



Great Airmen rarely succeed alone. Every sortie launched, every aircraft generated, every family supported, and every mission accomplished depends on teammates who prepare, trust, support, and carry one another's work forward. Most of us have served on talented teams or seen them in action, yet talent alone never guarantees excellence. **Some teams simply go farther than others. Why?**

The best teams multiply individual excellence because they pursue the truth, even when it requires humility. Excellent teammates communicate early, hold one another to the standard, solve problems before someone asks, share lessons openly so the entire team becomes stronger, own mistakes, learn quickly, and move the team forward. Great teammates take ownership naturally, stepping toward problems before they're asked because they know that every problem left unsolved becomes another Airman's problem, while every problem solved becomes everyone's advantage. Over time, initiative becomes ordinary, accountability becomes shared, and trust becomes part of the team's culture rather than something discussed. That's how teams begin to go farther.

Strong teams elevate the importance of the individual. Every team is elevated by the competence of its people because excellence has a way of spreading. Every lesson learned and every standard upheld raises the capability of everyone around you. Competence matters because it doesn't stay with you. Every skill you develop eventually becomes someone else's advantage. The best Airmen pursue mastery because one day a teammate will depend on them to be ready. The profession of arms favors those willing to learn faster than circumstances change around them. Every challenge overcome and every skill refined strengthens not only the individual but every teammate who depends on them when conditions become difficult. That's another reason teams go farther.



When you raised your right hand, you accepted a shared mission and purpose that spans generations of Airmen. You accepted membership on our team. Performance is equal to competence and commitment multiplied by attitude. Competence gives us the ability to perform, and more of it is required to cohesively and effectively work with a team. Commitment gives us the willingness to serve something larger than ourselves and alongside teammates with a shared mission. Attitude determines how we respond when the mission becomes difficult, and being on a team only makes it that much more complex and essential. Those qualities become something greater when multiplied across a team, and even more so across an organization.

Every day you are a member of the Air Force team. You are the Airman someone else is counting on. They may never know your name, they may never get the chance to thank you, and they may never even meet you, but they trust that somewhere another Airman they've never met is doing their job with the same professionalism they're trying to bring to theirs.

The choices Airmen make on behalf of the team become trust, that trust becomes readiness, readiness becomes combat power, and combat power leads to wins when **thousands of Airmen choose every day to become someone others can rely on through their competence, commitment, and attitude. That's why some teams go farther.**

DAVID R. WOLFE
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

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