

HERITAGE TODAY



EXCELLENCE

When we told people we were in the Air Force, they always asked, "What kind of plane do you fly?" We didn't all join the Air Force to be pilots. We joined the Air Force because we were different. We saw things different. We looked for better ways. We expected more out of ourselves. The Air Force was a place where excellence is a standard, not an achievement. We knew we had it in us to do things other people didn't have the strength, the vision or the courage to do. The world was full of people who would sure try real hard. And then tell you they were sorry. That wasn't us. That's not you. We go faster, we go higher, we go farther, we do more and we do better. Every day. We find a way. Excellence in everything we do. No matter *what* you do. There are no small jobs in the Air Force. You don't hide here. This is no place for lazy or having a bad day. There's a reason the crew chief's name is on the plane. *Everything Matters*. The uniform we issued broke the sound barrier. The reports we filed put bombs on target. The meals we cooked fueled this Air Force. Greatness will emerge in the places it is required. Your name may not make the history books or a plaque on a wall. But one day your name will be written in stone. Just like ours. We will all be remembered by the people whose lives we changed. By the Airmen we serve with. By the values we honor every day. Excellence is our standard; excellence is our tradition. Excellence is not what you reach for; excellence is the foundation you stand on to reach higher. We were never given permission to be average—not from our superiors, not from our country, not from ourselves. We gave everything. We didn't leave any jobs for you to finish. We left a mission for you to continue. Aim high, Airman.