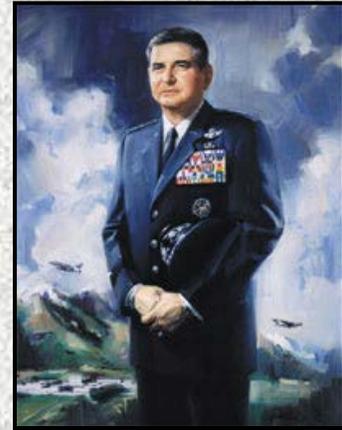




## CHAPTER TWO: AIRPOWER

Last Updated: 27 Feb 2015

*The other services have air arms—magnificent air arms—but their air arms must fit within their services, each with a fundamentally different focus. So those air arms, when in competition with the primary focus of their services, will often end up on the short end, where the priorities for resources may lead to shortfalls or decisions that are suboptimum. It is therefore important to understand that the core competencies of [airpower] are optional for the other services. They can elect to play or not play in that arena. But if the nation is to remain capable and competent in air and space [sic], someone must pay attention across the whole spectrum; that is why there is a US Air Force.*



— General Ronald R. Fogleman, USAF, retired

This section introduces the fundamentals that guide the application of airpower. It is written primarily for members of the US Air Force, but it is also applicable to anyone with the appellation of “airman,” including those of other Services and nations who share the Air Force [Airman's perspective](#) articulated in this document. Accordingly, the following discussion of airpower is intentionally not Service-specific; aspects of airpower are used across the joint force and by coalition partners. However, Airmen have a special appreciation for airpower’s broader potential. Unlike our counterparts in the other Services, Airmen do not view or study airpower as an auxiliary or complementary capability subordinate to some other branch of our Service necessary to accomplishing assigned functions or tasks. Instead, we view our expertise in the application of airpower as the main reason for the existence of an Air Force. The Air Force does not view or use airpower organically to support Service component objectives; the Air Force employs airpower to achieve the [joint force commander's](#) objectives and to complement the other components of the joint force.

Other related discussion includes the following material:

- ★ The definition of [airpower](#), along with amplifying discussion.

- ✦ An overview of the [foundations of airpower](#).
  - ✦ A discussion of “[airmindedness](#),” a term coined by General “Hap” Arnold to describe an Airman’s particular expertise and distinctive point of view.
  - ✦ An appreciation of airpower results in the [Airman’s perspective](#).
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