

HERITAGE TODAY



CORE VALUES

We never stopped being Airmen. Never. We died in battle. We separated. Retired. We died of old age. But we never stopped. Not for a second. Integrity first. Service before self. Excellence in all we do. Back then those core values weren't written down anywhere. Back then we were still young and full of ourselves. But we knew what was expected of us. We were given orders. We were told what it means to be Airmen. But they were just words. They still felt like rules. We didn't feel it. Not yet. Integrity first. Service before self. Excellence in all we do. Your first couple of years, you *learn* the core values. The rest of your life you *live* them. The person you were is gone. The person you are is an Airman. You're already better than you were. It is your privilege to serve this country to the best of your abilities. It is your duty to serve beyond those abilities. What kind of Airman do you want to be? What kind of Airman does your country deserve? Every day is a test of character. We can fall. Or we can fly. Excellence is not perfection. Integrity is not sainthood. And selflessness doesn't mean you don't matter. Some people believe in setting goals for themselves they know they can reach. When your job is to do the impossible, you have to set your goals a little higher. Never give up. Never slow down. Never look below the horizon. You will grow old and you will die. But you will never stop being an Airman. Aim high, Airman.