



Last Reviewed: 13 August 2014

“Airminded” [Force Protection](#). Airmen normally think of [airpower](#) and the application of force from a functional rather than geographical perspective. [Airmen](#) do not divide up the battlefield into areas of operation as do surface forces.<sup>1</sup> Airmen typically approach battle in terms of the [effects](#) they create on the adversary, rather than on the nature and location of specific targets.<sup>2</sup> This approach normally leads to more inclusive and comprehensive perspectives that favor strategic solutions over tactical ones. This perspective extends to the Service’s views on force protection. Unlike surface forces that differentiate between security and protection, the Air Force’s holistic approach is better suited to accomplishing its missions.

How Air Force forces are commanded and organized to execute force protection responsibilities is influenced by this Airman’s perspective. Because of the unique strategic nature of air, space and cyberspace operations, Airmen have developed a distinct perspective that guides how they think about their operational warfighting domains. General Henry “Hap” Arnold referred to this *Airman’s perspective* as “airmindedness.”<sup>3</sup> This airmindedness reflects the range, speed, and capabilities of air, space, and cyberspace forces, as well as threats and survival imperatives unique to Airmen. Airmen have a common understanding of air, space, and cyberspace operations, the threats and hazards to those operations, and the role they play in defending them. The Airman’s perspective is an approach that shapes the conduct of operations and training to maximize operational effectiveness. It is built and developed through shared culture, ethos, values, and experience and makes a major contribution to an agile, flexible, expeditionary Air Force able to protect its force regardless of place or circumstance. Airmen should use their Airmen’s perspective to drive how FP is applied in support of airpower operations.

---

<sup>1</sup> Col Dennis M. Drew, *Joint Operations: The World Looks Different from 10,000 Feet* (*Airpower Journal*, Fall 1988), <http://www.airpower.maxwell.af.mil/airchronicles/apj/apj88/fal88/drew.html>, accessed 6 Jan 09. For additional information on the Airman’s Perspective, see Volume 1, [Basic Doctrine](#).

<sup>2</sup> [Volume 1](#); Annex 3-60, [Targeting](#).

<sup>3</sup> Gen Henry H. “Hap” Arnold, *Third Report of the Commanding General of the Army Air Forces to the Secretary of War* (Baltimore, Md: Schneidereith, 12 November 1945), 70.