

# THE FORMATION



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## DUTY

**a:** A moral or legal obligation; a responsibility.

**b:** A task or action that someone is required to perform

**"Duty then is the sublimest word in the English language. You should do your duty in all things. You can never do more, you should never wish to do less."**

— Robert E. Lee

### DISCUSS

- ⇒ What do you consider to be your duty?
- ⇒ If someone else has a duty-related failure, is it YOUR duty to blow a whistle?

### COMMANDER'S COLUMN

**What do you consider to be an Airman's Duty?** Our duty as Airmen ultimately comes back to the Constitution which we have sworn to support and defend. Each Air Force AFSC, whether operational or not (because we can't get the job done without any of them) is designed to accomplish that end. Our common duty binds us together as Airmen. Our duty shapes much of our identity. When you first enter the service, your primary duty is to learn your job. As an instructor pilot, my duty was to train flyers who would go off and get the mission done. As you progress in rank, it becomes your duty to lead, to take care of your Airmen and their families so they can accomplish the mission. Leaders create the conditions for their people to succeed. I also believe that I have a duty as a senior leader to not only lead, but to mentor, to invest in growing the next generation of leaders. Finally, we have a duty to our nation to make the tough calls about manning and resource allocation. We have a responsibility to be honest about what we really need to fight our nation's wars and to be transparent about how we're using the resources we are given.

**If someone else has a duty-related failure, do you have a duty to do something about it?** If that something is a crime, then absolutely! Without question, we all have a duty to report crime. Beyond that, I think it depends. Mistakes can often be dealt with at a lower level. This is an example of where your duty to lead and mentor applies. I like to have a face-to-face conversation with the offender to see if there is anything going on in his/her life that may have contributed to the error in judgment. Often, you will find there is something else going on if you take the time to ask and listen.

— Col. Elizabeth Larson, AFDW A3/5 Director

**"But an 'officer on duty' knows no one - to be partial is to dishonor both himself and the object of his ill-advised favor. What will be thought of him who exacts of his friends that which disgraces him? Look at him who winks and overlooks offenses in one, which he causes to be punished in another, and contrast him with the inflexible soldier who does his duty faithfully, notwithstanding it occasionally wars with his private feelings. The conduct of one will be venerated and emulated, the other detested as a satire upon soldiership and honor."**

—Brevet Major William Jenkins Worth

## AFDW FIRST SHIRT COLUMN

As I reflect on my tenure in our Air Force, I am reminded of a conversation I had with an Air Force general officer. I remember him saying, "Training in SAC was harder than war...it might be a relief to go to war." This will possibly date my military career, but it reflected a time when our performance and standards were at their peak. Maybe it was because the Strategic Air Command, implemented by General LeMay, established one of the most effective military units in the world on the basis of relentless training. He gave SAC one of the best safety records in U.S. military history.

He was known as a tough commander, but a fair one. The gruff general took combat losses to heart, knowing he had sent men to die, but firmly believed if the death of one American could save a thousand, then it was the right decision to make.

After my initiation into the mantra of commitment within this command, I realized that it was setting the stage for service and an obligation to "Duty." You see, I was fortunate to belong to a disciplined unit that held this type of work ethic, but it also encouraged me to be the best Airman that our Air Force expected me to be.

There is a historical perspective associated with the Code of an Air Rescue Man which reads, "It is my duty, as a member of the Air Rescue Service, to save life and aid the injured. I will be prepared at all times to perform my assigned duties quickly and efficiently, placing these duties before personal desires and comforts. These things I do That Others May Live." - Brig Gen Richard Knight

It is also identified in that common bond called our Core Values. Service before self dictates that an Airman's professional duties take precedence over personal desires. Every Airman is expected to have the discipline to follow rules, exhibit self-control and possess respect for the beliefs, authority and worth of others. We have all dedicated our lives to serving at a higher cost, and duty is the forefront of that service.

The best that we may offer the men and women who serve – and will serve in our armed forces are foundations of faith, hope, and commitment sufficient to fulfilling their oath:

"I, \_\_\_\_\_, 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 bear true faith and allegiance to the same; 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."

- CMSgt Manny Pineiro, AFDW First Sergeant

**CHECK OUT THIS PACE VIDEO:** "Leaders Enforce...Standards & the UCMJ" by Gen. Rand

[HTTP://WWW.AIRMAN.AF.MIL/PRODUCTS/REFERENCEPAGES/ALLTOOLSANDPRODUCTS/SLPENFORCESTANDARDS.ASPX](http://www.airman.af.mil/products/referencepages/alltoolsandproducts/slpnforcestandards.aspx)

**CHECK OUT THIS TRANSCRIPT:** "War on the Rocks, CJCS Gen. Dempsey on Duty"

<http://warontherocks.com/2014/02/a-conversation-with-the-chairman-general-martin-e-dempsey/>

"As a very young officer, it occurred to me that if we are to live up to our all-volunteer force, this issue of professionalism would have to become more prominent....I came to the conclusion that the single most important value in our long list of professional values was the value of duty."