



Essays on Air and Space Power

Volume I

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Contents

Volume I

	<i>Page</i>
INTRODUCTION	v
<i>Essay</i>	
CHARACTERISTICS OF WAR	1
THREE LEVELS OF WAR	13
WAR, AN INSTRUMENT OF POLICY	23
DETERRENCE	31
HUMAN FACTORS IN WAR	45
PRINCIPLES OF WAR	59
THE TENETS OF AEROSPACE POWER	67
GLOBAL AWARENESS	89
AIRMINDEDNESS: AN EXAMPLE	97
AEROSPACE ENVIRONMENT	111
AEROSPACE POWER	121
AEROSPACE POWER CAPABILITIES	131
AIR FORCE AEROSPACE POWER	141
EMPLOYING AEROSPACE FORCES: THE OPERATIONAL ART	153

Introduction

This collection of essays on air and space power includes two volumes and supports many of the topics found in the *Air and Space Mentoring Guide*. The guide is intended as a menu of topics for mentors in selecting possible subjects for air and space power mentoring sessions.

The essays in these volumes are not intended to be comprehensive examinations of the subjects, but rather to provide the reader with insights and ideas. The collected essays are intended to provide mentors with background materials and assist mentors in integrating air and space power concepts into those personal experiences they will convey during mentoring. The essays have been purposely kept short so that the reader can quickly survey the material for mentoring ideas and concepts.

The focus of the essays in these two volumes is on air and space power, although the *Air and Space Mentoring Guide* covers many joint topics. Further examinations of joint concepts may be found in the Joint Publications series. Other materials supporting the topics of the *Air and Space Mentoring Guide* may be found in Air Force publications and Air Force doctrine documents.

The essays in these volumes are based in air and space power doctrine. Doctrine is, simply defined, what we hold true about air and space power and the best way to employ air and space forces. This doctrine is based on experience, our own and that of others. Doctrine is what we have learned about air and space power and its application since the dawn of powered flight. Thus, doctrine is a guide for the exercise of professional judgment rather than a set of rules to be followed. New experiences, reinterpretations of former experiences, advances in technology, changes in threats, cultural changes, and many other factors can all require changes to parts of our doctrine while confirming other aspects of it. The reader should view the essays collected here as based in doctrine, yet with the understanding that our doctrine continues to evolve.