

HERITAGE TODAY



Defenders



WHEN YOUR JOB IS CONSTANT VIGILANCE, YOU CAN'T HELP BUT SEE THINGS. THE AIR FORCE STARTED THE AIR POLICE IN 1947. LET ME TELL YOU, WE'VE SEEN THINGS.

YOU DON'T KNOW THE TRUE MEANING OF BEING BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE UNTIL YOU REALIZE YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO APPREHEND A FELLOW AIRMEN. WE'VE STOOD AT GATES AND CHECKED A MILLION AND ONE IDS. WE'VE GONE TO HOMES ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CALLS, PEOPLE THREATENING TO HURT THEMSELVES AND BREAK-INS.

WE'VE RESPONDED TO ACTIVE SHOOTERS ON BASE. WE'VE KEPT OUR RIFLES POINTED AT THE HORIZON NIGHT AND DAY WITH NUCLEAR MISSILES BEHIND US. WE'VE GUARDED AIR FORCE ONE. WE'VE LOST PEOPLE IN COMBAT AND AT HOME.

WE'VE BEEN ATTACKED FOR BEING AMERICANS. WE'VE BEEN THANKED FOR BEING AMERICANS. THROUGH WAR AND PEACETIME, DEPLOYED AND STATESIDE, WE SEE IT ALL. OUR FELLOW AIRMEN AT THEIR BEST AND AT THEIR WORST. THEIR MOST VULNERABLE. FIRM COMPASSION AND RESPECT. THAT'S WHAT YOU DO.

THIS IS REAL LIFE. AND WE'RE ALL HUMAN. AND BECAUSE WE'RE ALL HUMAN, THERE WILL BE CHAOS IN THE WORLD. ETERNAL VIGILANCE IS THE PRICE WE PAY FOR FREEDOM.

EVERYTHING THAT MOVES OR MAKES A SOUND IN THE NIGHT OUTSIDE THE WIRE IS A SUICIDE BOMBER. OR A SNIPER. OR SOMETHING WE CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE. AND EVERYONE INSIDE THE WIRE ARE AIRMEN. SAFE, ASLEEP AND DEPENDING ON US. WE'RE TRAINED TO BE READY FOR ANYTHING. ALWAYS.

WE ARE THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE. DEFENSOR FORTIS. DEFENDERS OF AIRMEN, DEFENDERS OF OUR ASSETS, DEFENDERS OF OUR CORE VALUES. AND IF THERE'S ONE THING WE NEVER HAVE TO DEFEND, IT'S OUR PLACE IN THIS AIR FORCE.

WE'RE COPS, GUARDIANS OF THE GUARDIANS, DOG HANDLERS, WEAPONS INSTRUCTORS. SECURITY FORCES. DEFENDERS.

WE WILL STILL BUST YOU FOR SPEEDING. WE WILL SEARCH YOUR CAR NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE. AND WE WILL PROTECT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AND KEEP YOU SAFE INSIDE THE FENCE. ON CONVOYS...ON THE FLIGHT LINE...WE WILL STAND OUR POSTS AND DO OUR DUTIES, BECAUSE YOU ARE OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS. WE'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOU. EVERY, SINGLE, ONE OF YOU.

WE WATCH LIKE HUNTERS. WE LISTEN LIKE PARENTS. OUR BEST DAYS ARE THE ONES PEOPLE MAKE JOKES ABOUT—DAYS WHERE NOTHING HAPPENS. ABSOLUTELY NOTHING. AND ON THOSE QUIET DAYS WHEN NOTHING HAPPENS, YOU'RE WELCOME.

AIM HIGH, AIRMAN.