

HERITAGE TODAY VIDEO SERIES

"SELFLESSNESS" Discussion Guide

PURPOSE

Provide a guide for Air Force leaders at any level, to initiate critical thinking and group discussion/interaction before and/or after reviewing the Heritage Today video.

DESCRIPTION

Heritage Today video series inspire and challenge Airmen with stories of Air Force heritage and emphasize the Core Values by using the enabler characteristics of character, judgment, and commitment as the building blocks of professionalism.

See what it means to be selfless in today's U.S. Air Force and take a look back at the selflessness of those who have served. In the Air Force, each generation of men and women inspires and encourages the next to aim even higher and to carry our values further. Air Force members are required to think fast and to react even faster.

EMPLOY

BEFORE VIEWING the "Selflessness" video, lead the following discussion:

- What does selflessness mean to you?
 - Throughout the discussion, highlight that the Air Force and our nation need those that think in terms of service to their country and not in the terms of what their country or the Air Force can do for them. Given this point, what would your approach to recruiting be?
- Aside from the ultimate sacrifice (which most of us will not be called to make), isn't the idea of service before self-present in all professions in some form? Does the Profession of Arms and the Air Force give itself too much credit that this is unique to us?
- Do you think selflessness means that you must put the needs of the Air Force ahead of your own family?
- It has been said that selfless acts are never rewarded. Do you think this is a true statement? Why or why not?

NOTE: the voice on the video is Technical Sergeant Raymond Santiago, a Master Military Training Instructor at USAFR JBSA-Lackland.

AFTER VIEWING the "Selflessness" video, lead the following discussion:

- What does the quote "selflessness only means something when you have something to give" mean to you?
- Staying late to assist a coworker in the completion of a high-priority task is a fine example of selflessness. Do you think selflessness can be achieved without first giving of yourself?
- How can we care and focus more about duty than glory and getting a medal?
- Selflessness is all about being strong at the right moment, and it's not an easy thing to do. Weakness takes the path of least resistance. Being selfish – wanting all the credit and none of the blame. Selflessness is achieved when we enable our fellow Airmen to accomplish their goals through our service to them.
- How can we foster selflessness?
- What are the costs associated with service before self and selflessness? Why do people accept those costs?
- Any additional comments or questions related to our discussion prior to the video?