

HERITAGE TODAY



## AFSOC

Ready. Relevant. Resilient.

Any place. Any time. Anywhere. That's not a threat. It's a promise. To our country. This original motto took shape as part of the first Air Commando Group in World War II and grew with the Chindits in Burma, the carpetbaggers in Europe, Jungle Jim in Vietnam and the hard lessons of Iran. AFSOC isn't the movies. It's real. We're small in number because not many people are cut out for this. In our business, quality is always better than quantity. Air Commandos...they like to call us elite. But if you ever hear anybody in AFSOC say they're better than anyone else, do us a favor and talk some sense into them. AFSOC is an Air Force inside the Air Force. We're not better. We've just received special training. We're *different*. We will go wherever the mission demands. We will do whatever our country requires at a moment's notice. We were never exactly the kind of kids who colored inside the lines. But we are exceptional at carrying out orders. We think outside the box. And if there's no box, we make one, and then we think outside of it. We've turned highways into runways. We can turn a shack into a hospital and perform surgery in the dark, and we'll turn a card table into an airfield command center. We get the job done. We fly some of the most unique and specialized aircraft the world has ever known, and we bring 'em back scorched, torn up and shot all to hell. And it is precisely at those moments—when you know that every second that plane is on the ground American lives are hanging in the balance—that “backyard maintenance” tips the scales. We don't take shortcuts. If there *is* a way, we find it. Seconds matter. Ready today. Relevant tomorrow. Resilient always. Those are not just words that sound good in a speech. We improvise. We make

do. We figure it out. We innovate. Ninety percent of this job is mental. That's the truth. We don't make noise, and we don't ever like to talk about ourselves. We are a close-knit family of exceptionally well-trained Airmen who take care of our own and let our actions do the talking to the rest of the world. There's a quote on a wall at a training squadron at Hurlburt with all of their fallen listed nearby. It says, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us? And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'" Any place. Any time. Anywhere. Aim high, Airman.