



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCES CENTRAL COMMAND (AFCENT)

To the Airmen and Civilians of US Air Forces Central Command

October 7, 2011 marks the 10th anniversary since we began Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and the Global War on Terror. For the Air Force, it also marks the 21st year since we first deployed to the CENTCOM AOR in support of Operation DESERT SHIELD. Over these past two decades, from Lt Gen Horner through Lt Gen Hostage, USAFCENT Airmen and Civilians have been in the fight, both in the air and on the ground, as trusted partners on a lethal joint and coalition team. Our responsiveness in bringing ever-improving vigilance, reach, and power to this theater is unprecedented as we have relentlessly hammered Al Qaida and the Taliban in Iraq, Afghanistan, and throughout the region. Simultaneously, we have strengthened relationships and built partner capacity with our allies to set the conditions for enduring stability throughout the region. Whether air-dropping supplies to a SOF team on a mountainside ... or fighting our way into a hot LZ to bring Guardian Angel care to a wounded Marine ... or attacking the enemy in close proximity of friendly forces ... or providing the expeditionary support which makes it possible ... Airmen have given and continue to give their all in this fight. We have good reason to stand tall.

It is the honor and privilege of my career to take the stick and lead USAFCENT over the next two years as we continue to take the fight to the enemy. This letter to Airmen and Civilians will restate our mission, outline my vision, and lay out my priorities for our time together.

MISSION

U.S. Air Forces Central Command delivers decisive Airpower for United States Central Command and America.

VISION

U.S. Air Forces Central Command will continually improve our support to CENTCOM's campaign strategy in Iraq, Afghanistan, and designated regions. We will be responsive to supported commanders' needs by understanding their scheme of maneuver and intent. We will fully leverage the unique capabilities USAFCENT brings to the fight by bringing an Airman's perspective to the joint dialogue and presenting Airpower options during initial planning efforts. Finally, we will stand ready to lead as well as support future CENTCOM contingencies as an asymmetric arrow in the CENTCOM Commander's quiver.

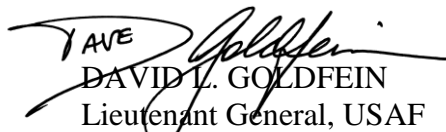
PRIORITIES

1. **DECISIVE AIRPOWER** -- Support CENTCOM campaign plans in Iraq, Afghanistan, and designated regions with delivery of the full spectrum of USAF capabilities in both a proactive and responsive manner.
2. **DEFEND THE REGION** -- Continuously improve US and partner Integrated Air and Missile Defense capabilities across the region.
3. **DEFEND THE BASE** -- Remain constantly vigilant in defending personnel, critical C2, and base infrastructure against both symmetric and asymmetric threats.
4. **ENGAGE** -- Strengthen and build partner capacity throughout the CENTCOM area of responsibility.
5. **PREPARE** -- Aggressively plan, prepare, and stand ready to lead and/or support future CENTCOM contingencies.

We must never forget that every Airman and Civilian in USAFCENT serving today is part of the long blue line. Hap Arnold ... Robin Olds ... Bud Day ... John Levitow ... Jason Cunningham ... Israel "DT" Del Toro ... names that will live forever. We are the descendents of Airmen who built our service in 1947 and committed their blood, sweat, and treasure to hand us the greatest Air Force the world has ever known. Their blood runs in our veins. We must defend the faith and further their cause.

While we face a determined and ruthless enemy, he is no match for this combined arms team. Together, with laser-like focus on our mission ... with the knowledge that no challenge we may be handed is too much for an innovative Airman ... and knowing that our cause is just ... we will continue to deliver decisive Airpower for CENTCOM and America. Thank you and your families for your service and sacrifice.

Fight's on!


DAVID L. GOLDFEIN
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander