



THE AIRMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

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The US Air Force flies, fights, and wins in air, space, and cyberspace. The Air Force provides organized, trained, and equipped forces to support combatant commanders who are responsible for deterring attacks against the United States, its territories, possessions, and bases, and employing appropriate force should deterrence fail.¹ Air, space, and cyberspace are flexible and dynamic domains that present opportunities and vulnerabilities. These vulnerabilities, when not mitigated, may be used by America's adversaries to their advantage. The Air Force is the premier American military force capable of overcoming those vulnerabilities in defense of the United States.

Airmen are essential to the successful execution of the Air Force's responsibilities in support of the combatant commanders; therefore, they should understand and actively advocate the Airman's perspective on the use of airpower to achieve national objectives. Understanding the Airman's perspective gives Airmen a distinct advantage when performing the responsibilities of the Air Force. They approach mission accomplishment in a manner unique to those educated, trained, and experienced in bringing air-mindedness to all actions they perform. Airmen bring a perspective to performing the Air Force's mission that compounds their effectiveness in a manner best suited to support the Air Force, joint, and multinational fight.

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 operating areas.² Airmen typically approach battle in terms of creating effects to meet joint force commander objectives, rather than on the nature and location of specific targets.³ This approach normally leads to more inclusive and comprehensive perspectives that favor holistic solutions over tactical ones.

When Air Force forces are employed in various operational environments, they offer basic characteristics that, when exploited, are fundamental to the successful conduct of war and peace. These characteristics, when molded into viable force capabilities and executed by knowledgeable Airmen, enhance the overall ability of the joint force to achieve success when called upon. Therefore, each Airman should understand and be

¹ Unified Command Plan, paragraph 10.a.

² Col Dennis M. Drew, *Joint Operations: The World Looks Different from 10,000 Feet*, *Airpower Journal*, Fall 1988.

³Volume 1, [Basic Doctrine](#); Annex 3-60, [Targeting](#).

able to articulate the full potential and application of Air Force capabilities required to support the joint force and meet the nation's security requirements.
