

HERITAGE TODAY



USAFE-AFAFRICA

The Forward Edge



IT WAS A TIME WHEN THE WORLD CHOSE SIDES. WHEN NATIONS BANDED TOGETHER. WE FOUGHT TOGETHER. DIED TOGETHER. AFTER THE WAR, MOST OF US WENT HOME. WE WERE THE ONES THAT STAYED. WE WERE AMERICANS. AND WE WERE BURIED IN FOREIGN SOIL.

WE'RE FOREVER A PART OF THIS LAND. FOREVER CONNECTING AMERICA TO THESE COUNTRIES AND PLACES MOST OF US HAD NEVER BEEN TO. NORMANDY. TUNISIA. ENGLAND. YOU CAN SEE THE GRAVES. VISIT THE BATTLEFIELDS. YOU CAN TOUR AUSCHWITZ. THE BERLIN WALL IS A STREET YOU CAN WALK.

WE FLEW OVER THE BEACHES. OVER THE CITIES. OVER THE DESERTS. BEYOND SEAS AND BORDERS. AND ACROSS GENERATIONS.

FROM WORLD WAR II THROUGH THE COLD WAR AND RIGHT UP TO TODAY, ONE PART OF OUR MISSION IN EUROPE AND AFRICA HAS NEVER CHANGED: FREEDOM.

WE ARE IN EUROPE AND AFRICA TO KEEP WAR AWAY FROM OUR SHORES. BUT OUR VISION HAS EVOLVED. FREEDOM MEANS TRUST, TRAINING AND TEAMWORK WITH OUR NATO ALLIES AND PARTNERS. WE ARE COMPATRIOTS OF CAUSE, IF NOT OF COUNTRY.

THE WORLD IS A COMPLICATED PLACE. WE ARE PEACEKEEPERS AND WARRIORS. LIBERATORS AND DETERRENTS. STRENGTH AND COMPASSION LIVE BESIDE CONFLICT AND ALLIANCES.

A LOT OF AIRMEN TODAY REQUEST EUROPE. THE CULTURE, THE EXPERIENCE, PLACES YOU'RE EXCITED TO SEE...YOU CAN'T DENY. BUT WE'RE HERE FOR SOMETHING MORE. WE COME TO THESE COUNTRIES FOR OUR COUNTRY – TO WORK BY, WITH, AND THROUGH OUR HOST NATIONS. OUR ALLIES.

24/7 ACROSS TWO CONTINENTS. READY TO DEPLOY. READY TO DO WHATEVER IS REQUIRED. ONE DAY IT'S POLICING THE BALTICS SKIES, THE NEXT IT'S SHORT FIELD/ASSAULT LANDINGS ON DIRT AIRSTRIPS TO DEPLOY MEDICAL TRAINING TEAMS TO A NIGERIAN VILLAGE.

DO WE GET HOMESICK? ONLY EVERY DAY.

WHEN WE'RE STATESIDE AND WE GO OFF-BASE, WE REPRESENT THE AIR FORCE, THE DoD. OVER HERE, WE REPRESENT AMERICA. THIS IS AN HONOR FOR US. YOU DON'T FIGHT BECAUSE YOU HATE WHAT'S IN FRONT OF YOU; YOU FIGHT BECAUSE YOU LOVE WHAT'S BEHIND YOU.

BACK HOME ON THE NEWS, OUR FAMILIES HEAR AL-SHABAAB, BOKO HARAM...AND THEY WORRY. THEY HEAR THINGS ABOUT REGIMES, COUPS AND CIVIL WARS...AND WE TELL THEM THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE. WE SEE THE WORLD UP CLOSE. UGLY, BEAUTIFUL, BRUTAL AND KIND. WE SEE HISTORY AND POSSIBILITY. AND WE KNOW THAT COMMAND GROUND LEADS TO HIGHER GROUND. IT'S NOT OUR JOB TO FIGURE OUT AMERICA'S PLACE IN THE WORLD. WE JUST KNOW OUR PLACE IS HERE. READY FOR WAR. FORGING BONDS. CONNECTED TO THESE LANDS AND THESE PEOPLE. THESE COUNTRIES THAT MOST OF US HAVE NEVER BEEN TO.

OVER THE BEACHES. OVER THE CITIES. OVER THE DESERTS. BEYOND SEAS AND BORDERS.
AND ACROSS GENERATIONS. WE COMMAND, CONTROL AND SECURE OUR SOVEREIGN SKIES.
WE CARRY ON THE LEGACY. WE CARRY ON THE MISSION. AND WE SERVE ON FOREIGN SOIL.

AIM HIGH, AIRMAN.

Note: Video was voiced by Capt. Henry Hahm, currently a Chaplain assigned to the Air Force Recruiting Service, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas