



CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER

FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



VOLUME 2 LEADERSHIP

APPENDIX A: THE OATHS OF OFFICE AND ENLISTMENT

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Oath of Office	Oath of Enlistment
I (FULL NAME),	I (FULL NAME),
HAVING BEEN APPOINTED A (Grade in which appointed) IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE,	
DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR (OR AFFIRM)	DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR (OR AFFIRM)
THAT I WILL SUPPORT AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AGAINST ALL ENEMIES FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC,	THAT I WILL SUPPORT AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AGAINST ALL ENEMIES FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC,
THAT I WILL BEAR TRUE FAITH AND ALLEGIANCE TO THE SAME,	THAT I WILL BEAR TRUE FAITH AND ALLEGIANCE TO THE SAME,
THAT I TAKE THIS OBLIGATION FREELY WITHOUT ANY MENTAL RESERVATION OR PURPOSE OF EVASION	
AND THAT I WILL WELL AND FAITHFULLY DISCHARGE THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE UPON WHICH I AM ABOUT TO ENTER,	AND THAT I WILL OBEY THE ORDERS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE ORDERS OF THE OFFICERS APPOINTED OVER ME ACCORDING TO REGULATIONS AND THE UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE,
SO HELP ME GOD.*	SO HELP ME GOD.*

*Airmen may choose to omit this line.

Why we administer an oath of office or enlistment:

- ✦ **Legal Requirements.** Federal law ([5 U.S.C. §3331](#) for the oath of office used for officers and civilians; [10 U.S.C. §502](#) for the oath of enlistment) requires persons enlisting in the Armed Forces, or persons elected or appointed to a position of honor or profit in the government of the United States, to subscribe to an oath before beginning in the position. Any individual enlisting in, or elected or appointed to an office of honor or profit in the civil service or uniformed Services, takes the appropriate oath, as shown above.
- ✦ **Ethical Purpose.** By executing the oath of office/enlistment when they accept the commission or appointment, Airmen make a promise—an ethical agreement or bond of a person’s word.

[Airmen](#) commit to the basic [core values](#), placing service to the Constitution before self. It is where we place integrity on the line by giving our word as our bond. It is where we swear (or affirm) to “well and faithfully” discharge our duties, or obey orders to do so, thus committing ourselves to excellence. The oaths are distinct in that the allegiance established is to the ideals of the Constitution, not to any individual or organization. This source for the oaths gives them their greatest strength.
