



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330

JAN 11 2011

My Fellow Airmen,

Effectively operating within our increasingly dynamic, interconnected, and complex world requires steadfast commitment to personal and professional growth. Coupled with your daily professional endeavors, academic development sharpens our edge and bolsters our ability as an Air Force and Joint team.

Therefore, professional reading will continue to be vital as we maintain our initiative today and prepare for the future. I am pleased to announce my 2011 reading list, which provides worthwhile options for all Airmen to further their professional education and augment their leadership skills. This year's list contains 14 books, divided into three categories:

Leadership

- *Partners in Command: George Marshall and Dwight Eisenhower in War and Peace*, by Mark Perry
- *The Lost Peace: Leadership in a Time of Horror and Hope, 1945-1953*, by Robert Dallek
- *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School at a Time*, by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin
- *Secrets of Special Ops Leadership: Dare the Impossible, Achieve the Extraordinary*, by William A. Cohen

Strategic Context

- *Monsoon: The Indian Ocean and the Future of American Power*, by Robert D. Kaplan
- *Cyber War: The Next Threat to National Security and What to Do About It*, by Richard A. Clarke and Robert Knake
- *The Return of History and the End of Dreams*, by Robert Kagan
- *Technology Horizons: A Vision for Air Force Science and Technology*, by Werner Dahm
- *A Savage War of Peace: Algeria 1954-1962*, by Alistair Horne
- *Descent into Chaos: The United States and the Failure of Nation Building in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Central Asia*, by Ahmed Rashid

Military Heritage

- *Fighter Pilot: The Memoirs of Legendary Ace Robin Olds*, by Robin Olds, Christina Olds and Ed Rasimus
- *The All Americans*, by Lars Anderson
- *Red Eagles: America's Secret MiGs*, by Steve Davies
- *Cataclysm: General Hap Arnold and the Defeat of Japan*, by Herman S. Wolk

The “Leadership” category focuses on a wide range of styles, diverse political-military relationships and multinational and cross-cultural challenges. “Strategic Context” highlights current and past events that will have a lasting effect on national military strategy as we address challenges now and in the future. “Military Heritage” recalls valuable historical lessons that, with careful consideration, could be meaningfully applied today.

Each quarter I will highlight several books as a way to foster our steady professional development. For the next three months, I recommend the following works:

- *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace, One School at a Time*, by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin, follows Mortenson on his challenging journey, starting with his unsuccessful attempt to climb K2. During his recovery in a local Pakistani village, his real journey begins. The authors draw attention to the need for the United States to fight Islamist extremism in the region, through collaborative efforts to alleviate poverty and improve access to education, especially for girls. It is an intriguing account of a dedicated individual striving to establish peace, one school at a time.
- *Technology Horizons: A Vision for the Air Force Science and Technology*, by Werner Dahm, the former chief scientist of the Air Force, highlights the need for us as a force to anticipate the emerging science and technology advances that have the greatest military potential. Over the next few decades, we will increasingly face potential adversaries having peer or near-peer capabilities, and a growing number of these nations soon will have the ability to further transform science and technology into advanced military capabilities. As Airmen, we must refocus ourselves in this important area that has helped define our service since its inception. This study is an excellent venue for us to do just that.
- *The All Americans*, by Lars Anderson, gives us a unique insight into three distinct battlefields: the field on which Army and Navy football teams clashed eight days before the attack on Pearl Harbor, the bloody beaches of Normandy and the skies above, and the shark-infested waters of the Pacific. German pill boxes, Japanese fighter planes, and blood-thirsty sharks made life miserable for four former football stars. Anderson has elicited long-buried, yet vivid memories of practices, play, and heroics—first at play and then at war—for these young men who had to leverage their discipline, intellect, and perseverance to carry them through some very rough times. These are lessons that we should never forget as we forge ahead.

Please give careful consideration to how the concepts in these works can be applied to your daily professional efforts and the many facets of our Air Force mission to which you contribute. More information on these and other books on the 2011 reading list can be found at <http://www.af.mil/information/csafreading/index.asp>.


NORTON A. SCHWARTZ
General, USAF
Chief of Staff