



Keeping America's citizens informed about Air Force missions, people, issues and operations

January 2008

GROWING CONCERN FOR AGING AIRCRAFT

F-15s, Tankers, Airlifters:

- **Defense Focus:** [F-15s](#)' old-age crisis ([UPI](#)).
- **Opinion:** Air Force airlift options and what to do with aging cargo planes ([UPI](#)).
- **Editorial: Catastrophic Failure** - "Washington's apathy toward Air Force's geriatric fleet comes close to outright negligence" ([Air Force Magazine](#)).
- **Video:** National coverage of [F-15](#) inspections ([Aim Points](#)).
- **Defense Secretary Gates:** Air Force concern is real ([LA Times](#)).
- **F-15 A-D fleet** in worse shape than recent inspections revealed ([Air Force Magazine](#)).
- **Editorial:** The Eagles are Grounded ([Investors Business Daily](#)).
- **The real story** behind the [F-15](#) stand down ([Popular Mechanics](#)).
- **Pentagon may support AF bid** for more [F-22](#) fighters to replace the aging [F-15](#) ([Washington Post](#)).
- **Editorial:** On the wings of eagles, or not ([The Wall Street Journal](#)).
- **Keeping old military jets flying** is growing business as Air Force tries to squeeze new life out of aging fleet ([St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#)).
- **Air Guard** keeps planes flying, but is eager to get new tankers ([Foster's Daily Democrat](#)).
- **Commentary:** Strategic airlift on artificial life support ([Washington Times](#)).
- **Editorial: Crunch time for air mobility** as wartime demand for airlift has been huge and now the bill must be paid ([Air Force Magazine](#)).

WAR ON TERROR

- **Air Force videographer** exposed al-Qaida weaknesses with accurate documentation ([Investors Business Daily](#)).
- **Aerial operations** in Iraq, Afghanistan take off in '07 ([Defense News](#)).

KEY MESSAGE THIS MONTH

The Nation's Guardians: America's 21st Century Air Force

Editor's Note: Here are excerpts from the Air Force Chief of Staff's White Paper. To read the entire White Paper, click on the link below.

The Air Force exists to fly, fight and win - unhindered by time, distance and geography. The Air Force's mission is to "deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests-to fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace."

Thereby, jointly with our brothers and sisters in arms, we underwrite the defense of the Nation. As the Nation's premier global, multi-dimensional maneuver force, the Air Force safeguards America by providing Global Vigilance, Global Reach and Global Power in and through our core domains.

Military superiority and freedom of action cannot

- **U.S. military** opens flight school to help Iraqis get airborne again ([Associated Press](#)).
- **In Afghanistan**, it's about air power, too ([The Washington Post](#)).
- **Airmen** help deliver helicopters to Afghan military ([AF Link](#)).
- **Air Force engineers** improve Marine quality of life at base in Iraq ([AF Link](#)).

NEWS AROUND THE AIR FORCE

- **F-22 Raptor stealth fighter** reaches full-operation capability milestone ([Defense Daily](#)).
- **China Aims High:** Beijing's blast sets off a debate about how to protect U.S. satellites ([U.S. News & World Report](#)).
- **Deciphering Cyberspace:** Airmen fending off attacks on a new battlespace ([Airman Magazine](#)).

IN DEPTH

- **Unmanned and dangerous:** UAVs are a vital tool of modern warfare as the once harmless drones are now deadly attack aircraft ([The Economist](#)).

RESOURCES

- **Secretary of the Air Force:** [Letter to Airmen](#) - Make 2008 the Year of Achievement.
- **Air Force Roadmap:** The long-term plan for providing Air Force capabilities to the nation in the 21st century.
- **Air Force Key Talking Points:** AF talking points, priorities and themes for [January](#).
- **Air University's *The Wright Stuff*** is the recurring electronic newsletter for the intellectual and leadership center of the Air Force.
- **Air Force Heritage:** The National Museum of the U. S. Air Force [monthly newsletter](#).
- **America Supports You** [newsletter](#).
- **Air Force demographics** offer snapshot of service.

be taken for granted. To promote and defend America's interests, the Air Force must adopt a new strategy that seeks cross-domain dominance, freedom to attack and freedom from attack to gain competitive advantage through rapid, simultaneous, lethal and non-lethal effects. This, in turn, grants joint freedom of maneuver in all warfighting domains: land, sea, air, space, and cyberspace. Without our ability to present this spectrum of capabilities to the joint team, national security would be at risk.

Today's confluence of global trends, and the changing character of 21st Century warfare, already foreshadows significant challenges to our Air Force. We are at a strategic turning point demanding a comprehensive revolution. Having experienced-or vicariously learned-the cost of challenging the U.S. head-on, would-be adversaries are developing asymmetric approaches to attack vital levers of U. S. power. Meanwhile, ascendant powers seek and proliferate advanced technologies to contest U. S. superiority directly in air, space and cyberspace.

Air dominance cannot be taken for granted. From



An Air Force [MQ-9A Reaper](#) taxis in preparation for a mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The MQ-9A's primary mission is a hunter-killer against time-sensitive targets to achieve joint force commander objectives. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Brian Ferguson) Click on photo for high-res version.

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this point forward, the Air Force will be challenged in the air-and in and through space and cyberspace as well. The Global War on Terrorism is a generational struggle we must win. We also owe the Nation a holistic approach that balances today's exigencies with the far-reaching, long-term implications of looming threats.

The essence of our strategy is to use required means in innovative ways to attain the desired ends with acceptable risk, exploiting the synergies of cross-domain dominance to attain a quantum leap in mission effectiveness. We must focus on the warfighting mission, implement advanced operational concepts, leverage new technologies, and recapitalize aging equipment.

The success of the Air Force and the joint team depends upon the ability of our people and organizations to anticipate, learn and adapt-else strategic risk mounts. Complacency breeds failure. The character, tempo and velocity of modern warfare already severely test our ability to adapt. We must learn from history; the Air Force's legacy defines our role in the American way of war-

to risk the lives of Airmen to kick down the opponent's door so thousands need not die.

We give unique options-prompt, persistent, decisive air, space and cyberspace effects-to all Joint Force Commanders. Therefore, redefining the Air Force for the 21st Century is an urgent national security requirement-not a luxury we can defer. The Air Force must safeguard our ability to: see anything on the face of the earth; range it; observe or hold it at risk; supply, rescue, support or destroy it; assess the effects; and exercise global command and control of all these activities. Rising to the 21st Century challenge is not a choice. It is our responsibility to bequeath a dominant Air Force to America's joint team that will follow us in service to the nation.

For the entire White Paper, click [here](#).

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