combination of speed, range and operational flexibility, it gives Special Operations an advantage that no other fighting force in the world enjoys.

- CV-22 is the premier aviation combat system of the SOF future force.
- The CV-22 fulfills the SOF requirement for a high speed, long range, and vertical lift capability during periods of darkness. This requirement is not met by any other fixed or rotary wing platform in existence.