



Mobility Airmen,

Today I am especially proud to be an American Airman. You should be just as proud of yourselves and our Air Force. This month, we celebrate the Air Force's 67th birthday and the people who made it what it is today.

As an Air Force senior citizen and someone who has lived all but a handful of our Air Force's history, I have a deep and abiding love for our Service. We remain the world's finest Air Force because of Airmen like you - bold, courageous active duty, Guard, Reserve, and civilian leaders—thank you for what you do.

Just 20 years after the Wright Brothers took their first flight, our forefathers in the Army Air Service pursued the innovative idea to attempt in-flight refueling, passing fuel from one plane to another using a fire hose. This is just one example of how good ideas can have a profound and enduring impact. It's that type of bold leadership that led to the formation of the Air Force in 1947 – and has kept us at the leading edge for the last 67 years. We inherited a legacy of excellence and the privilege and great responsibility of forging tomorrow's Air Force.

With defense dollars declining and new technologies increasing across the globe, it's essential we stay connected with our Service's roots to find better ways to solve increasingly complex national security problems.

I have no doubt that we will succeed, because we must – our nation and our Allies are counting on us. So, I challenge you to make us even better than we are. We need to strive to be the Air Force and the Airmen we ought to be!

As proud and essential members of the world's finest Joint team, no one else can do what we do, and that is why today, as every day, I am proud to be an American Airman.

Happy Birthday!

V/r

DMc

DARREN W. MCDEW, General, USAF  
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