

WARRIOR



Happy
Birthday
TO THE WORLD'S GREATEST

pg. **8**



SecAF outlines Air Force priorities during speech

By Tech. Sgt. Natalie Stanley
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson discussed the state of the Air Force during the Air Force Association's Air, Space and Cyber Conference Sept. 18, 2017.

Wilson covered the Air Force's five priorities, all driven by the needs of the nation.

"We have been doing too much, for too long, with too few and that has to change," said Wilson. "We have to plan and prepare for the high-end fight."

Wilson stressed the need to restore readiness, cost-effectively modernize, drive innovation, develop exceptional leaders and strengthen alliances.

"The stark reality is the United States Air Force is too small to do all that the nation expects of it," said Wilson.

According to Wilson, the past 26 years of constant combat operations has come at a cost to the Air Force's personnel and equipment. The demand for what Airmen bring to the fight will only increase, and it is vital to take steps to ensure the readiness of the force.

"The greatest risk we're facing here at home ... is the risk of not having a budget," said Wilson. "We put forward a budget that begins to restore the readiness of the force, so that we can win any fight, any time."

Winning the fight would be at risk if a budget isn't approved, she added.

Readiness begins with people and we must continue to grow the force to perform current and future missions she said.

"Americans need to understand, low readiness for a crisis doesn't mean we won't go ... what it means is fewer will come back," said Wilson.

The Air Force is working on the acquisitions process to get items from the factory to the flightline efficiently and expeditiously in order to win the conventional and unconventional fight.

"Adversaries are modernizing and innovating faster than we are," said Wilson. "We have to be able to evolve faster, to respond faster than our potential adversaries."

With an increase of modernization over the next 10 years in the form of bombers, fighters, tankers, satellites and helicopters, it is paramount to harness the power of innovators and entrepreneurs within the Air Force, across the country and throughout the world.



U.S. Air Force photo by Andy Morataya
Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson discusses the state of the Air Force during the Air Force Association's Air, Space and Cyber Conference at National Harbor, Md., Sept. 18, 2017.

"Innovation is the hallmark of the United States Air Force," said Wilson. "From time to time it is important to refresh our science and technology strategy, to step back from the programs and problems of today and project 10 or 20 years into the future."

Wilson announced the Air Force will conduct a 12-month Science and Technology review to update its research priorities and strategy.

Innovation not only happens in academic environments, but also out on the flight line where Airmen are doing the job every day.

"The chief and I are trying to put in place processes that are going to push authorities down to the lowest appropriate level," said Wilson. "We've started to simplify Air Force instructions and policies so that we stop telling Airmen how to do everything, and tell them what to do instead."

The Air Force will continue to lead and support the joint force in defending the U.S. by developing innovative leaders who can thrive in joint teams and develop strong military partnerships.

According to Wilson, a service doesn't win on its own, and the Air Force's allies and partners are friendly centers of gravity.

"Air and space superiority is not America's birthright," said Wilson. "We've earned it the hard way, and we are not going to give it up without a fight."



U.S. Air Force photo by Wayne A. Clark

Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson speaks at the Air, Space and Cyber Conference at National Harbor, Md., Sept. 18, 2017.

THE WARRIOR

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On the cover

U.S. Air Force graphic by
Senior Airman Jovan Banks

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the United States Air Force. American Airmen have been breaking barriers for 70 years in air, space and cyberspace, resulting in global vigilance, reach and power.

NEWS BRIEFS



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WEATHER

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Hi 89	Hi 88
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Hi 87	Hi 84
Lo 69	Lo 66

CSAF delivers Air Force update



U.S. Air Force photo by Wayne A. Clark

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein gives his Air Force update during the Air Force Association Air, Space and Cyber Conference in National Harbor, Md., Sept. 19, 2017.

By Staff Sgt. Megan Friedl
Defense Media Activity

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein provided an update to his three focus areas during his remarks at the Air Force Association Air, Space and Cyber Conference in National Harbor, Sept. 19, 2017.

Goldfein announced his three focus areas – revitalizing squadrons, strengthening joint leaders and teams, and advancing multi-domain command and control – during last year's conference.

"A year ago I came out on this stage and laid out for you three focus areas," Goldfein said. "Big rocks, we call them, because they're big and they're heavy, and it's going to take all of us lifting together to get them moved. By design, it should not be surprising to you that they fit perfectly and are nested under our five [Air Force] priorities."

Three teams, led by a brigadier general and command chief master sergeant, reviewed each of these efforts over the course of nine months and reported back on what they learned, and the actions they've taken to date, setting the table for the important work ahead.

Air Force senior leaders agree the first priority is to restore readiness and drive innovation, which Goldfein said begins at the squadron, the heartbeat of the Air Force.

One overwhelming truth came out of the review done in the last nine months ... barriers to success need to



be removed, Goldfein said.

"How do we ensure we're not doing additional duties that are taking up essential time and actually not adding to the readiness of the squadron," Goldfein asked.

Air Force senior leaders are minimizing computer-based training and adding commander support staffs and civilians back into the squadrons to take on some of those roles. They are also reviewing all Air Force instructions and empowering commanders to maneuver and make decisions. In turn, Goldfein encouraged wing commanders to let squadron commanders make these decisions.

Ultimately each of these changes is part of the work the Air Force is doing to push decision authority back to the lowest practical level.

With the Air Force being part of every mission the joint team executes, strengthening joint leaders and teams is vital to mission success, Goldfein added.

As military leaders look at operational war plans, the common theme across all the possible military campaigns is air and space.

"As we strengthen how we build joint leaders and develop exceptional leaders for the future, it's important that we acknowledge the inherently joint nature of air and space power," Goldfein said. "We must train Airmen to bring air, space and cyber capabilities together with all the other elements of a strategic military campaign."

This will enable Goldfein's responsibility of organizing trained and equipped ready forces for a combatant commander as the Air Force plans to deploy Airmen in teams of three beginning Oct. 1, 2017.

Goldfein also highlighted the importance of seeking ways to connect capabilities rather than focusing on individual platforms in future warfare. This requires agile and resilient networks.

"We are transitioning from wars of attrition to wars of cognition," Goldfein said. "It forces us to ask different questions of industry. Now we are starting the dialogue with ... does it connect ... and ... can it share. We're putting together a wargame that's focused on these concepts."

The three focus areas converge in a singular vision to create healthy squadrons, who excel in multi-domain warfare and ready to lead the joint force.

"It's the secretary and my job to release the brilliance found throughout the Airmen in our Air Force," said Goldfein.

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509th Civil Engineer Squadron

Supporting the Bomb Wing commander's main priority

By Lt. Col. Miroslav Karamarinov

509th Bomb Wing Civil Engineer commander

I often wonder what comes to mind to the average Whiteman Air Force Base (AFB) resident when someone mentions Civil Engineer (CE). I'd imagine it is something like this: "We better call CE, the air conditioning is not working and the sink in the break room is clogged." There is more than that.

While the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron (CES) is taking care of the base buildings and infrastructure, our main goal is to deliver no-fail engineer support and train Airmen to meet the 509th Bomb Wing commander's number one priority of providing our nation with a viable platform to deliver strategic deterrence, global strike, and to deliver combat support to the combatant commanders worldwide.

One of our nation's nuclear triad prongs that makes that strategic deterrence and global strike an executable option for our commander in chief is the most advanced bomber in the world – the magnificent B-2 Spirit. Conceived towards the end of the Cold War to penetrate the most sophisticated integrated air defense systems (IADS) in the world, it depends on a well-kept and no-fail functioning airfield as well as aircraft facilities in order to be properly maintained, fueled, loaded with ordnance, and ready to take off when it's needed to fulfill its mission.

That's where the hard work of the Airmen from the engineering and the operations flight shows its criticality. Just this year they have programmed, planned, and executed four airfield repair and enhancement projects worth \$6.8 million as well as performed 1,705 work orders worth \$602,000 and over 5,500 hours in structural, utility, electrical, Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning, and horizontal maintenance keeping the B-2 docks and supporting facilities ready to launch and recover the aircraft. Furthermore, the squadron emergency services – Explosive Ordinance Disposal, Fire Department, and Emergency Management, have provided the stand-by capabilities to ensure the safety of the aircrews and the aircraft during flying operations.

The engineers have done all of that work to enable the home station mission while training and preparing to deliver combat support overseas. The squadron prime base engineer emergency force (Prime BEEF) has prepared civil engineering force teams for worldwide direct and indirect combat support roles.

Prime BEEF traces its lineage to the Lebanon Crisis of 1958, the Berlin Crisis of 1961, and the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 that highlighted the need to organize and maintain Air Force civil engineer deployable capability to provide airfields, water, electricity, and



Lt. Col. Miroslav Karamarinov

housing at austere locations.

The squadrons Prime BEEF training program includes monthly home station training in each of the squadron nine crafts, as well as weapons training and qualifications for all personnel. In addition, engineers go on temporary assignments to other bases such as Tyndall AFB to accomplish mission essential equipment training on equipment that is not available here at Whiteman AFB. There they train to stay proficient in operating equipment such as reversed osmosis water purification units (ROWPU), Emergency Airfield Lighting Systems (EALS), Mobile Aircraft Arresting Systems (MAAS), etc. Currently 68 of the squadron engineers are deployed world-wide delivering premiere combat support to two combatant commanders and we are training the next team to go out there next year.

I appreciate the opportunity to highlight what we bring to the fight and put in perspective the purpose and main reason for the 509th CES existence. Maintaining the home of the B-2 in top shape and training engineers directly relates to the bomb wing commander's number one mission priority of providing our nation with a viable platform to deliver strategic deterrence, global strike, and delivering combat support to the combatant commanders worldwide.

As a squadron we live up to a proud and mission oriented heritage that started back in 1948 with the creation of the 509th Installation Squadron, Bombardment, Medium. From that very beginning we were given our priority by having "Bombardment" in the squadron's name! I will continue to emphasize such priority when addressing my engineers and instill in them a sense of pride for the way they support such a great mission.

From one oath to another

By Airman 1st Class Taylor Phifer
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

As time progressed from the day they both enlisted in the Air Force, the couple approached the inevitable fork in the road: should they stay in the military or not.

On Sept. 5, 2017, U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Dominic Bergamasco, a client systems technician assigned to the 509th Communications Squadron, and his wife, Staff Sgt. Robin Bergamasco, an administrator assigned to the 72d Test and Evaluation Squadron, decided to re-enlist for another four years in the military.

Dominic grew up in Pennsylvania where he went to college for a couple years after high school, but knew he wanted something more out of life. He came from a military background with his father, uncle and cousins all previously serving in the military. After talking to his father, Dominic decided he wanted to join the Air Force and follow in his family's footsteps.

From a small town in Michigan, Robin joined the Air Force soon after graduating from high school. She wanted a change in her life and wanted to travel, so she knew the military was her best option. Robin was the first member of her family to join the service.

The two both left for Basic Military Training (BMT) on Jan. 17, 2012. They

didn't know it at the time, but they would soon be a major part of each other's life. In BMT, Dominic was in Robin's brother flight, which is where they first remember seeing each other.

"I would occasionally see him when we went to chow, classes or appointments," said Robin. "We couldn't talk in BMT, but technical school was a different story."

After completing BMT, both of them were sent to Keesler Air Force Base (AFB), Mississippi. Although they attended different technical schools while at Keesler, they were required to take the same orientation class. The mandatory class was where they officially met.

"I remember him sitting in front of me in that very first class," said Robin. "That's when Dominic and I started to build a friendship that later turned into a great relationship."

After building a friendship, the two decided to start dating which soon meant putting in the effort for a long-distance relationship as they moved to different parts of the country. In June 2012, Robin headed for her first duty station at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. Soon after in August 2012, Dominic made his way to Langley AFB, Virginia.

They continued their long-distance relationship and later married in June 2013, in Robin's hometown. After the wedding, Dominic soon joined his wife



Courtesy photo

U.S. Air Force Capt. Robert Bergamasco, an airfield operations officer assigned to the 305th Operations Support Squadron located at joint base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, swears in Staff Sgt. Dominic Bergamasco, a client systems technician assigned to the 509th Communications Squadron, and Staff Sgt. Robin Bergamasco, an administrator assigned to the 72d Test and Evaluation Squadron, during a re-enlistment ceremony at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Sept. 5, 2017. Dominic and Robin began their Air Force careers on the same day on Jan. 17, 2012, and decided to continue serving together to keep the tradition in their family.

in Alaska. About three years later, the couple was sent to Whiteman AFB, Missouri.

With almost six years in the service, it was time for the couple to decide whether they would leave or stay in the military. After discussing their options, they both made the decision to re-enlist and continue serving their country.

"I decided to stay in the military because I love the Air Force and my job," said Dominic. "I wouldn't want to do anything else."

The couple knew they wanted to do the ceremony together since they swore in for the first time back in 2012. For the re-enlistment ceremony, Dominic's cousin, Capt. Robert Bergamasco, an airfield operations officer assigned to the 305th Operations Support Squadron located at joint base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, travelled to Whiteman to swear them in.

"He flew here from his base in New Jersey ... my cousin and I have always been really close, so it meant a lot for him to do this for us" said Dominic.

This event brought these family members together and was an emotional moment in their lives.

"It was amazing to have a family member that could swear us in," said Robin. "When you re-enlist, you try to pick an officer that is significant to you, and it's great that we had such a close family member who could do this for us."

Any officer could have done the ceremony, but Dominic's cousin, Robert, was happy to fly to Whiteman in order to do this for them and make it even more special.

"It was an honor to be involved in their re-enlistment," said Robert. "The way we did this ceremony meant a lot to our families. The distance of our bases was not a problem for us, no matter where those two ended up I wasn't going to miss this unforgettable opportunity."

On Sept. 5, 2017, the Bergamascos raised their right hands again and made an oath to continue serving in the Air Force while carrying out their family tradition.

"It was amazing to have a family member that could swear us in," said Staff Sgt. Robin Bergamasco, an administrator assigned to the 72d Test and Evaluation Squadron "When you re-enlist, you try to pick an officer that is significant to you, and it's great that we had such a close family member who could do this for us."



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Long range strike operations in Libya



U.S. Air Force photo by Andy Morataya
Brig. Gen. John Nichols, 509th Bomb Wing commander, hosts a panel discussion about long range strike operations in Libya during the Air Force Association Air, Space and Cyber conference in National Harbor, Md., Sept. 19, 2017.

By Staff Sgt. Megan Friedl
Defense Media Activity

Brig. Gen. John Nichols, 509th Bomb Wing commander, along with aircrew directly involved with the Libya mission, discussed their actions during the mission, long range strike operations and the B-2 Spirit during a panel at the Air Force Association Air, Space and Cyber Conference, Sept. 19, 2017.

Projecting global reach and global strike capability is a complex operation requiring vigilance from maintenance to aircrews who ensured two B-2s from Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, flew a 33-hour mission to North Libya as part of Operation Odyssey Lightning, Jan. 18, 2017.

The pilots successfully dropped 85 precision-guided munitions, killing approximately 100 Islamic State of Iraq and Syria terrorists during the mission to destroy the ISIS training camps.

“It was certainly a global power mission,” said Nichols. “Thanks to our [Air Mobility Command] partners; there were five total air refuelings.”

Part of global power is the Air Force’s ability to strike an enemy anywhere in the world, on short notice.

Maj. Christopher Conant, Odyssey Lightning B-2 pilot and Air Force strategic-policy fellow, emphasized the teamwork required to make the mission possible.

“The key takeaway, I think we’re trying to communicate is exactly what the chief and secretary said the last two days; this orchestra we call air power is not easy,” said Conant. “We make it look easy, but it’s not.”

Since August 2014, Airmen have executed more than 150 sorties daily and conducted more than 70 percent of all coalition airstrikes against ISIS targets.

“None of these weapons are actually built and ready to go,” said Senior Master Sgt. Matthew Mullins, 131st Bomb Wing Maintenance weapons section chief. “They’re very specific to what the mission and the target is.”

Mullins described the complexity of making this mission happen.

“They actually got the bombs out in just a few hours, which is a pretty amazing feat,” said Mullins. “They can build one of these weapons in about five minutes. It also takes additional five minutes to load one of these weapons.”

While all of this was happening, Whiteman AFB was in the middle of a nonconventional maintenance cycle.

“At no point were we going to fail at either mission,” said Staff Sgt. Bryan Nixon, 509th Operations Support Squadron B-2 target intelligence noncommissioned officer in charge. “We succeeded on both sides. We do not fail.”

**See Something ...
Say Something**

AF announces 100% promotion to Major

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

In the latest move to restore the Air Force's readiness and lethality, senior leaders are taking a closer look at officer performance management with a focus on developing leaders and retaining the talented professionals the service needs.

Over the last year, Headquarters Air Force has conducted research and developed recommendations on a variety of officer performance management related tools, to include evaluations and promotions. The goal is to better identify talent, future potential and plan for current and anticipated officer shortages.

"There have been no major changes to the Officer Evaluation System in nearly 30 years, but there have been significant changes to our force composition, mission, requirements and how our performance system reflects what we value in officers," said Lt. Gen. Gina Grosso, Air Force deputy chief of staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services.

"Although the system hasn't changed, challenges with agility, efficiency, consistency and transparency have been documented by research and in the field for over 20 years," said Maj. Mike Lupher, chief of Workforce Development for the Air Force Talent Management Innovation Cell. "We recognized we needed to do something about it and are taking a comprehensive approach to addressing these challenges."

Field Grade Officer Requirements and Promotion Opportunity

One of the immediate needs senior leaders focused on was the service's requirement for growing and developing enough field-grade officers to meet mission demands. At 92 percent, the Air Force is currently undermanned in Line of the Air Force field-grade officers, with non-rated field-grade officers manned at 74 percent.

As such, beginning December 2017, the pool of line officers considered for promotion to major will have a 100 percent promotion opportunity. Promotion opportunity rates are typically adjusted as required to meet the needs of the Air Force.

"With this change, captains whose conduct has been exemplary can expect to be promoted to major," said Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson. "We've been letting capable people leave the service and we need them."



U.S. Air Force graphic by Kat Bailey

This initiative is expected to help retain officers to meet the demands of our growing force and help restore mission-capable squadrons. Like all other promotion boards, opportunity rates do not guarantee promotion.

Promotion Recommendation Forms will only be required for officers who receive a "Promote" recommendation and have derogatory information such as an Article 15, court-martial, referral report, or letter of reprimand filed in their Officer Selection Record, as well as for officers with a "Do Not Promote" recommendation.

"I fully trust raters and senior raters to continue to ensure the Air Force's high standards of conduct," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen David Goldfein.

'One more swing of the axe'

Goldfein also characterized the move as "one more swing of the axe" for him and Secretary Wilson to increase the lethality and readiness of the force, while smartly reducing administrative burdens on squadron commanders.

"This change, along with many other initiatives, will help re-

inforce our trust and confidence in squadron leadership and their management of our talented Airmen," Goldfein said.

Air Force officials said they will continue to review the research and recommendations on how to improve officer performance management, and will announce new initiatives once they're approved and ready for deliberate phased implementation.

Other talent management initiatives recently implemented by the Air Force as part of its broader effort to restore readiness and lethality include continuing to grow the force, reducing unnecessary administrative burdens on Airmen, alleviating unneeded Air Force instructions, providing commanders more say in developmental education opportunities, tackling the pilot retention crisis and more acutely focusing on the needs of Airmen at the squadron level to ensure they are fully prepared to accomplish their missions.

Happy birthday United States Air Force: 70 Years of excellence

By Gen. Robin Rand
Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command

Strikers,
Our Air Force is 70 years old! As we reflect on the proud heritage of our service, which has kept our nation safe for the past seven decades, we must remember that our success was not by accident. It was built on the shoulders of generations of selfless Airmen, who through innovation and hard work, found ways to always get the job done.
The theme this year is "Breaking Barriers." For 70 years, our Airmen have overcome seemingly impossible odds and insurmountable milestones. From the trials and tribulations of testing the first intercontinental ballistic missiles to extending the range of our strategic bombers, our Strategic Air Command forefathers established a foundation of success you are building on day in and day out.
Our Global Strike Airmen continue this legacy of staying at the forefront by maintaining the lethality of our Minuteman III and strategic bombers. It's an effort that requires all of our efforts - from our Huey aircrews to chefs, defenders, maintainers and service support Airmen.
As Air Force Global Strike Airmen, we have a unique responsibility - not only are we charged with winning our nation's wars, we are equally charged with preventing them. Make no mistake, we are the ones responsible for the Air Force's portion of the nuclear enterprise.
No matter your Air Force Specialty code, you work tirelessly to show the

world that our forces are responsive, survivable and lethal to meet today's challenges. Four times a year, you conduct an operational test launch of an unarmed Minuteman III, the only Intercontinental Ballistic Missile in our nation's active inventory. These tests prove the reliability and effectiveness of the weapon system and demonstrate our ability to conduct a rapid response to any act of aggression.
While missileers man the watch, our B-1, B-2 and B-52 Airmen continue to conduct operations in support of combatant commands around the world. While our B-1s are maintaining a Continuous Bomber Presence in the Pacific, our B-52s are in the Middle East eliminating the threat of ISIS, and in the meantime our forces are busy conducting exercises and operations with every combatant command. Additionally, our Huey aircrews, defenders, maintainers, and medics are supporting and protecting our missile fields.
Apart from our bomber and missile forces, we also have Airmen dedicated to the E-4B aircraft, providing international travel support for the Secretary of Defense and serving as the National Airborne Operations Center, a highly survivable command, control and communications center to direct U.S. forces, execute emergency war orders, and coordinate actions by civil authorities. Meanwhile the Air Force Nuclear Command, Control and Communications (NC3) Center is ensuring the communications framework needed to make deterrence possible remains fully operational and ready for the future.
Strikers - your blood, sweat and tears have not gone unnoticed. Your efforts are helping ensure a safer and more secure future for our nation and our allies in a rough and chaotic world. Thank you and keep striking!



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Delano Scott
President Donald Trump, while speaking in front of a B-2 Spirit, addresses armed forces members at Joint Base Andrews, Md., Sept. 15, 2017. During his speech, Trump reflected on the air and space power he witnessed and the Airmen that are essential to our nation's success.

"For seven decades the United States Air Force has pushed the boundaries of science and technology, helped restore peace and stability to troubled lands, and kept Americans safe from those who threaten our very way of life. Nothing inspires more confidence in our friends or strikes more fear in the hearts of our enemies than the sight of American warplanes on the horizon. You patrol the sky, protect the homeland, and deliver American justice to anyone who dares to threaten our people. From the earliest wooden biplanes, to the high-tech UAVs, to the awesome power and stunning beauty of the F-35, B-2, F-22, the F-15, F-16, F-18. Our aviators have given America total dominance of the air and space, no matter where we fly. Now when our enemies hear us roaring overhead, their souls will tremble and they will know the day of reckoning has arrived."

***- Donald J. Trump-
President of the United States of America***



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Danielle Quilla
U.S. Air Force Gen. Robin Rand, commander of Air Force Global Strike Command, meets with Airmen during a visit to Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Jan. 20, 2017.

Let them eat cake



U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Miranda Whitt, a services apprentice assigned to the 509th Force Support Squadron (FSS), and Lt. Col. Eugenia Edwards, commander of the 509th FSS, cut the cake for the Air Force's 70th birthday at the Ozark Inn Dining Facility at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Sept. 18, 2017. This year's theme for the Air Force's birthday is "breaking barriers." Airmen across the globe have been breaking barriers for 70 years in air, space and cyberspace in order to complete the mission.

U.S. Air Force photos by Airman 1st Class Taylor Phifer



Nuclear deterrence critical to national defense

By 2nd Lt. Nikita Thorpe

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

The Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Deterrence, U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Jack Weinstein, spoke on a panel about the importance of U.S. nuclear deterrence, and its foundational importance to national defense, at the Air Force Association Air, Space and Cyber Conference, Sept. 19, 2017.

Weinstein expressed the need to remember the Air Force's unique capability to strike whatever target needed on the planet to defend the country.

He shared the history of development in the intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) program and its blanket of protection through the Atlas, the versions of the Titan and Minuteman, and the Peacekeeper. Weinstein mentioned bombers, emphasizing how stand-off capability is critical to Air Force defense and providing the president with multiple missile options.

"When we talk about the value of the triad we are missing a word that we need to add in the 21st century ... the word we need to use is 'more,'" said Weinstein. "Bombers are more flexible, ICBMs are more responsive and subs are more survivable."

Weinstein argued each leg of the nuclear triad -- air-breathing bombers, ground-launched ICBMs and submarine-launched ballistic missiles -- should be viewed as complementary to one another, with synergistic effects.

"As Airmen wearing this uniform, nuclear is in our DNA," said Weinstein. "We should be proud that two legs of the nuclear triad is provided by the United States Air Force."

According to Weinstein, that "nuclear DNA" includes 75 percent of the nuclear command, control and communications provided by the Air Force, air refueling tankers critical to long-range mobility, space assets providing oversight of ground activities and military communication satellites enabling presidential communication to military forces at all times.

"The value of the deterrent force that we provide has only increased in value over time, along with what we do to protect this nation and our allies," said Weinstein.

Citing actions of adversaries, Weinstein stressed the need to provide an adaptable and flexible nuclear deterrent to deter Russia, China, North Korea and Iran.

"I sleep well at night knowing the capability we currently have on the Minuteman III design, which was built in the 1970s, the B-2, B-52 and a cruise missile," said Weinstein. "But don't forget that the Russians and the Chinese have modernized their force well before we modernized ours."

Weinstein also addressed questions about modernization.

"The need to modernize the force is not something we are doing because of abnormal Russian behavior today," said Weinstein. "We are doing this because of the long-term need to maintain a deterrent capability to defend the nation and to address adversary behavior and adversary beliefs."



U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Chad Trujillo

Lt. Gen. Jack Weinstein, deputy chief of staff for Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration, speaks during the Nuclear Deterrence panel at the Air, Space and Cyber Conference in National Harbor, Md., Sept. 19, 2017.

Whiteman's new ALS graduates



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jovan Banks

Senior Airman Joshua D. Adams
20th ATKS

Senior Airman Richard J. Huartson
509th AMXS

Senior Airman Matthew W. Pfister
914th LRS

Senior Airman Jordan R. Blake
139th CES

Senior Airman Konstantin V. Ivonin
452d AMDS

Senior Airman Brandon Powell
509th MDSS

Senior Airman Alexis N. Boyd
452d AMDS

Senior Airman Steven D. Jaimangal
439th CES

Senior Airman Shaun M. Price
509th LRS

Senior Airman Scott C. Brown
509th MDOS

Senior Airman Peter J. Joice
509th OSS

Senior Airman Taylor J. Pulicella
509th AMXS

Senior Airman Roselys A. Castro
445th FSS

Senior Airman Derick E. Kaczowski
509th MXG

Senior Airman Erin C. Rhone
509th LRS

Senior Airman Adam R. Clapp
509th OSS

Senior Airman Joseph C. Longo
139th AMXS

Senior Airman Nicholas L. Scott
509th AMXS

Senior Airman Dillon A. Cobb
509th MDOS

Senior Airman Miguel Matias-Carapia
509th MUNS

Senior Airman Cody D. Sims
139th CES

Senior Airman Jake R. Cumpston
509th AMXS

Senior Airman Denzel J. Miles
509th MXS

Senior Airman Danielle L. Singleton
434th LRS

Senior Airman Josiah C. Degrado
184th OSS

Senior Airman Taylor J. Moore
509th CS

Senior Airman Aaron C. Smith
509th SFS

Senior Airman Brett M. Dickson
217th EIS

Senior Airman Jayson M. Morey
509th AMXS

Senior Airman Kyle R. Stocking
914th LRS

Senior Airman Brandon A. Eastland
131st BW

Senior Airman Amanda A. Nielsen
139th CES

Senior Airman Hayden P. Thayer
509th AMXS

Senior Airman Austin D. Edwards
139th CES

Senior Airman Ryan Palmer
13th BS

Senior Airman Zachary D. Williams
509th MDOS

Senior Airman Noe Flores-Montoya
446d SFS

Senior Airman Austin M. Panyik
509th MXS

Senior Airman Jerry Yelding, Jr.
203d RHS

Senior Airman Mikhael D. Haughton
914th MXS

Senior Airman Jesse P. Younklin
179th MXS

Senior Airman Jessica P. Howard
139th LRS

Senior Airman Usuwini E. Zorn
509th OSS