

Examining the Oath

I (name) do solemnly swear (or affirm):

Signifies a public statement of commitment. You are accepting responsibility for your actions. (Integrity First and Service Before Self)

That I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State (Commonwealth, District, Territory) of ___:

You are not swearing to support the President, the Country, the flag or a particular service, but rather the Constitution which symbolizes all of these things. You are additionally committed to the authority of the governor of your state. (Airman's Creed)

Against all enemies, foreign and domestic:

In addition to service to your local or state emergencies We must always be prepared for current and future wartime operations. (Service Before Self and Airman's Creed)

That I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same:

Officers pledge allegiance to the nation, not a military service or organization. (Service Before Self)

That I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion:

Your word is your bond! Without integrity the moral pillar of our core values is lost. (Integrity First and Airman's Creed)

And that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office of (grade) in the Air National Guard of the State (Commonwealth, District, Territory) of ___ upon which I am about to enter: Promising to give it our all. (Excellence in all we do and Airman's Creeds)

The Oath of Office

“I [state your full name], do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State (Commonwealth, District, Territory) of ___ against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the Governor of the State (Commonwealth, District, Territory) of ___, that I make this obligation freely, without any mental reservations or purpose of evasion, and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office of [grade] in the Air National Guard of the state (Commonwealth, District, Territory) of ___ upon which I am about to enter, so help me God.



<http://www.airman.af.mil>

The Oath of Office

For an Officer of the Air National Guard



You know the Air Force Core Values and you know the Airman's Creed...

**However,
do you truly understand the
Oath of Office and all it means?**

Purpose:

- As an Airman who has taken and possibly administered the Oath... How well do you understand the history, importance and significance of the words of this oath?
- All Airmen take an oath upon entry into the service. Officers take the Oath of Office upon commissioning and renew that oath with each promotion. Enlisted members take the Oath of Enlistment upon entry and again each time they re-enlist.
- The purpose of this document is to equip you with some background information. We challenge you to take this information and educate those taking the oath on just how important the act of swearing to support and defend our Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State (Commonwealth, District, Territory) is.
- When taking the oath we must better understand its significance and how it ties into our core values, our Airman's Creed, and our Profession of Arms.
- Take this information and apply it the next time you are asked to perform a re-enlistment or officer promotion, reemphasize their purpose as an American Airman!

History of the Oath

- There are many different Oaths, but all include some form of formal declaration or promise to fulfill a pledge, often calling on God, a higher being, or a sacred object as witness to truth, commitment, sincerity of your statement/promise; with an implication of divine judgment in the event of falsehood or breach of obligation.
 - Military oaths call on a higher power (So help me God), to perform to the best of our ability (excellence in all we do), a sense of honor (without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion), consequences of failing to live up to one's word. (UCMJ)
 - Military oaths have been around since the ancient Roman times; many pledged loyalty to a specific general officer for a specific campaign.
 - Oaths existed in the US since early colonial days; in the 1600s, the Pilgrims established the Mayflower Compact—which served as an oath, a covenant, and a constitution.
 - The first law statute of the United States of America, 1 Jun 1789. Statute 1, Chapter 1: an act to regulate the time and manner of administering certain oaths, which established the oath required by civil and military officials to support the Constitution.
 - Originally, both officers and enlisted personnel took the same oath, as required by Congress in April 1790.
 - In 1862 the officer oath became separated from the enlisted oath, and the word defend was added to verify their loyalty during the Civil War.
 - 11 Jul 1868: Oath of Office changed to require “I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States” from “bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America.
 - 5 Oct 1962: The enlisted oath wording changed to support the Constitution.
- Our oath is more than a formality that adds flair to a commissioning or promotion ceremony. It provides the foundation of our military.

