



# The CSAF Reading List

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**T**HE CHIEF of staff of the Air Force's Professional Reading Program began in March 1997. After the initial success of the program, Gen Michael E. Ryan released a slightly revised version of the list in May of this year:

## Enlisted and Civilian Grades One to Eight

### Basic—Airman Basic to Senior Airman

*The Passing of the Night: My Seven Years as a Prisoner of the North Vietnamese*

by Brig Gen Robinson Risner

*10 Propositions Regarding Air Power*

by Col Phillip Meilinger

### Intermediate—Staff Sergeant to Technical Sergeant

*Lincoln on Leadership: Executive Strategies for Tough Times*

by Donald Phillips

*10 Propositions Regarding Air Power*

by Col Phillip Meilinger

*They Also Flew: The Enlisted Pilot Legacy, 1912–1942*

by Lee Arbon

### Advanced—Master Sergeant to Chief Master Sergeant

*The Killer Angels*

by Michael Shaara

*Makers of the United States Air Force*

by John Frisbee

*This Kind of War: A Study in Unpreparedness*

by T. R. Fehrenbach

*Winged Victory: The Army Air Forces in World War II*

by Geoffrey Perret

### **Officers and Civilian Grades Nine and Above**

#### **Basic—Second Lieutenant to Captain and GS-9 to GS-12**

*A Few Great Captains: The Men and Events That Shaped the Development of U.S. Air Power*

by DeWitt Copp

*Heart of the Storm: The Genesis of the Air Campaign against Iraq*

by Col Richard Reynolds

*Hostile Skies: A Combat History of the American Air Service in World War I*

by James Hudson

*Lincoln on Leadership: Executive Strategies for Tough Times*

by Donald Phillips

*Officers in Flight Suits: The Story of American Air Force Fighter Pilots in the Korean War*

by John Sherwood

*The Right Stuff*

by Tom Wolfe

*10 Propositions Regarding Air Power*

by Col Phillip Meilinger

*This Kind of War: A Study in Unpreparedness*

by T. R. Fehrenbach

*Thud Ridge*

by Col Jack Broughton

*Winged Shield, Winged Sword: A History of the United States Air Force*

edited by Bernard Nalty

*Winged Victory: The Army Air Forces in World War II*

by Geoffrey Perret

#### **Intermediate—Major to Lieutenant Colonel and GS-13 to GS-14**

*Air Power: A Centennial Appraisal*  
by Air Vice Marshal Tony Mason

*Beyond Horizons: A Half Century of Air Force Space Leadership*  
by David Spires

*The First Air War, 1914–1918*  
by Lee Kennett

*General Kenney Reports: A Personal History of the Pacific War*  
by Gen George Kenney

*Makers of Modern Strategy: From Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age*  
edited by Peter Paret

*Over Lord: General Pete Quesada and the Triumph of Tactical Air Power in World War II*  
by Thomas Hughes

*Rise of the Fighter Generals: The Problem of Air Force Leadership, 1945–1982*  
by Col R. Michael Worden

*Storm over Iraq: Air Power and the Gulf War*  
by Richard Hallion

*The United States Air Force in Korea, 1950–1953*  
by Robert Futrell

**Advanced—Colonel through General Officer and GS-15 and Above**

*The Air Campaign: Planning for Combat*  
by Col John Warden

*Airpower against an Army: Challenge and Response in CENTAF's Duel with the Republican Guard*  
by Lt Col William Andrews

*Dereliction of Duty: Lyndon Johnson, Robert McNamara, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Lies That Led to Vietnam*  
by H. R. McMaster

*Flight of the Buffalo: Soaring to Excellence, Learning to Let Employees Lead*  
by James Belasco and Ralph Stayer

*The Heavens and the Earth: A Political History of the Space Age*  
by Walter McDougall

*Hoyt S. Vandenberg: The Life of a General*  
by Col Phillip Meilinger

*Ideas and Weapons*  
by Maj Gen I. B. Holley Jr.

*Joint Air Operations: Pursuit of Unity in Command and Control, 1942–1991*

by James Winnefeld and Dana Johnson

*The Sky on Fire: The First Battle of Britain, 1917–1918, and the Birth of the Royal Air Force*

by Raymond Fredette

*Strategy for Defeat: Vietnam in Retrospect*

by Adm U. S. Grant Sharp

*Why the Allies Won*

by Richard Overy

*On War*

by Carl von Clausewitz

Changes to the list were based on the availability and price of books, as well as the availability of new publications. As before, new books were chosen because of their readability. This revised list includes new books written by serving Air Force individuals, signifying the growing interest in the Air Force and knowledge about the institution and an airpower way of life.

“The books on our professional reading list provide insight into how and why aerospace power has become so important,” General Ryan said. “Many of the books are also a window into the rich heritage of the US Air Force.” The general went on to emphasize the value of this reading list: “Engaging in professional reading can help Air Force members of all grades articulate the historical significance of aerospace power.”

In addition to stocking three to five copies of each title in more than one hundred Air Force libraries, these libraries will sponsor a “book-of-the-quarter” program, offering resources for squadrons, groups, and wings to establish their own book-discussion groups. Such groups allow airmen and civilians to read one of the books and get together to discuss and critique it. According to Capt J. R. Riddell, program manager from Air Staff History, books on the list will be located in a special area in the libraries. Interested readers can also go to their local base library or military-clothing sales stores to pick up a new brochure that highlights the changes.

In addition to base libraries’ involvement, beginning this month Air Force readers will also be able to purchase their own copies of reading-list titles at a discount from select Army and Air Force Exchange Service military-clothing sales stores or through the AAFES web site at <http://www.aafes.com>. Also, by accessing the reading-list web site at <http://www.af.mil/readinglist>, readers can find a list of the military-clothing sales stores that keep the books in stock. The site also contains reviews of books, answers to frequently asked questions, and materials for discussion groups, among other interactive features.

Divided into three levels—basic, intermediate, and advanced—the list aligns closely with professional military education. Personnel who attend Airman Leadership School, the Noncommissioned Officer Academy, or the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy receive appropriate books from their instructors. Captains on active duty receive a shipment of the officers’ basic list shortly after their promotion. All others are encouraged to borrow books from the library or purchase personal copies. The program offers novice and experienced readers a common point of reference with their peers, subordinates, and superiors.

“Regardless of your functional specialty, I think Air Force personnel should be familiar with the development of aerospace power,” Captain Riddell said. “The chief’s list can either help you launch a career-long reading program or supplement your current and previous readings.”

