

**COMPREHENSIVE ENGLISH READINGS ON  
AIR POWER**

**For Air Force Students at IRI Army  
Command and Staff University**

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## **FOREWORD**

Leadership is the skill we learn, develop and practice. It is not always inherited or rooted in our DNA. No one grows into a fully developed and ready-to-perform leader in the short run. Growth duration should occur to permit younger leaders time to mature into the duties expected from senior institutional leaders and commanders. The force development process provides the means to develop leadership. Our Air Force requires leaders who can take war fighting to the highest possible level of success in support of our national security objectives. Those leaders are created through a process of development involving education, training, and experience coupled with current mentoring by more experienced instructors in Command and Staff University.

Today, proper employment of airpower is essential for success on and over the modern battlefield. In many cases, it will be the military power of choice. Advances in stealth, precision, UAS and lethality make airpower increasingly more effective at all levels of warfare across the range of military operations. Airmen must not only understand the employment of airpower, but also be able to articulate the principles of air warfare and improve their commanding capability in war and peace situation. This document provides a basis for understanding, planning, and executing air power.

The end result is the development of Airmen capable of excelling as leaders at all levels, anywhere, anytime.

**Air Force Specialized Training Group**

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## **PREFACE**

**COMPREHENSIVE ENGLISH READINGS ON AIR POWER** provides a basis for understanding fundamental concepts and terms about air power basics through brief texts that clarify the fundamentals of planning, and executing air power. It presents the best ways of how an airman learns the principles of air power and improves his knowledge through air power. It is written primarily for student officers of the Air Force Specialized Training Group and IRI Air Force personnel, but it is also applicable to anyone with the appellation of “**airman**,” including those of other services. Accordingly, it not only is intentionally Service-specific but also is used across the joint force.

- Chapter 1 describes war, principles of war, joint operations, and tenets of airpower. Commanders generally consider principles of war in the conduct of operations. While the principles of joint operations provide general guidance on the application of military forces, the tenets of airpower provide more refined considerations for the employment of air, space, and cyberspace capabilities.
- Chapter 2 introduces the fundamentals that guide the application of airpower and airpower characteristics.
- Chapter 3 describes how the air power presents its roles. It covers the full range of operations; this expands the airman knowledge about airpower capability to meet national objectives, along with more descriptive terminology that is more representative of how airpower is applied.
- Chapter 4 describes generations of fighter aircraft and the common classifications of fighter jets.
- Chapter 5 describes the classification of ground-based radars, air defense management, various types of airborne radars and their platform, and employment of AEW&C and AWACS
- Chapter 6 defines UASs, UAVs, RPVs and Drones, as well as UAV missions.
- The glossary defines an alphabetical list of terms on airpower and includes terms within AIR POWER BASICS that are either newly introduced, uncommon, or specialized.