CHAPTER 1: THE AIRMAN

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All Airmen, military and civilian, support and defend the Constitution of the United States and live by the Air Force core values. Airmen are the foundation of the Air Force organizations and units that enable the Department of Defense to support the National Security Strategy. The term Airman has historically been associated with uniformed members of the US Air Force (officer or enlisted; regular, Reserve, or Guard) regardless of rank, component, or specialty.[1] Today, Department of the Air Force (DAF) civilians and members of the Civil Air Patrol, when conducting missions for the Air Force as the official Air Force Auxiliary, are incorporated within the broader meaning of the term when there is a need to communicate to a larger audience within the Service, either for force development purposes or for clarity and inclusiveness by senior leaders when addressing a larger body of personnel.

Airmen recognize and value airpower in its application, which is fundamentally different and more flexible than other forms of military power and instruments of national power.[2] This inherent flexibility allows our force to be applied independently or in concert with other forms of military power. The application and integration of airpower produce effects across multiple domains and theaters. Air Force forces are employed at different speeds and closure rates and over greater distances and should be applied by those who appreciate the breadth, scope, and uniqueness of that power across the range of military operations. Due to the distinctive nature of the capabilities brought to the fight, Airmen see their Service as unique.[3]

> The Airman's perspective may be shared by members of other Services and other nations who apply airpower. To differentiate US Air Force Airmen from other like-minded individuals, the term **Airman** is reserved for US Air Force personnel while **airman** is used as a general term for those from various Services and nations.

[1] This broader meaning does not, however, mean or imply that anyone other than uniformed members of the US Air Force are members of the Armed Services in other contexts. For example, in the context of punitive Air Force instructions or the law of armed conflict regulations, care must be taken to ensure the rights and obligations imposed under those regulations are not uniformly applied to both Service members and civilians.

[2] See Volume 1, *Basic Doctrine*.

[3] Maj Gen Charles Dunlap, Jr., *Understanding Airmen: A Primer for Soldiers, Military Review*, September-October 2007, 126.

The study of airpower and the strengths of its capabilities lead to a particular expertise and a distinctive point of view General Henry H. "Hap" Arnold termed "airmindedness."[4] The Airman's perspective is forged from horizonless operations from, in, and through the air, space, and cyberspace domains.[5] Whereas land and maritime domains each comprise a portion of the earth's surface, air, space and cyberspace—the Air Force's operating domains—surround 100 percent of our world.

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[4] 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.
[5] Air Force Manual 1-1 (1992), *Essay U: Airmindedness: An Example*.