

2016 United States Air Force Professional Reading List

Book List

Hit the Target: Eight Men Who Led the Eighth Air Force to Victory Over the Luftwaffe by Bill Yenne, 2015. With an entertaining mix of personal stories of mischief, bravado, and well-deserved honor, Bill Yenne brings to life Air Force heroes teaching us lessons still applicable today. Jimmy Doolittle, Tooey Spaatz, and Ira Eaker rose to immortality in the history of the USAF as the Airmen of the Greatest Generation and as commanders of the Eighth Air Force. Their stories of excellence are interwoven with equally impressive stories of Memphis Belle pilot Bob Morgan; Rosie Rosenthal of the “Bloody Hundredth;” the fifth CSAF, Curtis Lemay; USAAF Ace Hub Zemke; and the original Airman Snuffy, Medal of Honor recipient Maynard Smith. Through the trials and tribulations of a World War, these Airmen ultimately found victory and set an enduring example of service and perseverance for today’s Airmen. (Not currently in collection)

The Air Force Way of War: U.S. Tactics and Training after Vietnam by Brian Laslie, 2015. During the Vietnam era, the USAF found itself challenged by an inferior force flying inferior aircraft who, nevertheless, was able to destroy 1,737 aircraft, mostly with AAA and SAMs. Post-Vietnam, the Air Force needed a revolution in both the way we trained aircrew and employed in combat. Air Force Historian Brian Laslie argues these advances, including exercises such as Red Flag, Green Flag, and Air Warrior enabled the devastating effects of airpower in Desert Storm, Deliberate Force, and Allied Force. More than a history for aircrew, this selection examines how innovative thinkers of the time, including then-Major John Jumper, Moody Suter, and John Warden, advanced ideas and concepts despite the obstacles arrayed against them. (Not currently in collection)

Skunk Works by Ben Rich and Leo Janos, 1996. With the Soviets developing increasingly capable integrated air defenses, America needed a strategy to offset the enemy’s strengths. We found it in an innovative organization bringing together leading technology and the Nation’s best thinkers to make history. While the book was written 20 years ago, the challenges they faced are timeless. Potential adversaries are improving their capabilities. Kelly Johnson and Ben Rich were able to solve the greatest military aviation problems of their time, and the lessons of persistence, creativity, and responsible failure continue to serve us well today. (Not currently in collection)

Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People by Mahzarin Banaji and Anthony Greenwald, 2013. There are few books that have the power to change the way you see the world; this is one of them. The authors present a compelling case for the effects of hidden biases impacting our society. These hidden biases are natural; we all have them. Don’t think you have a hidden bias? Take the online quiz to see. You will likely be surprised to find your internal preferences are more difficult to overcome than you thought. Armed with this knowledge, we can limit the effects of the biases and ensure equal opportunities for all Airmen (155.92 B212)

The Blue Zones Solutions: Eating and Living Like the World's Healthiest People by Dan Buettner, 2015. A healthy Airman is a resilient Airman ready for any challenge life throws your way. Dan Buettner has travelled the world looking for the places on the planet where people live the longest. Now his is bringing those secrets to you. His ideas aren't revolutionary; people across the world have been putting them into practice for millennia. Exercising naturally, having a positive outlook on life, eating wisely, and building community and family connections are the secrets to not only a longer life, but a longer quality of life. The Blue Zones Solution includes his reports on visits with centenarians, recipes, and practical tips to put more life in your years. (Not currently in collection)

It Worked for Me: In Life and Leadership by Colin Powell and Tony Koltz, 2014. A lifetime of leadership lessons from one of America's most respected, modern-day statesmen is related in this volume that should be read, and re-read, by all Airmen. From his often repeated "13 Rules" to chapter-length leadership lessons, every page provides an education you can apply instantly. The former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of State blends lessons with historical examples of times his resolve was tested. Look for Colin Powell's unorthodox method for steeling himself before a tough meeting. (973.931092 P882; also cd audiobook)

Risk Intelligence by Dylan Evans, 2012. As national security professionals and Airmen, we live in a world of risk and uncertainty. What will the enemy do? Will this technology work as expected? Will I have enough manning next year? When we flip a coin, we know the odds...but, how do you think about risk when the exact probabilities are unknowable? How confident should I be in my predictions? Dylan Evans provides decision making tools applicable to doctors, weather forecasters, intelligence professionals, military planners, and anyone else who doesn't know exactly what will happen tomorrow. (Not currently in collection)

The ISIS Apocalypse by William McCants, 2015. The depravity of ISIS shocked the world into action, and the U.S. again called on Airmen to take the fight to the enemy. As military professionals, we should strive to understand the enemy as well as we understand ourselves. McCants provides us a window into the barbaric strategy, prophetic visions, and ultimate aims of these extremists who want to be a state. This understanding gives context to ISIS' gory videos, social media strategy, and should inform our strategy to defeat them. (Not currently in collection)

Putinism by Walter Laqueur, 2015. Whether there will be a great power war in our future rests more with the decision making of Vladimir Putin than any other single person on the planet. The Secretary of the Air Force and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff have called Russia the Nation's greatest existential threat. It is no secret that Russia is developing a formidable array of aviation, anti-aviation, space, anti-space, and cyber tools. How they use those tools to advance their perceived interests depends, in large part, on Putin's perception of the West. Laqueur provides an approachable, yet broad, understanding of the Russian leader. (Not currently in collection)

At All Costs by Matt Proietti, 2015. On a remote radar outpost, a small group of Airmen took on a mission shrouded in so much secrecy they had to officially leave the Air Force before reporting for duty. This team ensured bombs hit with precision deep inside enemy territory, and they continued the mission until their post was compromised. The ensuing fight and his heroic actions would eventually earn CMSgt Etchberger the Medal of Honor. (358.411 P964)

Leaders Eat Last by Simon Sinek, 2014. All of us have seen “Taking Care of People” at the top of a commander’s list of priorities. We know it works. We have seen amazing success when done right and utter failure when ignored. Simon Sinek takes us on an inspiring journey to understand why this works. His explanation of the links between brain chemistry and an organization’s culture is both understandable and instantly applicable. Examples from business, government, and combat provide broad context for leaders interested in improving themselves and their teams. (658.4 S616)

Thinking, Fast and Slow by Daniel Kahneman, 2011. What does a psychologist who won the Nobel Prize in Economics have to teach Airmen? His theories on decision making shifted thinking from a robotic utility-maximizing, rational actor model to something more recognizable — sometimes human decisions are irrational often prone to fallacies. Why do we too often underestimate the time and money it will take to complete a project? What makes us risk averse, especially when lives aren’t on the line? Kahneman explains how our brains are built to favor mental shortcuts and how this “fast” thinking can create big problems. (153.42 K12)

Film List

October Sky – Released in 1999, Directed by Joe Johnston. Set in a West Virginia coal mining village in 1957, an unlikely group of high schoolers are inspired by the launch of the Sputnik satellite. With an idea and innovative spirit, the team sets the goal of building a rocket. Despite a series of setbacks, tough family circumstances, and naysayers, the team presses on towards their goal. The best part? It’s all true. Homer goes on to work as a NASA engineer on projects including the Hubble Space Telescope and the International Space Station. This feel-good story of innovation and a drive for success is nothing short of inspiring. (Not currently in collection)

60 Minutes: The Battle Above - Released in 2015, Narrated by David Martin. Our lives are becoming increasingly dependent on space capabilities. Besides military applications, people around the world depend on satellites for communication, navigation, and imagery for commerce and humanitarian purposes. This dependency is no secret to those whose interests conflict with ours. In this piece, General John Hyten explains Air Force Space Command’s mission, threats from other nations, and our resolve to protect our own space capabilities. (Not currently in collection)

60 Minutes: Tour a Nuclear Launch Control Center - Released in 2014, Narrated by Lesley Stahl. For decades, American Airmen have trained, prepared, and sat alert on a mission deep inside the Earth. These young Airmen control the world’s most powerful weapons with unflinching professionalism. Lesley Stahl tours a launch control facility and is surprised by the dated technology and the trust we put in our youngest officers and maintainers. (Not currently in collection).

(Further information - <http://static.dma.mil/usaf/csafreadinglist/message.html>)

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Air Commanders by John Andreas Olsen (2012). Air Commanders combines short military biographies and operational analyses to reveal how the personalities, attitudes, and life experiences of twelve outstanding U.S. Airmen shaped the central air campaigns in American history. From Gen. Carl Spaatz to the recently retired Gen. T. Michael Moseley, the case studies illuminate the character of these Airmen, the challenges they confronted in widely disparate armed conflicts, and the solutions that they crafted and implemented. Their achievements proved decisive not only in the campaigns they led, but also in shaping the U.S. Air Force and the dominant role of airpower in modern warfare. Colonel John Andreas is a Royal Norwegian Air Force colonel, with assignments as an operator, strategist, political-military advisor, and educator. His previous publications include A History of Air Warfare, Global Air Power, and John Warden and the Renaissance of American Air Power. The latter was featured on the CSAF Reading List in 2008. (358.40092 O52)

No Place to Hide: a brain surgeon's long journey home from the Iraq War by W. Lee Warren, M.D. (2014). No Place to Hide chronicles (then-Major) Dr. W. Lee Warren's experiences as a neurosurgeon at the 332nd Air Force Theater Hospital, Joint Base Balad, Iraq. In his 120 days in a tent hospital, he survived over a hundred mortar attacks...and the day-to-day desperation of repairing the damages of war. Dr. Warren's story is an incredibly personal one, yet his experiences treating his fellow Service members and civilians affected by war, and later his journey toward recovery, are experiences vital to understanding the profession of arms and its impact on those that serve. W. Lee Warren is a board-certified neurosurgeon and Iraq War veteran; he served in Iraq as a Major in the United States Air Force. Dr. Warren practices minimally invasive brain and spinal surgery, develops new technologies with his wife through their company, Warren Innovation, and is an affiliate professor of biomedical sciences at Auburn University. (956.7044 W294)

Cybersecurity and Cyberwar: what everyone needs to know by P. W. Singer and Alan Friedman (2014). A generation ago, cyberspace was a term from science fiction, used to describe the nascent network of computers linking a few university labs. Today, our entire modern way of life, from communication to commerce to conflict, fundamentally depends on the Internet. Cybersecurity and CyberWar is structured around the key question areas of cyberspace and its security: how it all works, why it all matters, and what can we do? Along the way, the authors take readers on a tour of the important issues and characters of cybersecurity, from hackers and the Stuxnet computer virus to the new cyber units of the Chinese and U.S. militaries. (005.8 S617)

Beer, Bacon and Bullets: culture in coalition warfare from Gallipoli to Iraq by Gal Luft (2010). Beer, Bacon and Bullets examines how culture can impact the relations between Western militaries and their non-Western allies using five case studies of

military cooperation: German advisors and their Ottoman counterparts in WWI; the Anglo-Japanese alliance in WWI; the U.S. military mission in China during WWII; American generals and their Saudi Arabian hosts in the first Gulf War; and the Israelis and their Lebanese allies in the shaping of today's Middle East. Though dissimilar military forces working together may be committed to a similar end goal, their cooperation can be marred by tension related to their different cultural backgrounds. Luft's book suggests that by understanding other military cultures, the performance of coalitions can be improved. Joint Forces Quarterly has said of Beer, Bacon and Bullets: "The lessons offered will become increasingly important as coalition operations become the norm." (355.48 L949)

The Mission, the Men and Me: lessons from a former Delta Force commander by Pete Blaber (2010). As a commander of Delta Force, Pete Blaber took part in some of the most dangerous, controversial, and significant military and political events of our time. With each mission – from extreme physical and mental training to the darkest of shadow ops in Colombia, Somalia, Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Iraq – Blaber returned with powerful life lessons. Here, he takes his intimate knowledge of warfare – and the heart, mind, and spirit it takes to win – and boils it down to values and principles applicable to any profession. (356.167 B627)

Once an Eagle by Anton Myrer (1968). Once An Eagle is the story of a soldier named Sam Damon, and his adversary over a lifetime, fellow officer Courtney Massengale. Damon is a professional who puts duty, honor, and the men he commands above self-interest. Massengale, on the other hand, advances by making connections behind the lines and in Washington's corridors of power. Beginning in the French countryside during the Great War, the conflict between these adversaries solidifies during peacetime, intensifies in the deadly Pacific jungles of World War II, and reaches its treacherous conclusion in the last major battleground of the Cold War – Vietnam. (Fiction Myr)

Team of Rivals by Doris Kearns Goodwin (2005). This multiple biography is centered on Lincoln's mastery of men and how it shaped the most significant presidency in the nation's history. It offers fresh insights into Lincoln's leadership style and his deep understanding of human behavior and motivation. By examining Lincoln's relationships with three men he selected for his cabinet – all of whom were opponents for the Republican nomination in 1860: William H. Seward, Salmon P. Chase, and Edward Bates – the author provides a "master class" in leadership, service, values and principles. A Team of Rivals is about how Lincoln soothed egos, turned rivals into allies, and dealt with many challenges to his leadership, all for the sake of the greater good. (973.7092 G656)

The Boys in the Boat: nine Americans and their epic quest for gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics by Daniel James Brown (2014). Based on meticulous research, this book tells the story of the University of Washington rowing crew that won gold in the 1936 Olympics. Shaped by the social, economic and political challenges of the Dust Bowl, the Great Depression, and simmering hostilities in Europe, these young men developed the "harmony, balance and rhythm" necessary not only to triumph in Berlin but to thrive in life. And while their teamwork, sacrifice, and devotion tell a fascinating tale, equally important to the story are parallel developments in Europe; particularly Hitler's wildly successful propaganda strategy in the run-up to WWII. (797.12 B877)

The Power of Professionalism: the seven mind-sets that drive performance & build trust by Bill Weirisma (2011). This book outlines seven key mind-sets of successful professionals, offering a blueprint for both individuals and organizations interested in fostering a culture of professionalism. It rests upon the premise that professionalism is unique – it is the ladder upon which all other organizational virtues rest, which is why organizations whose members view themselves as professionals outperform, outsmart, and outlast organizations that don't. Readers see how uncompromising professional standards lead to unparalleled success through the stories of retired AF General Richard Myers, former CJCS; FBI agent George Piro, during his game-changing interrogation of Saddam Hussein; Kathy Ireland, as she builds a design and marketing enterprise; the Dave Matthews Band; and many more. (Not currently in collection)

Leadership and Self-Deception: getting out of the box by the Arbinger Institute (2009). Using a relatable story about a man facing challenges on the job and in his family, the authors expose the fascinating ways that we can blind ourselves to our true motivations and unwittingly sabotage the effectiveness of our own efforts to achieve success and increase happiness. The premise of this work is that the “disease” of self-deception – acting in ways contrary to what one knows is right – underlies all leadership problems in today's organizations. However well-intentioned they may be, leaders who deceive themselves always end up undermining their own performance. This straightforward book explains how leaders can discover their own self-deceptions and learn how to escape destructive patterns...and effectively demonstrates that breaking out of these patterns leads to improved teamwork, commitment, trust, communication, motivation, and leadership. (658.4092 L434)

Focus: the hidden driver of excellence by Daniel Goleman (2013). In *Focus*, psychologist and journalist Daniel Goleman offers a groundbreaking look at today's scarcest resource and the secret to high performance and fulfillment: attention. He shows why high-achievers need focus, and explains how those who rely on Smart Practices – mindfulness meditation, focused preparation, and recovery – excel while others do not, improving their habits, adding new skills, and sustaining greatness. Combining cutting-edge research with practical findings, *Focus* delves into the science of attention in all its varieties, presenting a long overdue discussion of this little-noticed and underrated mental asset. In an era of unstoppable distractions, Goleman persuasively argues that now, more than ever, we must learn to sharpen focus if we are to survive in a complex world. (Audiobook on CD 153.733 G625)

Linchpin: are you indispensable? by Seth Godin (2011). There used to be two teams in every workplace: management and labor. Now there's a third team, the linchpins. These people figure out what to do when there's no rulebook. They delight and challenge their customers and peers. They love their work, pour their best selves into it, and turn each day into a kind of art. Linchpins are the essential building blocks of great organizations. They may not be famous but they're indispensable. And in today's world, they get the best jobs and the most freedom. As Godin writes, “Every day I meet people who have so much to give but have been bullied enough or frightened enough to hold it back. It's time to stop complying with the system and draw your own map. You have brilliance in you, your contribution is essential, and the art you create is precious. Only you can do it, and you must.” (650.1 G585)

Film List

Das Boot directed by Wolfgang Petersen (1997, 1981). Originally released in 1981, the film *Das Boot* is based on the true story of a German Submarine and its crew during World War II...a chillingly detailed look at the rigors of war in a U-boat. We are treated to the stark reality of submarine warfare – the hours of boredom; the camaraderie and aggravation that comes with living in close quarters; the exultation of victory when a torpedo hits its target; the stark terror of the sound of a destroyer's propeller just above; the fear of the boat being crushed by water pressure as it goes too deep. This restored, 209-minute director's cut includes more footage from the original five-hour miniseries on which the movie was based... and offers greater insight into the leadership, professionalism, and values exhibited by the stoic U-boat captain and his submariners. (791.43 B725)

Glory directed by Edward Zwick (1989). One of the finest films ever made about the American Civil War, *Glory* tells the story of the 54th Regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, an all-black unit comprising Northern freemen and escaped slaves. Under the command of Robert Gould Shaw, who fought the prejudices of both his own Union army and the Confederates, the 54th served admirably in battle until they made their ultimate demonstration of bravery during the almost suicidal assault on the Confederate Fort Wagner in Charleston, South Carolina, on July 18, 1863. *Glory* achieves its powerful impact by meticulously setting up the terrible conditions under which these neglected soldiers fought, and by illuminating the tenacity of the human spirit from the oppression of slavery to the hard-won recognition of battlefield heroism. (791.43 G562)

Return with Honor directed by Freida Lee Mock and Terry Sanders (1998). *Return with Honor* tells the story of American pilots shot down over North Vietnam and their challenge to survive with honor as prisoners of war. A tribute to heroism, endurance, and brotherhood under duress, the film recalls the transformation from top-gun aviators to captives...it is a universal story of honor and duty. (959.70437 R439)

Taking Chance directed by Ross Katz (2009). In April 2004, Marine Lieutenant Colonel Mike Strobl volunteers to escort the remains of Private First Class Chance Phelps – a 19-year old Marine – from the mortuary at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware to his home in Dubois, Wyoming. From Dover to Philadelphia by hearse, from there to Minneapolis and on to Billings, Montana by plane, and then by car to Phelps' Wyoming home – person after person pays respects. Kind words, small gifts, and gratitude are given Strobl to deliver to the family on a soul-searching journey that takes him deep into the heart of his nation, and his own heart as well. Based on real-life events, *Taking Chance* pays tribute to the fallen young Marine and his sacrifice on behalf of the nation. This somber and touching film is a rare window into the final journey of fallen service members, and to the esteem in which Americans hold those who serve. (791.45 T136)

Pacific by HBO Studios (2010). *The Pacific* is an epic 10-part miniseries that delivers a realistic portrait of World War II's Pacific Theatre as seen through the eyes of three U.S. Marines: Robert Leckie, Medal of Honor winner John Basilone, and Eugene Sledge. The extraordinary experiences of these men and their fellow Marines take them from the first clash with the Japanese in the haunted jungles of Guadalcanal, through the impenetrable rain forests of Cape Gloucester, across the blasted coral strongholds of Peleliu, up the black sand terraces of Iwo Jima, through the killing fields of Okinawa, to a triumphant, yet uneasy, return home after V-J Day. (791.45 P117)

