

# USAF

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

FOUNDING CENTENNIAL & 60TH ANNIVERSARY

1907 - 1947 - 2007



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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of the United States Army Air Force

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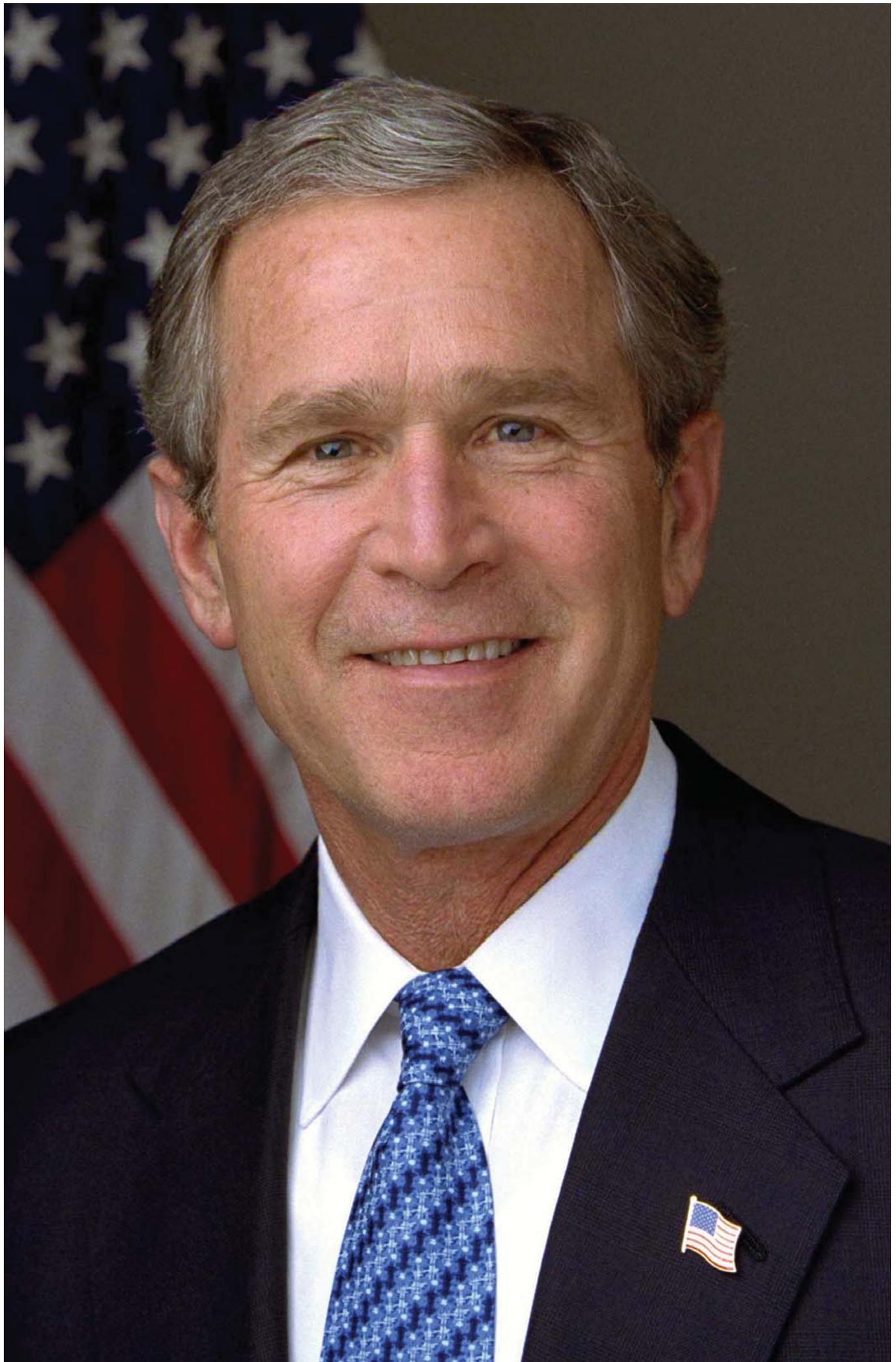
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June 25, 2007

I send greetings to those celebrating the 60th anniversary of the United States Air Force.

Nearly 100 years after Orville Wright flew the first military plane at Fort Myer, Virginia, the United States Air Force continues to use the power of flight to secure peace around the world. America is stronger because of the brave men and women of the United States Air Force who willingly assumed the duty of military life and built a great tradition of faithful service. For six decades, a long blue line of heroes have defended freedom in the skies above so that all Americans could enjoy a bright horizon of liberty and peace. The strength of these patriots has shown the power and resilience of the American spirit and the indomitable character of our Armed Forces.

For generations, our Nation's airmen have climbed sunward and chased the shouting wind, and this celebration is an opportunity to honor all who have served in the Air Force. As a part of this brotherhood, your service will be forever remembered and honored by the citizens of a free and grateful Nation. Your courage and selflessness serves as an inspiration, and our country is proud of your loyalty and patriotism.

Laura and I send our best wishes. May God bless you, may God bless our troops, veterans, and their families, and may God bless America.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George W. Bush".

ATA congratulates the Air Force on its 60th anniversary

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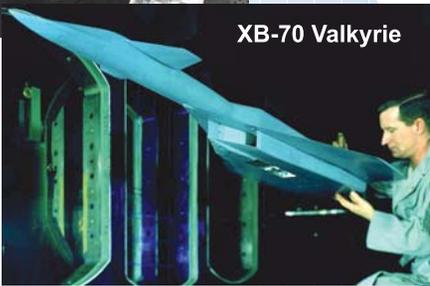
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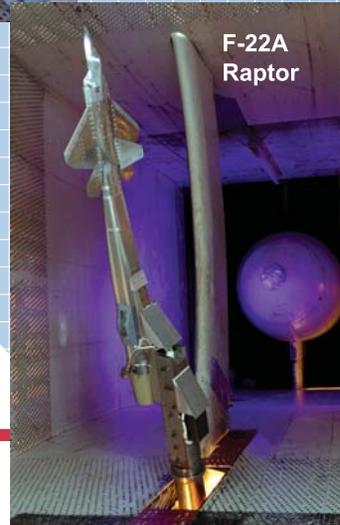
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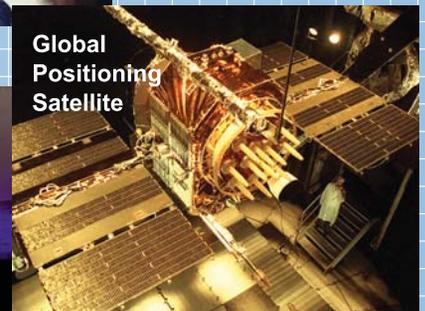
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As it reshapes and transforms, the U.S. Air Force can provide even more joint and interdependent capabilities to ensure continued dominance in air, space and cyberspace - a prerequisite for any successful engagement on land, in the air, or at sea.



## FOREWORD

### America's Asymmetric Advantage

BY MICHAEL W. WYNNE

**I**t is an honor and a privilege to be the U.S. Air Force Secretary and to contribute to this special commemorative publication, *United States Air Force, Founding Centennial & 60th Anniversary, 1907 - 1947 - 2007*. In my visits at home and abroad, our USAF Airmen are defined by their courage, efforts and innovations. This book showcases the valiant sacrifices made daily by America's courageous Airmen.

Man's quest to fly was realized on December 17, 1903. Just four years later the Army Chief Signal Officer, Brigadier General James Allen, sought bids for the first heavier-than-air American military flying machine. The specifications called for an aircraft that could carry two people, fly at 40 miles per hour for 125 miles without stopping, with controllable flight in any direction, and able to land at its takeoff point without damage. Today the U.S. Air Force has unparalleled range and payload born from this humble beginning.

Sixty years ago, on September 18, 1947, the National Security Act established the United States Air Force as an independent service within the Department of Defense. In the six decades since then, the U.S. Air Force has been pivotal as America's strategic shield and sword, protecting peace and freedom throughout the world. Since the USAF's inception, America's Airmen have kept a truly global perspective, with thinking not constrained by mountains, valleys, or shorelines. That unconstrained thinking is alive in U.S. Airmen today, and is the force that provides the Global Vigilance, Global Reach and Global Power for the United States.

Over the last 100 years air power has evolved dramatically and

shaped every major conflict. Beginning in WWI as an observation platform, the aircraft quickly adopted pursuit and ground attack roles. During WWII, technology gave rise to heavy bombers with the range and payload to be used with crippling effect in the strategic attack role. America's asymmetric advantage of air superiority was cemented in the Korean conflict, and since April 1953, no U.S. ground forces have come under attack from enemy aircraft. The Vietnam War left the USAF with many lessons learned and imprinted on our service the moral imperative and commitment to the Combat Search and Rescue mission - today only the U.S. Air Force organizes, trains and equips dedicated forces for this vital mission. Desert Storm delivered precision on a new scale and began the integration of aircraft from all services under the control of a single Airman. Air power operations in Iraq and Afghanistan can be described as seamless, precise, and lethal. Today, the USAF dominates all spectrums of conflict, across all levels of warfare and provides the United States sovereign options, from kinetic or non-kinetic strike to humanitarian relief.

Tireless efforts of air power giants like Mitchell, Arnold, Spaatz and Schriever gave us our dominance we enjoy in the Air and Space domains today. Unconstrained thinking continues today with the U.S. Air Force recognizing Cyberspace as the newest war fighting domain which we intended to dominate as well. By dominating Air, Space and now Cyberspace, America's Air Force sets the strategic and tactical conditions for victory - delivering global effects and information to joint and coalition commanders.

Currently, USAF Airmen around the world commit their energies to fighting and winning the Global War on Terror (GWOT)

67th Network Warfare Wing brings Air Force dominance to cyberspace. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Jack Braden).



while dynamically posturing for the future. Armed with the world's most advanced equipment and the best training and education, America's Airmen bring unparalleled vantage, range, payload, precision, lethality and persistence - on a global scale - to the Joint Team. Conduct during humanitarian operations around the world has proven USAF Airmen to be among America's best ambassadors - exemplars of American strength, freedom and hope.

Now, the U.S. Air Force stands at a pivotal moment in its transformation. Our service faces many challenges, including a diminishing budget, increasing operating costs, and an urgent need to recapitalize and modernize its air and space inventories. The U.S. Air Force must overcome these challenges to effectively accomplish its future missions in defense of America's freedoms and values. When terrorists attacked the United States on September 11, 2001, US Air Force fighters, AWACS and tankers immediately took to the sky to fly combat air patrols that protected our families, friends, and neighbors from further attacks. At the same time, U.S. Air Force mobility aircraft began delivering emergency relief supplies to those who needed it most in New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington D.C. Shortly after the 9/11 attacks, Airmen flying an armada of B-52s, B-2s, and B-1s launched from bases around the globe. In concert with AWACS, refueling aircraft and U.S. Air Force special operations combat controllers, these Airmen struck Taliban and al-Qaeda targets in Afghanistan, half a world away. After the fall of the Taliban and the democratic elections of a new Afghan government, America's Airmen - along with their joint and coalition partners - opened a second front in the GWOT, Iraq. Partnering with coalition and joint forces in the air and on the ground, U.S. Airmen helped remove another oppressive regime and operated in air, space and cyberspace to detect and precisely target insurgents attempting to violently disrupt the rebuilding in Iraq and Afghanistan.

### PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE

To prepare for a successful future, the Air Force has designated clear driving principles: fight and win the Global War on Terror and be ready for the Joint Fight anywhere, anytime; Take Care of our Airmen and their families; and recapitalize our war fighting assets

To help shape the future of the U.S. Air Force, I have established goals to guide the USAF Airmen. These goals include dominating our three war fighting domains, goals about mutual respect, integrity, and achieving open and transparent business practices. We have also established a culture to husband our scarce resources by fostering Air Force Smart Operations 21 by combining the business practices of Lean and Six Sigma into USAF culture.

By establishing these goals under our driving principles and by procuring the right weapon systems today - systems like a new tanker to replace Eisenhower era platforms, 5th generation fighters such as the F-22A Raptor and the F-35 Lightning II, and advanced missile warning and strategic communication satellites - we are arming future USAF Airmen with the necessary systems to dominate air, space and cyberspace as we do now.

### HERITAGE TO HORIZONS

During this 60th Anniversary commemoration, the U.S. Air Force reflects on a proud heritage of constantly evaluating and transforming defense capabilities to counter and stay ahead of changing threats to the security of the United States. In its relatively short but noble history, the U.S. Air Force has established itself as the preeminent provider of Air and Space capabilities. As it reshapes and transforms, the U.S. Air Force can provide even more joint and interdependent capabilities to ensure continued dominance in air, space and cyberspace - a prerequisite for any successful engagement on land, in the air, or at sea.

The Air Force will continue to push the envelope of technology while remaining vigilant to dangers - both conventional and unconventional - at home and around the world.

America's Air Force is proud to commemorate its 60th anniversary by reaffirming its dedication to the United States and its citizens long into the future. The U.S. Air Force is building on its heritage and soaring towards new horizons.

### MICHAEL W. WYNNE

Michael W. Wynne is the Secretary of the Air Force, Washington, D.C. He is the 21st Secretary and was confirmed on November 3, 2005. He is responsible for the affairs of the Department of the Air Force, including the organizing, training, equipping and providing for the welfare of its nearly 370,000 men and women on active duty, 180,000 members of the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve, 160,000 civilians, and their families. With an annual budget of approximately US\$110 billion, he ensures the Air Force can meet its current and future operational requirements.

Prior to assuming his current position, Mr. Wynne served as Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, and Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics. In these positions he was the principal adviser to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense for all matters relating to acquisition, research and development, and logistics management.

Before entering public service, Mr. Wynne was involved in venture capital, nurturing small technology companies through their start-up phase as a member of the NextGenFund Executive Committee. He also served in executive positions within two companies. These companies were in the field of Travel (IXATA), and Logistics (Extended Reach Logistics).

In 1999 Mr. Wynne had retired as Senior Vice President from General Dynamics, where his role was in International Development and Strategy. In between working with General Dynamics, he spent three years with Lockheed Martin, having sold the General Dynamics' Space Systems Division to then Martin Marietta. He successfully integrated the division into the Astronautics Company and became the General Manager of the Space Launch Systems segment, combining the Titan with the Atlas Launch vehicles.