



THE AIRMAN'S PERSPECTIVE ON FORCE PROTECTION

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“**Airminded**” **Force Protection (FP)**. Airmen normally think of [airpower](#) and the application of force from a functional rather than geographical perspective. [Airmen](#) do not divide up the battlefield into areas of operation as do surface forces.⁹ Airmen typically approach battle in terms of the [effects](#) they create on the adversary, rather than on the nature and location of specific targets.¹⁰ This approach normally leads to more inclusive and comprehensive perspectives that favor strategic solutions over tactical ones. This perspective extends to the Service’s views on FP and its application to the joint fight.

How Air Force forces are commanded and organized to execute FP responsibilities is influenced by this Airman’s perspective. Because of the strategic nature of airpower operations in support of the joint fight, Airmen have developed a distinct perspective. General Henry “Hap” Arnold referred to this *Airman’s perspective* as “airmindedness.”¹¹ This airmindedness reflects the range, speed, and capabilities of air, space, and cyberspace forces, as well as threats and survival imperative to supporting joint forces. The Airman’s perspective is an approach that shapes the conduct of operations and training to maximize operational effectiveness. Airmen should use their Airmen’s perspective to drive how FP is applied in support of joint operations.

⁹ Dr. Dale L. Hayden, “Air-Mindedness,” *Air & Space Power Journal*, Winter 2008. For additional information on the Airman’s Perspective, see Volume 1, [Basic Doctrine](#).

¹⁰ Annex 3-0, [Operations and Planning](#).

¹¹ Gen Henry H. “Hap” Arnold, *Third Report of the Commanding General of the Army Air Forces to the Secretary of War* (Baltimore, Md: Schneidereith, 12 November 1945), 70.