



THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC



To the Airmen of the United States Air Force:

Sixty-eight years ago, on September 18, 1947, Congress established our Air Force as an independent Service. Over the past six decades, American Airmen built a legacy of adaptation, innovation, technological change, and a perpetual quest to reach beyond our limits.

From 1947 to today, Airmen have accomplished our Service's core missions with dedication and precision. Although the methods and means of employing airpower have changed, our charge to *Fly, Fight and Win* remains the same, as does the indomitable spirit of the American Airman.

We are truly inspired by each of the 660,000 remarkable members of our Total Force - Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, and Civilian Airmen. Each of you faithfully answers your Nation's call and is entrusted with our Service's remarkable legacy. As we face today's challenges, it is your drive and passion that will allow our Air Force to rise above those challenges. YOU are the reason we are - and will continue to be - the world's greatest Air Force.

On this day, we celebrate our rich heritage and aspire to build an even greater Air Force for the future. We take great pride in serving alongside each one of you and invite you to join us in proudly celebrating the 68th birthday of the United States Air Force. As always, we sincerely thank you and your families for all that you do for our Nation every day.

Happy Birthday, Air Force!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah Lee James".

Deborah Lee James
Secretary of the Air Force

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark A. Welsh III".

Mark A. Welsh III
General, USAF
Chief of Staff

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James A. Cody".

James A. Cody
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force