



# AIR FORCE KEY TALKING POINTS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION TO ARM AIRMEN WITH TOOLS TO MORE EFFECTIVELY DELIVER THE AIR FORCE MESSAGE  
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Personalize and localize these talking points as you speak to your audiences about the Air Force.  
Link your message to big Air Force themes, but make it personal to you and relevant to your local audience.

**THE MISSION OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE IS TO FLY, FIGHT AND WIN...IN AIR, SPACE AND CYBERSPACE**

## VIEW FROM THE TOP

- "Just because we are going to have more constraints on the fiscal front doesn't mean we should give in to the idea that we are somehow out of airspeed and altitude. USAF missions will continue forward. We can and will develop new concepts of operations for how to put the combination of capabilities that we have with whatever resources are available to the best operational use." – Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley
- "We're long past the point where we can have single-mission or point-mission capabilities...All systems will have to be able to swing from "high-end, general-purpose applications to lower-end, irregular warfare." – General Norton A. Schwartz, CSAF

## ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

- On October 28, 1992, President George H. W. Bush signed Public Law 102-450, enacting May as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month.
  - The purpose of this observation is to honor the achievements of Asian-Pacific Americans and to recognize their contributions to our nation.
- May was selected to memorialize two important milestones in Asian-Pacific American history: the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States on May 7, 1843, and the contributions of Chinese workers in building the transcontinental railroad, which opened in May 10, 1869.
- A diverse group of Asian-Pacific Americans has assisted the nation in building a military force capable of preserving our national liberty, while serving as a role model for other freedom-seeking nations and individuals around the world.

## MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

- In 2004, Congress passed a resolution designating May as National Military Appreciation Month to highlight the personal sacrifices of the men and women of the armed forces and their families, stating they support the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month.
- Armed Forces Day is an annual event held on the third Saturday in May, marking the unification of the armed forces under DoD.
- Military Appreciation Month culminates with Memorial Day, a federal holiday on the last Monday in May. Memorial Day, dating from the Civil War era, traditionally has marked recognition of those who have died in service to the nation.

## AIR FORCE SAFETY EMPHASIS: SPRING AVIATION

- As winter weather recedes, Air Force flight training ramps up. Based on 10-year averages, we fly 18% more hours in the spring than in the winter. On average, spring Class A/B/C aviation mishap rates are 26% higher than in the winter.
- Commanders and supervisors should take the opportunity to publicly reiterate their commitment to a safety culture and "by-the-book" compliance.
  - Urge your Airmen to *walk before they run* in their approach to spring training programs.

## AIR FORCE PRIORITIES

### REINVIGORATE THE AIR FORCE NUCLEAR ENTERPRISE

- In the six months since the unveiling of the Reinvigorating the Air Force Nuclear Enterprise Roadmap, significant progress has been made to enhance our stewardship of the nuclear deterrence mission. Even with this significant progress, more work continues to be accomplished.
- Recent opinion research shows a steady and continual increase of public attitude that the Air Force handles nuclear weapons with as much or more security as it did during the Cold War.

### PARTNER WITH THE JOINT AND COALITION TEAM TO WIN TODAY'S FIGHT

- In today's fight, Airmen are conducting 34 UAS Combat Air Patrols supporting U.S. CENTCOM's critical mission requirements. Graduates of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training who received UAS as a first assignment in Fall '08 will begin engaging in UAS missions by Jun '09.
- A new, multinational Heavy Airlift Wing will be flying C-17s out of Hungary, carrying cargo in support of NATO operations in Afghanistan and numerous other European Union/United Nations efforts. The wing will be the first of its kind, operating independently of NATO or any individual country, answering to a 12-member steering board comprising representatives from each participating country who share equal voting power.
- Airmen/aircraft from the 56th Fighter Wing at Luke AFB participated in Exercise Balikatan 2009, a joint, bilateral exercise in the Philippines, conducting operational/tactical training and civic assistance missions with the armed forces of the Philippines, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Marine Corps.

### DEVELOP AND CARE FOR AIRMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES

- The U.S. Air Force, in support of the Department of Defense's new policy allowing media coverage of dignified transfer of remains, continues to provide dignity, honor, and respect for all fallen service members while caring for and supporting their families.
  - The family of USAF Staff Sergeant Phillip A. Myers was the first to allow media to cover the dignified transfer of remains under the new policy.
- The USAF Mentoring Program is a critical component of Force Development for cultivating well-rounded, professional, and competent future leaders. All supervisors must know and accept personal responsibility for their personnel and be accountable for their professional development.
- The Airmen Development Plan (ADP) has been updated to incorporate Civilian Force Development and the Officer and Civilian Development Education application process. Additionally, the ADP has implemented an audit trail and re-instated weekly email notifications to reviewers.

### MODERNIZE OUR AIR AND SPACE INVENTORIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND TRAINING

- Air Force Quadrennial Defense Review efforts will ensure we recommend to the Secretary of Defense a balanced air, space and cyberspace force, analyzed through the filters of our Air Force priorities and core functions. Our recommendations will be optimized to work synergistically with the other services to meet the requirements of the Joint Force commanders for today's fight and the risk of future contingencies.
- The 12 Air Force core functions replace "core competency" terminology with simple and direct language that better articulates Air Force contributions to national security across the Air Force's three distinct warfighting domains and the entire spectrum of military operations.

### RECAPTURE ACQUISITION EXCELLENCE

- The Air Force has released its Acquisition Improvement Plan, which focuses on improving the Air Force acquisition process through the following five initiatives: Revitalize the Air Force Acquisition Workforce; Improve the Requirements Generation Process; Instill Budget and Financial Discipline; Improve Air Force Major Systems Source Selections; and Establish Clear Lines of Authority and Accountability within Acquisition.