

HERITAGE TODAY



SELFLESSNESS

None of us were saints. Far from it. We just refused to believe that the line between right and wrong was hard to see. People always know the right thing to do. But they hesitate, because they think of themselves. The things we did, we did because we cared more about duty than glory. We cared more about getting it done than getting a medal. We never thought how could I do this? We thought how could we not do this? What were we gonna do, let somebody else do our job? Because it was hard? We want you to fly this jet through the sound barrier. Yes, sir. We need you to jump out of a balloon in outer space to see if a human can survive the fall. Yes, sir. We need you to fly a bomber from an aircraft carrier for a raid on Tokyo, and you probably won't come back. Yes, sir. Selflessness only means something when you have something to give. Airman, you have so much inside you, you have no idea. You will think of your mission and you will think of your country. And you will not hesitate. Some people think we're trained so that we don't think—we just react. No. In the Air Force, we're just trained to think faster. We are required to think at seven times the speed of sound. A hundred billion terabytes come at you in a nanosecond. And 300 million American heartbeats are waiting and wondering what you're going to do to keep them safe. Right now. Fear is natural. The most primitive human instinct is to save your own skin, to think of yourself first. To wonder, "Who will make that sacrifice for me? If I'm watching over the world, who's watching over me?" We are. You are not alone. You will not hesitate. Aim high, Airman.